



AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE



THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
THE AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES

NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST 13, 2009

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA INTRODUCES NEW TOW PLANE FOR THE AIR CADET GLIDING PROGRAM

COMOX, BC – The Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General Walter Natynczyk , on behalf of the Department of National Defence, signed an Amendment to the Contract for Goods and Services to place the British Columbia Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada’s newest tow plane, a Cessna 182P under Operational Control of the Canadian Forces in support of the Air Cadet Gliding Program in British Columbia.

Mr. Joe Johnson, National President of the Air Cadet League of Canada, stated in his written request to the CDS that “The Cessna 182P, C-FCGS, better known as Tug 6, represents six years of dedicated fund raising effort by an untold number of Air Cadets and their parents from every corner of the province. As a result of their unwavering support and hard work the British Columbia Provincial Committee had sufficient funds not only to purchase this aircraft but fully pay their share of the subsequent cost of its complete refurbishment.”

The 182 was purchased from Sealand Aviation in Campbell River in April 2009 where it completed an extensive refurbishment and modification program. This work included fitting the aircraft with a new engine and propeller, rewiring and repainting the airframe and then modifying the wings landing gear and fuselage to operate as a glider tow aircraft.

Mr. Joe Johnson, who signed the Amendment to the Contract for Goods and Services on behalf of the Air Cadet League of Canada, also stated that “the aircraft is the cornerstone in the British Columbia Provincial Committee’s Long Range Plan to upgrade the capability of their aircraft fleet and reflects the committee’s commitment to our partnership with the Department of National Defence.”

The British Columbia Provincial Committee (BCPC) currently own one 4-seater Cessna 182P, five 2-seater Cessna L-19 tow aircraft and thirteen Schweitzer-233 gliders to support our glider program activity. The Schweitzer-233 aircraft is a robust, rugged glider that is ideal for providing safe flight experience for young boys and girls.

In addition to their requirement to provide the aircraft, the British Columbia Provincial Committee is also obligated to finance specific maintenance and repair costs of these aircraft. Fortunately, our Glider Flying Program is recognized by the BC Gaming Commission as one that qualifies for Gaming Grant funding support.

An activity that is unique and exclusive to Air Cadets is the Air Cadet Gliding Program which introduces the cadets to aviation while contributing to the development of communications, interpersonal experiences, leadership skills, physical fitness, teamwork and building self confidence. Flying and aviation related activities are core-central to the Air Cadet Movement. It is viewed as one of the primary reasons for a young boy or girl joining Air Cadets, and is one of the key activities for retention in the movement.

The Air Cadet Gliding Program is provincial wide and provides the opportunity for approximately 3,200 air cadets each year to experience the thrill of flight as well as fulfill a requirement of their unit training. To achieve this, gliders and tow aircraft are used for cadet familiarization flying that is carried out on weekends during the Spring and Fall seasons at fifteen gliding sites located throughout BC. During the summer months, selected cadets are offered the opportunity for glider pilot training at the Regional Gliding School located at 19 Wing Comox on Vancouver Island utilizing Air Cadet League aircraft. This training, which is provided by our DND military partners, leads to the award of Transport Canada Glider Pilot License and the coveted 'Air Cadet Glider Pilot Wings'. Many of these cadets go on to be glider pilot instructors and cadet familiarization flying pilots at their local squadrons. Many of our cadets go on to careers in civilian and military aviation. However, the primary thrust of the Glider Program is the positive effect it has on the youth development aspects of the Air Cadet Movement.