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## **Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal**

Many governments consider that awarding decorations and medals is one of the most appropriate methods of tangibly recognizing special achievement or distinguished service. In 1967, the Order of Canada was established as the corner-stone of a national honours system. In 1972, the Order was modified by increasing the awards in three levels, to permit recognition of a broader spectrum of achievement. In that same year, the Order of Military Merit was created, and a three-level bravery award system instituted.

Bravery awards were introduced to honour those who willingly risk injury, or even death, to save others, establishing for all Canadians that bravery is viewed officially as an extraordinary action. The Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery replaced the Medal of Courage in 1972.

In 1980, the Government of Canada accepted in principle a recommendation that national awards, in the form of medals, be established to recognize long and outstanding service in the high risk professions providing public security. The Police Service seemed the logical choice for the first of what was envisioned as a family of medals: the risks inherent in their work are obvious and they are the most visible of the protective services. The Police Exemplary Service Medal was created on 12 August 1982, by Letters Patent signed by the Sovereign.

Regulations paralleling those of the Police Exemplary Service Medal and the design for a medal were submitted by the Correctional Services. On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the Queen created the Corrections Exemplary Service Medal on 11 June 1984.

In mid-1985, the Government of Canada accepted the proposal for the creation of a service medal for full-time and volunteer members of the numerous components of Canada's Fire Services. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created on 29 August 1985.

Finally, the Canadian Coast Guard has a branch in which potential risk is involved, comprising those members of the Service who are exposed to the rigours of sea duty, prompting the creation of the Canadian Coast Guard Exemplary Service Medal on 27 June 1990.

The exemplary service medals are administered by the Chancellery, a branch of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, in Ottawa. Committees at the federal, provincial and territorial levels recommend eligible and deserving members to the Chancellery. Awards are made, on behalf of the Sovereign, by Instruments signed by the Governor General and the names of recipients are published in the Canada Gazette. Engraved medals and certificates of award are forwarded to the nominating authority for formal presentation on behalf of the Governor General. The award of exemplary service medals does not confer the right to use post-nominal letters.

Further information on exemplary service medals or any aspect of national honours may be obtained from:

The Director, Honours  
The Chancellery  
Rideau Hall  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A1

## The Awards Committee

The Awards Committee for the Province of Saskatchewan, established in accordance to the Regulations governing the award of the Exemplary Service Medal Section 9(4) & (5), will consist of the Fire Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan and the Presidents of the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association. The Fire Commissioner will be the permanent chairperson while each Association president will be members of the committee so long as they hold the office of president of their Association.

Forms to nominate members of the Fire Service for the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Fire Commissioner in Regina @ (306) 787-3774.

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF THE FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

### Short Title

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal Regulations.

### Interpretation

2. In these Regulations,  
"Advisory Committee" means the committee established by subsection 9(1); (Conseil consultatif)  
  
"awards committee" means an awards committee established pursuant to subsection 9(4); (commite' des decorations)  
  
"Bar" means the Bar described in section 5; (barrette)  
  
"exemplary service" means service characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency that serves as a model for others; (services distingues)  
  
"fire services" means the members of Canadian Fire Departments, Fire Marshals' Offices and Fire Commissioners' Offices and such others as may be accepted on the advice of the Advisory Committee; (service d'incendie)  
  
"Medal" means the Medal described in section 4(1); (Medaille)

### Designation

3. There shall be a medal designated as the "Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal".

### Description

- 4.(1) The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal shall consist of a circular Medal, on the obverse a stylized maple leaf bearing a fire hydrant with crossed axes and a Maltese cross centred thereon, circumscribed with the words "Exemplary Service-Services distingues"; on the reverse the Royal Cipher, the whole suspended by a ribbon of five equal stripes, two gold and three red.
  - (2) The Medal shall be awarded only for exemplary service.
- 5.(1) The Bar to the Medal shall consist of a plain bar with a stylized maple leaf centred.
  - (2) The Bar shall be awarded only for exemplary service.

### Eligibility for Medal and Bar

6. Subject to section 7, a person may be awarded the medal if that person:
  - (a) is a member of the fire service on or after 29 August, 1985;
  - (b) has completed twenty years as a member of the fire service, where that service is of such good standard as to warrant an award.
- 7.(1) No period of service, in whole or in part, that has been recognized by any other long service, good conduct or efficiency decoration or medal awarded by the Crown in Right of Canada shall count as service for award of the Medal.
- (2) Full-time unrecognized service in the Canadian Forces as a member of the fire service may count as qualifying service.
8. A person who has been awarded the Medal is eligible to be awarded a Bar in respect of each additional ten-year period of service in the fire services in Canada, after the twenty-year period in respect of which he was awarded the Medal, if that service is of such good standard as to warrant an award.

