

# British Columbia Pipers' Association

**President** Robert MacNeil  
**Vice-President** Lynn Bullis  
**Secretary** Moira Mack  
**Treasurer** Cameron Reid

**Counsellors** David Bruce  
Bob McIlwaine  
Ron Sutherland  
Mark Vickars



**Directors**

Thomas Budd  
Mike Chisholm  
Rene Cusson  
Paul de Bourcier  
Reid Maxwell

Kevin McLean  
Cameron Reid  
Jessica Reid  
Sandy Reid  
James P. Troy

**Honourary Patron** The Honourable  
John Fraser

## Announcement on realignment of BCPA band grades and BCPA region bands for the 2018 season

October 12, 2017

For many years, BCPA has worked with other pipe band associations in North America and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association in collaborative efforts toward establishing band grade calibres and band gradings to an international standard. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that in a home association, bands of similar calibre are in the same grade and that wherever in North America or in the world a band would travel to compete, the pipe band association for that competition would agree that the band is in the correct grade for their ability.

Following many months of consideration, in July 2016, BCPA announced its plan to realign its band grade calibres with the recognized international standard and to realign the grades assigned to individual bands to be consistent with those realigned grades. BCPA set an October 1, 2017 date for the results of this work to take effect. The BCPA Pipe Band Competition Rules effective October 1, 2017 contain the band grade mappings in Section 4.2

<http://www.bcpipers.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/BCPA-Pipe-Band-Rules-Rev-15.pdf>

A seminar for Grades 5 and 4 bands was held on October 1, 2016 to prepare bands for the revised music requirements, an update on the progress of the initiative was provided to musical and administrative leaders of bands at the February 4, 2017 Pipe Bands Leadership Forum Conference, and assessments of all bands competing at BCPA sanctioned competitions in the 2017 season were conducted by BCPA adjudicators on the Band Grading Subcommittee as well as assessments provided by BCPA and ANAPBA member association adjudicators, RSPBA certified adjudicators, and senior instructors of juvenile age bands in Scotland.

At the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations (ANAPBA) Summit in January 2017, recommendations for updated music requirements for band grades 5 and 4 were agreed upon that are appropriate for North American bands' abilities, would provide consistency across the continent, and provide a path for Grade 5 and 4 bands to prepare a music set that can meet both North American and international competition music requirements for their grade. In September 2017, BCPA approved adoption of the ANAPBA recommended updated music requirements for band grades 5 and 4. These updated music requirements are contained in the BCPA Music Requirements for Piping, Drumming, and Pipe Band Competitions.

<http://www.bcpipers.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/BCPA-Music-Requirements-with-event-numbers-Rev-6.pdf>

Following discussions with and communications to bands in September and early October, BCPA is announcing the following band grade assignments for the 2018 season.

Grade 1

Dowco Triumph Street  
Simon Fraser University

Grade 2

Portland Metro  
Robert Malcolm Memorial II

Grade 3

Greighlan Crossing  
Keith Highlanders  
Robert Malcolm Memorial III  
Vancouver Island Caledonia

Grade 4

\* Clan Gordon  
\* Clan Macleay  
\* Elliott Bay  
Greater Victoria Police  
Kamloops  
\* Kenmore & District  
Northwest Junior  
Portland Metro Youth  
\* Robert Malcolm Memorial IV  
White Spot IV

Grade 5

Pacific Gael Youth  
Robert Malcolm Memorial V  
White Spot V

An asterisk (\*) beside a band means the assigned grade is Provisional for the 2018 season and the band must meet defined performance requirements in the 2018 season to retain the grading for the 2019 season.

Any BCPA region band which did not compete in BCPA sanctioned competitions in the 2017 season is required to obtain a grading assessment and grade assignment from the BCPA Band Grading Subcommittee prior to entering competitions. The last grade in which the band competed will not be accepted for competitions until the new assessment and grade assignment by the BCPA Band Grading Subcommittee is made.

We look forward to bands meeting these new challenges, advancing their musical development, and traveling continentally and internationally to compete using these new “musical passports”.

Robert MacNeil  
President

René Cusson  
Chair, Music Committee &  
Lead, Band Grading Subcommittee