

## New Commanding Officer at 34 CER

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Signing of the scrolls. From left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre St-Laurent, Incoming Commanding Officer of 34 Combat Engineer Regiment (34 CER), Lieutenant-Colonel Benoit Doré, Outgoing Commanding Officer, and Colonel Dan Chafaï, Commander of 34 Canadian Brigade Group.  
Photo: Cpl Poirier-Joyal

On Sunday, 13 September 2015, in the gym of the Montreal Garrison, some sixty sappers, including officers, took part in the 34 Combat Engineer Regiment (34 CER) Change of Command Parade for Outgoing Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Benoit Doré and Incoming Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre St-Laurent.

During the three years of his command, exercising his leadership, LCol Doré initiated a number of projects enabling the Regiment to maintain its operational capability, including the creation of a training cell and the unit's move to the Montreal Garrison. From now on, the training cell supervisor and his/her team will be mandated to plan for training over a three-year period to meet training objectives specific to the combat engineer trade. All members of the Regiment have embraced this new, previously absent training concept.

Colonel Dan Chafaï, Commander of 34 Canadian Brigade Group, stressed in his speech the outstanding and exemplary leadership of LCol Doré, who took the initiative of moving the Regiment to a different location until a new home could be built for the members. We note that all personnel were delighted to move into the new premises.

Regiment sappers of all ranks paid a warm tribute to LCol Doré, parading with pride and presence during the ceremony to thank him and acknowledge his immense influence on all members of the Regiment, including the Rouyn-Noranda Detachment. A number of VIPs were also in attendance, including Brigadier-General Sylvain Sirois, Leader of the Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation Project at Headquarters in Ottawa, for LCol Doré's final parade with his members.

To build on the work started by his predecessor, LCol St-Laurent made a commitment before the Brigade and sappers' Staff to do everything in his power to help the Regiment advance toward excellence.

In closing, we would like to thank LCol Doré for all he has done for the Regiment, wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours, and offer a most cordial welcome to our new Commanding Officer, LCol St-Laurent.

CHIMO!



Colonel Dan Chafaï, Commander of 34 Canadian Brigade Group, inspects the troops.  
Photo: Cpl Poirier-Joyal



Brigadier-General Sylvain Sirois, Leader of the Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation Project at Headquarters in Ottawa, attended the ceremony.  
Photo: Cpl Poirier-Joyal

## Incoming Commanding Officer's Biography

LCol Pierre St-Laurent enrolled in the Reserve Force in 1981 (Fusiliers du Mont-Royal and 3 Field Engineer Regiment) and joined the Regular Force in 1988 after completing a bachelor's degree in construction engineering and management at the École de technologie supérieure.

He served initially with 5 Combat Engineer Regiment (5 CER) from 1989 to 1993. During that time, he commanded a field engineer troop (2 Troop) and held the position of Operations Officer with 59 Field Squadron for the United National Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and 5 CER. He then deployed for a year with the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as Sector North Engineer. On his return, he was posted to the Saint-Hubert site, where he served as Engineering Planning Officer.

LCol St-Laurent returned to 5 CER from 1996 to 2000. During that period, he deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as G3 Engineer Operations with 5 Canadian Multinational Brigade, as well as being Adjutant of the Regiment. Promoted Major in 1998, he commanded 52 Field Engineer Squadron and then, the next year, 58 Headquarters and Services Squadron.

LCol St-Laurent has held a range of Staff positions. In 2000, he was at Land Force Quebec Area (LFQA) HQ and 5 Area Support Group (ASG) in the position of Engineer Operations and Plans. From 2001 to 2004, he occupied the positions of G3 Engineer Operations 2 within the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff organization, Executive Assistant to the Director General Land Staff (DGLS) and, finally, Director Personnel Management 2 – Policy with the Land Staff.

Promoted Lieutenant-Colonel on 1 January 2005, he completed his training at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto in the summer of 2006. From then until his retirement on 16 September 2012, he served as Commanding Officer 5ASG Engineering Branch, a Staff Officer with LFQA, Chief, Infrastructure with the 10th Mountain Division (USA) during a year in Kandahar and Commanding Officer of the 5 ASG Command Support Unit.

After his career with the Regular Force, on 4 September 2012, LCol St-Laurent joined the Major Crown Projects Sector of Real Property Branch at Public Works and Government Services Canada as the Project Director for the Carling Complex, the site where National Defence Headquarters will be moving in the coming years.