

World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC-27) and the Importance of the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund

Defence of Amateur Radio Fund Annual Report 2025



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World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are organized and held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) every four years to update the Radio Regulations, the international treaty that sets out the frequencies and rules on which radio services such as the Amateur Radio Service may operate. WRC-27 will be held in Shanghai, China in October and November 2027.

The detailed preparatory work for WRC-27 takes place in individual Working Parties of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. In particular, Working Party 5A (WP 5A) – “Land mobile service excluding International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT); amateur and amateur-satellite service” – provides a “seat at the table” for the worldwide Amateur community to influence the outcome of the Conference.

Radio Amateurs of Canada participates in ITU-R and WRC meetings under the auspices of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), and works in collaboration with the International Amateur Radio Union and amateurs from other countries. For WRC-27 there are no major threats to Amateur Radio, but there are a number of Agenda Items which could result in potential threats or opportunities which need to be followed by RAC including:

1) Consideration of possible additional spectrum allocations to the radiolocation service on a primary basis in the frequency range 231.5 – 275 GHz, and

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Serge Bertuzzo, VA3SB – RAC International Affairs Officer



The Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) is an independent legal Trust, which is administered by Radio Amateurs of Canada to:

1) Ensure that there are sufficient funds on hand for the Amateur delegate’s expenses to attend WRC meetings. WRC-23 was held in Dubai and the WRC-27 is being held in Shanghai, China.

2) Support travel to Preparatory Meetings in Geneva, Switzerland – if sufficient funds are available – when issues directly affecting Amateur Radio spectrum are being debated. 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.

The Financial Summary provided in the above table 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 sufficient funds, our voices will not be heard.

– 73, Serge Bertuzzo, VA3SB

DARF Financial Summary 2025

Starting balance	\$8,131.31
Donations	\$9,963.83
Disbursements	\$1,246.63
Ending balance	\$5,638.51
Net change	– \$2,492.80

List of Donors 2025

Amateur Radio Clubs:

Delta Amateur Radio Society	\$201
Central Alberta Amateur Radio Club	\$100
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club	\$200
Sudbury Amateur Radio Club	\$100
Kingston Amateur Radio Club	\$300
QCWA Wild Rose Chapter 151	\$300
Calgary Communications Club	\$300
Club Radio-Amateur de Granby	\$200

Individuals:

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK	\$1,000
Robert Paxton, VE7RPX	\$25
Harold Rodd, VE1LV	\$50
Richard Parlby, VE7ZEP	\$44
Eric Brown, VA6EBR	\$100
Thomas Godden, VE3TWG	\$62
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Ronald Vadeboncoeur ,VE3REV	\$223
Sandy Wohl ,VE7SFW	\$54
Eric Alexandre ,VE7KEX	\$100
Dave Goodwin, VE9CB	\$600
Brian Alexander, VA3AZA	\$20

possible new identifications for radiolocation service applications in the frequency bands within the frequency range 275 – 700 GHz for millimetric and sub-millimetric wave imaging systems.

The frequency range 231.5 – 275 GHz conflicts with an Amateur secondary allocation from 241 – 248 GHz, and a primary allocation from 248 – 250 GHz. However, the opportunity also exists for new Amateur allocations in the range 275 – 700 GHz in the future (possible Agenda Item for WRC-31).

2) Studies on possible new allocations to the mobile-satellite service for direct connectivity between space stations and International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) user equipment to complement terrestrial IMT network coverage.

One band under discussion overlaps the band 2300 – 2400 MHz which is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Service on a secondary basis, but it is also allocated to the Mobile Service on a primary basis and is identified for IMT. The band is also used by several other services.

3) Studies on frequency-related matters, including possible new or modified Space Research Service (space-to-space) allocations, for future development of communications on the lunar surface and between lunar orbit and the lunar surface.

Frequencies under study for lunar communications by the Space Research Service (SRS) include 420 – 430 MHz and 440 – 450 MHz, 2400 – 2690 MHz, 5570 – 5725 MHz and 5775 – 5925 MHz, all of which conflict with current terrestrial Amateur secondary allocations.

Not all of the use cases likely to be used by SRS for lunar communications will impact the use of the current Amateur terrestrial secondary allocations, and the scope of this Agenda Item opens the door for developing a future regulatory framework (during WRC-31) for other services, including Amateur, for operation on the lunar surface.

4) Consideration of regulatory provisions for receive-only space weather sensors and their protection in the Radio Regulations, taking into account the results of ITU Radiocommunication Sector studies. There is a concern that two of the proposed allocations for receive-only space weather sensors are directly adjacent to the 28-29.7 MHz Amateur band, which could result in interference. Some time has also been spent on updating several ITU-R documents related to Amateur Radio:

- Work was completed on a major draft revision including a number of RAC contributions, to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services Handbook
- Revision of Rec. M.1042-3 “Disaster communications in the amateur and amateur-satellite services” has been completed
- A new report has been initiated in WP 5A “Report on experimental activities in the millimetric wave bands by stations of the amateur service”. This report is almost complete and takes into account several RAC contributions.

Donations to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF)

We thank those clubs and individual Amateurs listed in this report who have made their DARF contribution. Your support is much appreciated.

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 email RAC HQ at rachq@rac.ca.

For more information about DARF and the World Radiocommunication Conferences visit:

<https://www.rac.ca/darf/>
<https://www.rac.ca/wrc/>



– List of Donors 2025 continued –

Paul Martin, VE3VCO	\$10
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Thank You For Your Support!