As your Colonel Commandant, Canadian Forces Chief Military Engineer, Branch Advisor and Branch Chief Warrant Officer, it is with great honour and pleasure that we offer our most heartfelt congratulations for this important approaching milestone.

The First of July 2013 will mark the 110th Anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Military Engineers. This gives us a unique opportunity to celebrate military engineering. The Canadian Military Engineers reflects two significant dates; 1 July 1903, when the Regular component of the corps was authorized under the designation Canadian Engineer Corps, and 29 April 1936, when the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers was approved and Permanent and Non-Permanent Engineers were united under one badge. Although, the First of July is considered the birth date of the Canadian Military Engineers, we celebrate our birthday on or about 29 April.

Since ancient times, military engineers have shaped the physical environment to allow friendly forces to live, move and fight in the battle space and to deny the same to the enemy. Despite the evolution, the Canadian Military Engineers doctrinal role as master of the terrain remains extant and it is assessed that the capabilities across its four core competencies (Combat Engineering, Construction Engineering, Geospatial Engineering, and Fire Protection) will continue to be in high demand based on the ambitions of the Canada First Defence Strategy and the Future Security Environment.

We Engineers have indeed a grand and illustrious history. During our tour as Colonel Commandant, CF Chief Military Engineer, Branch Advisor and Branch CWO, it has been most evident to us that today’s Engineers continue to add the tradition, glory and reputation of our Canadian Military Engineer family, and continue to serve Canada in an exemplary manner.

As we progress towards our 110th Anniversary, we wish to encourage all members of Canadian Military Engineer Family (Regular Force, Reserve Force, retired, civilian, Defence Construction Canada members and Engineer Cadet Corps) to participate in your local CME Birthday celebrations. Regardless of size, each celebration is a time to reflect and remember the achievements of our Branch.

Chimo!