



## *Lt. Cliff Rayo (NL)*

Over his forty-two years of service and dedication, from being an air cadet and ranking officer with the Navy League of Canada cadet program, Lt. (NL) Clifford Rayo has been a mentor to thousands of youth and fellow officers who he has worked one on one with to help them develop the skills needed in life, both personally and professionally. He has a sixth sense when it comes to the cadets, he can tell when a cadet is beating off the path and will help bring them back, while also seeing those who have the little something special - it's that light within that says "hey! Look at me! I'm ready for a challenge!" and he will give them that challenge.

No matter what element you're with, Air, Army, Sea and Navy League Cadets they participate in multiple community functions throughout the year. They also participate in the Battle of Atlantic, Canada Day, Remembrance Day and Santa Claus parades'. There's one other event that has a slightly more recent start - BC Lions Salute to Veterans. The last home game for the BC Lions before Remembrance Day. This is where all cadets from all elements join with Navel personnel, veterans, bands and many more, centre field during half time to pay tribute to the Veterans of yesterday and today.

From 2007 to 2019, Lt. (NL) Cliff Rayo was the key contact for the BC Yukon Legion, helping organize this event every year. This is a massive undertaking as you have hundreds of cadets and staff from different elements that must be prim and proper and organized. You are working with the other coordinators who are getting the veterans, motorized vehicles and bands organized. You are aware of the clock that is ticking from the moment the first person steps on the field to the second the last person steps off the field. You have thirteen minutes to get every person and vehicle out on the field and back, and Lt. (NL) Rayo never ran over those thirteen minutes.

In 2011 Lt. (NL) Rayo called up Parliament Hill in Ottawa with the inquiry of attaining a Canadian Flag from Parliament Hill. He wanted this flag to be donated to N.L.C.C. #46 HONORABLE CLARENCE WALLACE and sister Sea Cadet corps RCSCC #102 LONSDALE. What was a near sixty year waiting list, Lt. (NL) Rayo achieved in 3 weeks. A flag was sent to his residence six months after the initial inquiry. A few weeks later, a presentation was made where the local MP at the time, Andrew Saxton, made an appearance and presented the cadet corps with the Canadian Flag.

When Lt. (NL) Rayo transferred to N.L.C.C. #13 J.F. WILLIAMS in March 2013, he was the Standards Officer and Drill Instructor until he was given his ultimate challenge and a position he had never held before - become the Commanding Officer and save the corps, or watch it be shut down by the end of the training year. He was initially given a unit of seventeen cadets and had less than three months to make a significant change. He brought out everything in his arsenal and revived the corps by gaining fifteen new cadets. By Spring Break 2020, when everything shut down due to the COVID-19 lockdown, #13 J.F. WILLIAMS was fifty strong and remained that way throughout the entire lockdown.

Lt. (NL) Rayo has moved within the different Navy League corps over his career, but throughout his time, he was the head cook for all the summer and winter camps that were held between 2007 and 2011, where there were upwards of two hundred people to cook for, three meals a day. He has also written and published a Drill and Range manual that has been approved by the Navy League of Canada. In 2021 when Lt. (NL) Rayo stepped down as the Commanding Officer of N.L.C.C. #13 J.F. WILLIAMS, he moved up to the Branch where was the Navy League Chair and Security Screening Coordinator for the New Westminster Branch until June 2024.