



**Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association**

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**CPVA STATEMENT REGARDING THE PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY  
OF VETERANS ON 6 NOVEMBER 2010**

The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) is fully supportive of a peaceful and law-abiding assembly to show the solidarity of Veterans and to raise public awareness about Veterans' issues. It is an expression of fundamental rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As well, such a gathering is appropriate in the wake of various recent news about issues which are very disturbing to the Veterans' community. Clearly, any Veteran has the right to participate in the event as an individual but also, by decision of the National Executive, all CPVA members are permitted and encouraged to take part as representatives of the organization. Included is the right to wear the Association uniform and insignia and to carry its flags. However, any official involvement as CPVA representatives must be organized at the Chapter level or for individual members, in consultation with the National Membership Director.

To preclude a negative outcome and to enhance beneficial effects from the event, the CPVA National Executive cautions all Veterans who intend to join the assembly that such an action is a two edged sword which can do irreparable harm to the Veterans' cause if it is abused. Currently, Canadian Forces members and Veterans are enjoying more and stronger support from the public than we have for decades. Therefore, it would be unwise to display an aggressive and stridently demanding attitude, such as expressed in many of the recent e-mails about this subject, which can only bring resentment and animosity from many. In order to preserve our current favourable stature in the eyes of the Canadian people, respectful, courteous and dignified deportment by all participating Veterans is strongly urged. It must be remembered that we are seeking public support for Veterans, not ill will as a result of bad behaviour by Veterans.

Ray Kokkonen, C.D.  
President