



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

March Edition 2014

Web site: www.rusi.ca

RUSI (NS) PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed Mar 19	1200-1300	RA Park Dining Room	Guest speaker will be the Mayor of HRM, Mike Savage who will speak to us on the relationship between Halifax and the military. This will be immediately followed by a full Board of Directors meeting.
Wed Apr 16	1830-2100	RCMP "H" Division	The annual RCMP evening hosted by our RCMP rep, John Ferguson. Guest speaker TBA.
Sun Apr 27	1300-1700	RA Park Dining Room	A talk by Prof. Martin Middlebrook on the First Battle of the Somme. Note that this will be a mixed event, wives, partners and guests are welcome
Fri May 9	1830- 2030	Army Citadel Museum	A look at the newly built WW I displays to commemorate the Centennial of WW I. Comd 5Div and John Harrison will be our hosts.
Fri Jun 27	1730 - ?	12 Wing Shearwater Officers' Mess Patio	Mixed annual BBQ. This will be a steak BBQ with the officers of 12 Wing. A chance to mingle and meet new friends.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 19 FEBRUARY

Our annual general meeting took place on Wednesday, 19 February at RA Park Officers' Mess. The meeting was attended by 20 members. Two new members were introduced – Maj. Kyle Troup and LCol Sanchez King. The major points of interest were the passing of the financial budget for 2014 and the nominating report with the slate of new Board members.

The new Board was approved and will comprise the following:

Officers (Executive)

President	Insp. Dan Tanner
Immediate Past President	HCol Tom Birchall
Vice-President	Cdr Colin Darlington
Treasurer	HCol Tom Birchall
Secretary	Col Murray Lee (until April – volunteer urgently needed)

If you are interested in the position of Secretary or Treasurer, please contact the President, Dan Tanner at **441-5569**.

Directors:

Col (Ret') John Alward, Col (Ret'd) Richard Jamer, Maj (Ret'd) John Harrison, Col (Ret'd) Marie Leloup, LCol Sanchez King, and Maj Peter Dawson.

Service Representatives:

RCN – Cdr George Forward (until summer 2014), Cdn Army – LCol Dale Warner, RCAF –LCol Chris Barnard, and RCMP Supt. John Ferguson.

Special Appointments to the Board:

Medical Officer – LCdr (Ret'd) Heather MacKinnon
Chief Information Officer – Mr. Richard McNair
Historian – Mr. Michael Nash Kelly
Chaplain – Maj. John O'Donnell

Congratulations and welcome to our new Board members.

WE HAVE A NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Please note that there has been a change to our mailing address. Here is the new change for your records.

Royal United Institute of Nova Scotia
"A" Block Post Office, Box 151,
PO Box 99000, Stn Forces
Halifax, NS B3K 5X5

RA PARK – LUNCH ON WEDNESDAYS

We have been advised that as of Wed, Feb 26th, the RA Park kitchen will now be serving lunches every Wednesday at noon. Therefore, for the RUSI Distinguished Speaker luncheons, you can now go to the counter in the dining room and order your lunch. This means that we will no longer be offering sandwiches and coffee in the Air Force room for our gatherings.

ATLANTIC CANADA INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW TO BE HELD IN MONCTON THIS YEAR

This year, the Airshow will be held at Greater Moncton International Airport in Dieppe NB on August 23 and 24.

So far, the news is that the RCAF Snowbirds, the amazing formations and stunts of the **Canadian Army SkyHawks** Parachute Demonstration team; the single-engine "extreme" aerobatics of **Gary Ward** in his MX2; the class, style, speed and power of the two-plane **Team Rocket** in their high-performance, kit-built aircraft; the inspiring, almost magical performance of **Dan Buchanan**, winner of the 2011 ICAS Art Scholl Showmanship Award; the dynamic, low-level, historic warbird aerobatics of **Bill Leff** in his T-6 Texan; the silent, graceful and breath-taking manoeuvres of **Manfred Radius** in his Salto sailplane; Flight

demonstrations by local and regional **RCAF aircraft**; and the sheer power and thunder of the awesome **CF-18 Hornet Demo!**

This year will feature a **night show** as well as the usual daytime events. Do you know which ones are the night acts yet? We'll reveal our "**after-dark**" performers to you soon.

If you are interested in more detail, go to the airshow web-site: www.airshowatlantic.ca/

FEDERAL BUDGET SENDS CANADIAN MILITARY'S EQUIPMENT BUYING PLAN INTO LIMBO; NEW FIGHTER JETWS LIKELY OFF THE TABLE

[Murray Brewster, Canadian Press](#)



The replacement of the country's aging jet fighters will likely be the most high-profile victim of the budget reallocation. The government has already put the purchase of F-35s, pictured above, on hold.

