

Lieutenant-Colonel Rhonda Matthews, CD

Incoming Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Rhonda Matthews joined 2nd Battalion, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment as an Infantry Soldier in her hometown of Corner Brook, NL in 1997. She transferred, and commissioned to the Princess Louise Fusiliers in 2000 where she pursued a BA in International Development from Saint Mary's University. She has completed the Army Operations Course and graduated from the two-year Joint Command and Staff Program. She is currently completing a MBA in Community Economic Development from Cape Breton University, and will graduate in Nov 2022.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthews has served in every command role in the Infantry Battalion, including five years as a Company Commander. She has held many leadership and planning roles on numerous Brigade, Division, national, international and NATO Collective Training exercises throughout her career.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthews deployed twice on Operation ATHENA, to Kandahar Afghanistan, where she earned the Commander's Coin on her second tour. From this experience, she was employed for eleven years at 5th Canadian Division Head Quarters in the G9 branch. Starting as the Training Officer, she advanced to the branch-head position, receiving the Division Commander's Commendation in 2015.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthews just returned from Operation PRESENCE – Training Support to Peace Operations in Rwanda and Uganda where she served as Deputy Task Force Commander and lead instructor. Fulfilling a Government of Canada commitment from the 2017 Vancouver Defence conference, the Task Force was tasked to create and validate a training package for the newly established United Nations Engagement Platoon. The UN-EP will be a requirement of deploying Infantry Battalions and will directly impact all established and future UN Peace Support Operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthews recently served as the PLF Deputy Commanding Officer, and acted as the CO for several months during the initial response to COVID-19 global pandemic. She is the Army contingent Commander for this year's Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

Mother to Sam and partner to Michael, she is balancing all her commitments and looking forward to getting back to normal activities in the new COVID reality.