

RCMP Regimental Pipes, Drums, and Dancers of Alberta

Position Posting – Pipe Major

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Regimental Pipes, Drums and Dancers of Alberta (“K” Division) is seeking the right individual to be our next Pipe Major.

About the Band

Formed in 1993, the “K” Division band is the first of eight bands in the RCMP’s national pipe band program. We are entirely a volunteer group of 35 pipers, drummers, and dancers from within the community and collectively, are registered as the Real Celtic Playing Music Society, a not-for-profit society and we do our own fundraising. Practices are held on Wednesday evenings (7 – 9 p.m.) weekly.

The band’s musical component has competed in Grades 4 and 5. However, a primary activity of the band is participating in community events and parades throughout the year, representing the RCMP in Alberta. One of the unique aspects of the band is its active dance corps. The dancers perform choreographed and traditional dances with the tunes, including on parade and at events. We also find opportunities to travel across Canada and internationally, including travel to Europe and South America. There are also opportunities for travel and involvement in national events such as the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

About the Pipe Major’s Position

As one of five appointed volunteer leadership positions, the Pipe Major works in collaboration with the Society Executive and other senior leaders in the band. The Pipe Major provides the necessary and appropriate leadership to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Society, the National Executive Council, and the expectations of the Commanding Officer RCMP “K” Division.

Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Responsible for the overall musical direction of the Society, including the selection and arrangement of tunes, selection of members to perform, and training of musicians.
- Responsible to act as the “lead” piper at both practices and performances of the Society.

- Responsible for the recommendation to the Executive of members to be appointed to subordinate musical ranks within the Society.
- Responsible for the presentation to the Executive of names of Associate members nominated for change of status to Performing Member of the Society.
- Responsible jointly with the Drum Major to determine the “Order of Dress” to be worn by members of the Society at any public performance.
- Responsible for the ongoing evaluation of competency of all Performing Members of the Society.
- In the absence of the Drum Major, is responsible for the dress, deportment, conduct and movement of the members of the Society at practices and performances of the Society.
- Responsible for supporting the development of a succession plan for the band.

Pipe Major Criteria (All experience will be considered)

General Criteria

- Basic knowledge of the theory of music
- Knowledge and experience in the maintenance and care of the instruments
- The ability to give guidance to the drum corps to achieve a musical performance
- Works with the Lead Dancer on tunes and tempos
- Leads development of performances, in collaboration with Lead Dancer and Drum Major

Technical Criteria

- Piping Experience
- Pipe Grade Level
- P/M or P/Sgt Experience
- Band Set up and Tuning
- Music Theory
- Police/Military Band Experience

Leadership and Management Criteria

- Team Leadership
- Administration
- Planning and Organizing
- Communication
- Developing Others
- Demonstrated Leadership in a Pipe Band

Nice to Have Criteria

- Experience Piping for Dancers
- Mentoring Experience

Interested applicants please submit your expression of interest based on how you meet the listed Pipe Major Criteria. As noted, all experiences will be considered for the listed criteria.

Your expression of interest can be sent to rcmpdrummajor@gmail.com by February 1, 2023.

Potential candidates meeting the requested criteria will be contacted for an interview.

The successful candidate will be requested to assume the role of the Pipe Major as soon as possible.