Budget at a glance

- **Jim Flaherty lowers outlook for deficit to \$16.6B from \$17.9B estimate in Nov**
- **For 2014-15, the shortfall forecast has been lowered to \$2.9B from \$5.5B**
- **At the same time, Tories raise 2015-16 surplus target to \$6.4B from \$3.7B**
- **In the coming years, surplus is projected to reach \$10.3B in 2018-19**

OTTAWA — The badly needed new equipment on the Canadian military's shopping list may end up becoming a wish list over the next three years after Tuesday's federal budget pushed \$3.1 billion in planned capital spending into the future. The reallocation and delay outlined in Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's fiscal plan was something long expected in defence circles, and a dramatic demonstration of how far the department has fallen in terms of the political pecking order in Ottawa. In practical terms, it's a reflection of the government's failure so far to deliver long-promised new ships, search planes, helicopters and trucks. But it's also part of a Conservative campaign to outflank the deficit in the run-up to the 2015 election.

Related

- [Jim Flaherty promises surplus in 2015 as Tories set stage for next federal election](#)
- [Conservatives look to slash public servants' benefits in bid to save \\$7.4-billion](#)
- ['Duty free' tobacco grounded: Smokers fuming as major tax rise hikes cost of cigarettes](#)
- [Federal budget promises \\$1-billion for new Windsor bridge and auto industry aid](#)

Defence sets aside a certain amount each year to buy new gear, but the new budget kicks that planned spending — originally scheduled to take place between 2014 and 2017 — to "future years," putting many programs in doubt. Flaherty defended the decision, saying it wasn't a cut and the money is being socked away until the military can use it.

"There's no point in having money sitting there when they can't spend it this year, which they can't," he said prior to the budget's public release. "So, we're pushing it forward, not taking it back."

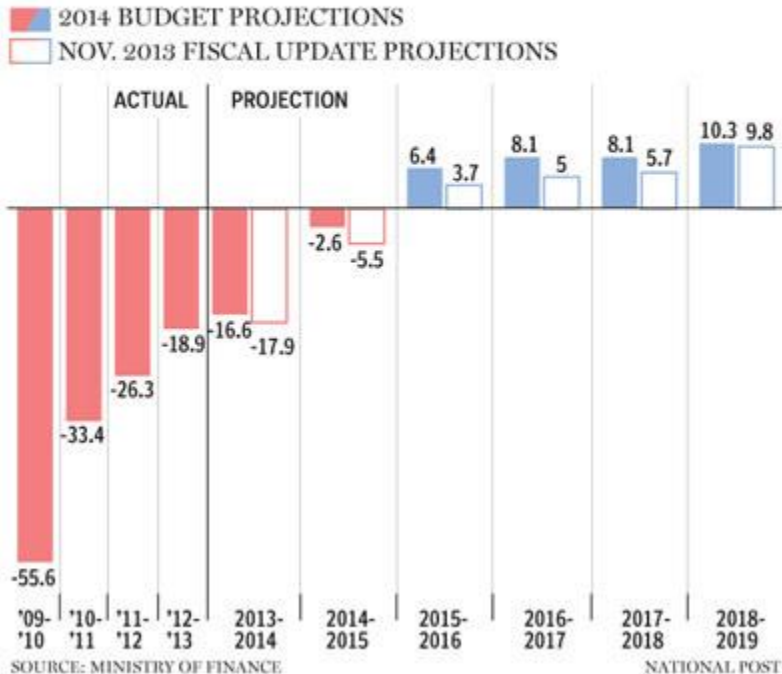
A senior government official, speaking on background, wasn't able to provide a list of the affected projects and noted that the cash in many instances had not been appropriated by Parliament. Future governments must decide when the money will be put back, the official said.

The stowing of equipment funds adds to previous Conservative austerity measures, which have already carved as much as \$2.1 billion out of defence. As the biggest discretionary pot of federal money, the military is accustomed to having a target on its back. But the pain won't end once the government delivers a \$6.3-billion surplus at the end of the 2015-2016 budget year, one defence analyst says.

BUDGETARY BALANCE AFTER MEASURES

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Balance projections improve significantly since the November fiscal update.



National Defence will continue to feel the squeeze as the Conservatives strive to keep the books balanced — without generating new revenues — in order to finance long-promised goodies such as income splitting, said Dave Perry, a professor at Carleton University and a researcher with the Conference of Defence Associations. “If you are making all of these moves to restrain federal spending writ large, cut taxes and spend money on other programs, I don’t see a big windfall coming for the military post-2015,” Perry said. “I just don’t see how it can work given the political parameters they’ve outlined.”

