

Gilles McDermott, CD, President Alberta Group Mr. McDermott joined the Canadian Air Force in the Fall of 1976. After completing an initial English language course, then followed by Trades training in Borden, Ontario and St-Jean, Quebec, his first posting was with the 409 Night Hawks in Comox, British Columbia working on the CF-101 Voodoo. In August of 1983 he was transferred to CFB Cold Lake, Alberta. Shortly after his arrival, he was selected to undergo training on the newly acquired CF-188 Hornet at the Hughes plant in Los Angeles, California. This led to a tour as a Maintainer, fixing and modifying the firing control RADAR, and navigational and communication systems. Gilles was then transferred to Canadian Forces Training Unit (10 FTTU) Cold Lake as a Teacher, instructing students not only on the Hornet, but as well the CF-5 Freedom Fighter and the CT-133 Silver Star. His last posting was with 441 Squadron "Stalk and Kill" from which he retired in 1995 and continued to reside in Cold Lake.

Gilles decided to take on a new challenge through St-Xavier University by enrolling in the Residential Appraiser course. However, on completion, immediate work in that field was not readily available. Therefore, undaunted as he was, Gilles decided to enroll and retrain into the field of Life Insurance and Investments through the Canadian Institute of Financial Planning. On completion of the course, Gilles was able to pursue a career as a Financial Advisor, and to the present still continues to do so.

Gilles joined the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) in the summer of 1996 at 784 Wing Cold Lake. Shortly after he became involved in the fundraising program of that Wing, and has continued as a volunteer with that program to this day. From 1998 to 2005, Gilles held the position of Liaison Officer between 784 Wing and the Local 664 Medley Air Cadet Squadron, 252 HMS Huron Sea Cadet, and the Navy Cadets of Bonnyville, AB. In September 2005, he took the position as Vice President of the Alberta Group North, and in the fall of 2006 once again became the Liaison Officer between the 784 Wing and the Local Cadets Corp., which he continues to hold to this day. In February of 2009, Gilles became the President of the AFAC Alberta Group, and in October, while at the National Meeting in Trenton he took a position as Director on the board of the RCAF Trust Fund.