#### Advisory Committee and Awards Committees

- 9.(1) There shall be an Advisory Committee consisting of the President and Immediate Past President of the Association of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners, and the President and Immediate Past President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.
- (2) The Chairman of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by the members of the Committee.
- (3) The Advisory Committee shall advise the Governor General on such matters concerning the award of the Medal and Bar as the Governor General may refer to the Committee for consideration.
- (4) There shall be an awards committee for Canada, for each province, for the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.
- (5) An awards committee established pursuant to sub-section (4) shall consist of at least 3 members from the jurisdiction for which that committee was established and shall be appointed by the Advisory Committee.
- (6) The chairman of an awards committee shall be chosen in such fashion as may be determined by the Advisory Committee.
10. Notwithstanding sections 6 and 22, an awards committee or the Advisory Committee may recommend to the Governor General an extraordinary award of the Medal, including a posthumous award to an individual is not the recipient of any other award from the Crown in Right of Canada directly related to the circumstances of his death.

#### Nomination Procedure

- 11.(1) A nomination of a person for the Medal or a Bar shall be made to the Director of the Chancellery of Canadians Orders and Decorations by the chairman of the awards committee of the jurisdiction in which the person is serving.
- (2) A chairman of an awards committee shall submit a nomination together with a recommendation in respect of the nominee, in the form of a certificate
  - (a) setting out the date on which the required period of service for the Medal or Bar was completed by the nominee;
  - (b) stating that, during the full period of service, no serious disciplinary action has been taken in respect of the nominee and that none is pending on the day on which the certificate is signed.
  - (c) stating that the conduct and performance of the nominee have been judged as being exemplary and deserving of recognition by the award of the Medal or Bar; and
  - (d) signed by the chairman or by a member of the committee designated in writing by the committee to sign.
12. On receipt of a recommendation for award of a Medal or Bar the Director of the Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations shall submit it to the Governor General.

## Awards

13. An award of the Medal or a Bar shall be made, on the recommendation of an awards committee or the Advisory Committee, by Instrument signed by the Governor General.
14. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 11, the Governor General, on the recommendation of an awards committee or the Advisory Committee, may award the Medal.
15. Nothing in these Regulations limits the right of the Governor General to exercise all powers and authorities of the Sovereign in respect of the Medal and Bar.

## Presentation

16. Unless the Governor General otherwise directs, the Medal or Bar shall be sent to the chairman of the appropriate awards committee for formal presentation, on behalf of the Governor General, to the recipient.

## Wearing of Medals

- 17.(1) The Medal and Bar shall be worn in the sequence prescribed in the "Canadian Order of Precedence of Orders, Decorations and Medals" and in the manner described in "A Guide to the Wearing of Orders, Decorations and Medals".
  - (2) When a ribbon of the Medal is worn alone and the wearer has been awarded a Bar, a small silver maple leaf shall be attached to the centre of the ribbon.
18. A person to whom the Medal has been awarded may wear a miniature of the Medal, to be one-half the size of the Medal, on all occasions when the wearing of miniatures is customary.

## Cancellation and Reinstatement

- 19.(1) The Governor General may, on the advice of the Advisory Committee,
  - (a) cancel or annul the award of the Medal or Bar to any person; and
  - (b) restore the award of a Medal or Bar that has been cancelled or annulled under paragraph(a).
- (2) Where the award of a Medal is cancelled or annulled under subsection (1), the name of the person to whom the Medal was awarded shall be deleted from the Register referred to in section 20.

## Administration

20. The Director of the Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations shall
  - (a) prepare the Instrument of award for signature by the Governor General;
  - (b) arrange for the names of recipients of Medals and Bars to be published in the Canada Gazette;
  - (c) acquire the Medals and Bars and have the names of recipients engraved on the Medals at public expense;
  - (d) maintain a Register containing the name of each person to whom the Medal or Bar is awarded and such other records relating to the award as the Director considers necessary;
  - (e) issue a certificate to accompany the Medal and the Bar;
  - (f) arrange for award ceremonies or for Medals or Bars to be sent, in accordance with section 16, for presentation to the recipients, and;
  - (g) perform such other functions in respect of awards of the Medals and Bars as the Governor General may require him to perform.

## **Decorations for Bravery**

The Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery are medals which may be awarded to any person who has risked grave injury or who has placed their life in jeopardy in attempting to rescue another.

Any person may propose the name of another person for these awards. These awards are not presented for saving a life, but for the act of bravery the rescuer shows while rescuing or attempting to rescue someone else.

Persons wishing to nominate another for an award should provide a brief description of the incident, the names of those involved and the place and date when the incident occurred to;

The Chancellery  
Rideau Hall  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A1

Incidents which meet the criteria for an award are investigated by the RCMP or other appropriate organization to allow the awards committee to determine if the incident meets the award criteria and to establish which award may be presented.