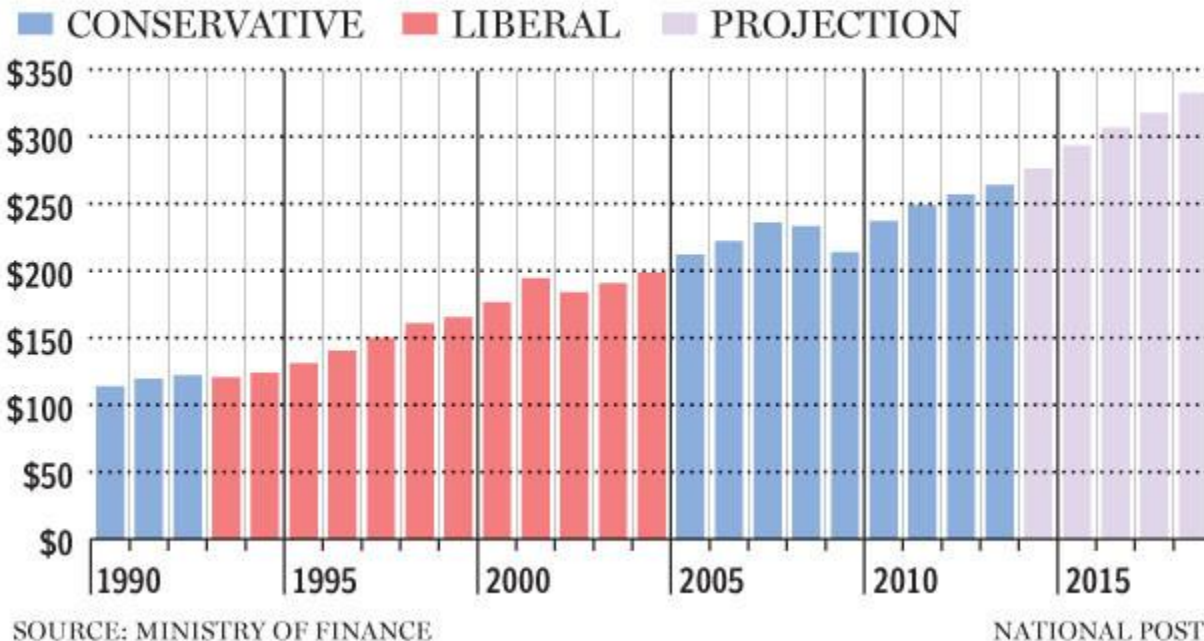
Deferring capital spending will erode the buying power of projects that have already been announced, forcing the military to either make do with fewer ships, planes and vehicles, or settle for less sophisticated gear, he added.

The replacement of the country’s aging jet fighters, which National Defence was supposed to start spending on next year, will likely be the most high-profile victim of the reallocation. The government put the F-35 program, a political lightning rod, on hold in December 2012 and has yet to say whether it will hold a full-fledged competition to determine which fighter to buy.

Other big-ticket items likely to fall into the shuffle would include the navy’s new supply ships, the long-promised Arctic patrol boats, replacements for Canada’s aging Sea King helicopters and new fixed-wing search planes, among others.

Defence Minister Rob Nicholson, who announced a reboot of the military procurement program last week, promised the government would begin posting a renewed list of its defence equipment needs this June.

TOTAL REVENUE IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



In the meantime, though, Perry said the renewed departmental spending freeze — coupled with other restraint measures — will have a significant impact on defence, forcing it to internally reallocate as much \$591 million by 2015.

That will mean less cash for operations, maintenance and training — and the numbers are stark.

In the 2009-10 budget year, the last before the axe began to fall on spending, National Defence was given \$7.6 billion to spend on upkeep, fuel, patrols and exercises. According to Perry's research, that number has fallen by 18 per cent.

The effects are already apparent. On Monday, the Snowbirds flying team announced it was cancelling performances in the U.S. due to budget cuts. A number of the army's logistics trucks, known as the B-Fleet, have also been mothballed. And defence sources say funding for CF-18 operations and maintenance, the air force's premier weapons system, has already been curtailed by as much 25 per cent.

"The navy has a lot less flexibility because they don't have the math to play with," Perry said. "They'll be tying up ships, even if there is no further pain."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We have three new members to RUSI (NS). They are: HRP Chief Jean-Michel Blais; LCol Sanchez King, and Major (Ret'd) Kyle Troup. Welcome aboard and hope to see you at our many events.

