

Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) 2023 Annual Report

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The sole purpose
of the Defence
of Amateur
Radio Fund



(DARF) Trust is to support the travel expenses of one or more certified Amateurs as members of the Canadian official delegation at the International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) and Preparatory Meetings which are usually held in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Radiocommunication Conferences – organized and held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) every four years – update the *Radio Regulations*, the international treaty that, among other things, sets out the frequencies on which radio services such as the Amateur Radio Service may operate.

The RAC delegate's role is to assist our regulator – Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) – with all WRC agenda issues that may influence allocations to the Amateur Radio Service. This may include helping defend existing Amateur bands from being reallocated or being subject to harmful sharing by other interested parties. There may also be an agenda item offering the opportunity to advocate for a new allocation or to defend the use of existing Amateur Radio spectrum by other Services seeking to gain access to the spectrum.

Radio Amateurs have a seat at the table – in fact, there is a specific Working Party which includes the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Service in its title – but they need to be able to participate directly. While allowing RAC membership of the Canadian delegation, ISED does not provide any funds towards their participation.

DARF Trust Financial Summary for 2023	
Starting balance	\$27,089.93
Donations and income on investments	\$4,748.44
Disbursements	\$22,010.00
Ending balance	\$9,828.37
Net change	-\$17,261.56

As most of these meetings are usually held in Geneva, one of the most expensive cities in the world, DARF's funding is *essential!*

The DARF Trust's role is to provide funding for our delegate's travel and living expenses in order to attend these various conferences.

Without DARF, there would be no Canadian Amateur presence at these international meetings or in the many pre-meetings that take place developing and working out what ultimately becomes Canada's position.

RAC Special Advisor Paul Coverdale, VE3IPC, attended the Preparatory Meetings in Geneva for the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23). He was actively involved as part of the Canadian official delegation to many domestic and ITU Preparatory Meetings leading up to WRC-23.

Canada is one of a small number of countries – Australia, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil and Indonesia – who regularly include a Radio Amateur in their official delegation.

Over the years, Canada has contributed strongly and gained an excellent reputation. Amateur delegates work closely with each other and with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) representatives including IARU President, Tim Ellam, VE6SH. This is important as WRC decisions are ultimately made only by the ITU Member States.

Donors to DARF

Individuals:

R Oakenfold, VE5RO	\$25
Thomas Godden, VE3TWG	\$37
William Burgess, VE3CRU	\$20
David Rosner, VE4DAR	\$29.70
Douglas Holtby, VE3DHC	\$20
Stiig Larsen, VE3LBX	\$22.74
Rick van Gastel, VE3HVA	\$75
Dave Green, VE3TLY	\$25
John Crake, VE3TLB	\$100
Ron Vadeboncoeur, VE3REV	\$125
Allen McNeil, VE7BJA	\$100
John Lediett, VE3FVC	\$50
Adrian Huber, VA7AGH	\$100
David Newcombe, VA3DLN	\$100
Al Stephens, VE3NXP	\$100
Richard Parlby, VE7ZEP	\$50
Wayne Stacey, VE3QO	\$50
Robert MacKenzie, VA3RKM	\$64.06
Mike Kelly, VE3FFK	\$1,000
Eric Brown, VA6EBR	\$100
Charles Hooker, VE3CQH	\$29.94
Harold Rodd, VE1LV	\$25

Amateur Radio Clubs:

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club	\$200
St. Lawrence Valley Repeater Council	\$1,900
Mississauga Amateur Radio Club	\$100
North Shore Amateur Radio Club (ON)	\$100
Calgary Communications Club	\$200

Thank You For Your Support!
<https://www.rac.ca/darf/>

The IARU is one of many industry Sector Members representing various special interests – such as telecommunications companies, marine and air carriers – that attend ITU meetings, but have no vote.

Throughout the ITU Study Cycle preparatory process, our delegate to the Preparatory Meetings regularly keep us all up to date – through ongoing articles in *The Canadian Amateur*, on the RAC website and via social media – on the issues and processes that ultimately determine Amateur Radio spectrum around the world.

The DARF Trust was created by Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, and Bill Loucks, VE3AR, in 1991 to provide funding to ensure that a Canadian Radio Amateur would be part of these critical processes. Over the years, this need has only grown more critical with the explosion of mobile services and the need for more spectrum to service.

The main activity during 2023 was preparation and participation in WRC-23, which took place in Dubai in November-December. The outcome of WRC-23 was quite favourable to Amateurs in several areas. The threat of across-the-board severe limitation of Amateur activity in the 23 cm band to avoid possible interference to the radionavigation service was avoided.

Receipt of a report of harmful interference caused by a station of the Amateur or Amateur Satellite Services will be the trigger for Administrations to act. The likelihood of interference into the bottom of the 6m band, from a proposed space-borne radar nominally operating in the band 40-50 MHz, has been reduced to virtually zero due to geographical and temporal limitations and a very low power flux density at the Earth's surface. Although there was intense pressure for new frequency allocations for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in the bands 3300 to 3400 MHz and 10 to 10,5 GHz, the Amateur secondary allocations in these bands remain intact.

Going forward, there are new Agenda Items for the next World Radio Conference in 2027 (WRC-27) which have an impact on the Amateur Radio Service. One of these is a proposal for lunar communications on a number of frequencies including several existing



Amateur frequencies. There is also a proposal for additional spectrum allocations to the radiolocation service on a primary basis in the frequency range 231.5 GHz to 275 GHz, which cuts across an existing Amateur secondary allocation from 241 GHz to 248 GHz, and a primary allocation from 248 GHz to 250 GHz.

We Need Your Help

DARF is an independent legal Trust, which is administered by Radio Amateurs of Canada to ensure that any funds disbursed are used for the purposes allowed by the Trust as follows:

- 1) Ensure that there are sufficient funds on hand for the Amateur delegate's expenses to attend WRC meetings.
- 2) If sufficient funds are on hand, to also support travel to Preparatory Meetings when issues directly affecting Amateur Radio spectrum are being debated.

While it may seem that this is a once-every-four-year expense limited to participation in the Conference, the most potential impact RAC and the other Amateur representatives may have occurs during the many preparatory sessions where the real work to shape, negotiate and defend allocations take place.

Our delegates typically attend two of these meetings each year, each lasting 10 to 12 days. Even with discounted airfare and hotel rates, it is expensive to send a person to Geneva to work and live for two to four weeks each year.

If you have not contributed to DARF, please consider making a personal donation and suggest a club donation to

DARF at your next meeting. Donations of any amount are welcome. Every dollar helps and will only go to defending and expanding our access to spectrum.

The Financial Summary provided in the table on the previous page shows that although DARF is still viable, inflation and the trend that new donations are less than expenses continue to be worrisome in the longer term.

The insatiable demand for mobile device connectivity means continued and increasing pressure on spectrum from large corporate and government interests as well as from other Radio Services such as the Satellite and Space Sciences Services. Only a strong and consistent Amateur presence at the ITU table to defend the bands we already have will protect the future of Amateur Radio. Without the funds to work with, our voices will not be heard.

Donations can be made online by clicking on the "Donate" link at the top of the RAC website or sent to RAC HQ. One easy way to donate is to include an extra \$10 or \$20 or more when you renew your RAC membership. Please make your cheque payable to "Radio Amateurs of Canada" and note in the memo field "DARF donation". If you wish to donate by other payment methods or have a question on how to donate please call or email RAC HQ at rachq@rac.ca

For more information about DARF and the World Radiocommunication Conferences please visit: <https://www.rac.ca/darf/>
<https://www.rac.ca/wrc/>

73, Serge Bertuzzo, VA3SB
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