

# The Royal Military College First Female Cadet Speaks Out



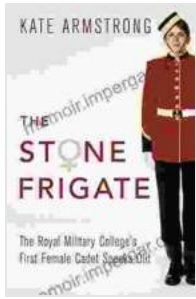
In the annals of Canadian military history, the name Sarah Burke-Robertson will forever be etched as a trailblazer. As the first female cadet to enter the hallowed halls of the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in 1980, she shattered centuries-old barriers, paving the way for countless women to pursue their dreams of military service.

## **The Stone Frigate: The Royal Military College's First Female Cadet Speaks Out** by Kate Armstrong

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2530 KB



Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 258 pages



In her gripping memoir, *The Royal Military College First Female Cadet Speaks Out*, Burke-Robertson candidly recounts her extraordinary journey, from the challenges she faced as a lone woman in a male-dominated environment to the triumphs she achieved through perseverance and determination.

Burke-Robertson's story is not just a personal one; it is a testament to the transformative power of diversity and inclusion in the military. Through her experiences, she sheds light on the systemic biases and institutional obstacles that women in the military have traditionally encountered, and she offers a compelling call for change.

## **Overcoming Prejudice and Stereotypes**

Entering RMC in 1980, Burke-Robertson knew she was stepping into uncharted territory. As the only woman in a cohort of 300 male cadets, she faced a barrage of prejudice and skepticism. Many of her fellow cadets dismissed her abilities, questioning her physical and mental toughness. Some even went so far as to harass and threaten her.

Despite the adversity she faced, Burke-Robertson refused to be deterred. She drew strength from her determination to prove her worth and to

challenge the prevailing stereotypes about women in the military. Through rigorous training and unwavering determination, she gradually earned the respect of her peers, proving that she was more than capable of handling the demands of military life.

## **Leadership and Mentorship**

As Burke-Robertson progressed through her RMC career, she discovered a passion for leadership. She served as the first female squadron commander, setting an example for future generations of female cadets. She also found mentors who believed in her potential and supported her journey. One such mentor was Colonel J.A. "Jack" Dextraze, the then commandant of RMC, who recognized her exceptional abilities and encouraged her to pursue her dreams.

Burke-Robertson's leadership and mentorship extended beyond her time at RMC. She went on to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces for 25 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Throughout her career, she tirelessly advocated for gender equality and diversity in the military, mentoring countless female officers and inspiring them to break down barriers.

## **Inspiring a New Generation**

Burke-Robertson's legacy as a trailblazer continues to inspire a new generation of women in the military. Her memoir has become a touchstone for young women who aspire to serve their country, reminding them that anything is possible with determination and perseverance.

"Sarah Burke-Robertson's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusion in our military," said Lieutenant-General Frances

Allen, commander of Military Personnel Command. "Her experiences paved the way for countless women to follow in her footsteps, and her leadership and mentorship continue to inspire future generations."

## **Call for Continued Progress**

While significant progress has been made in promoting gender equality in the Canadian Armed Forces, Burke-Robertson acknowledges that there is still work to be done. In her memoir, she calls for continued efforts to break down systemic barriers and create a more inclusive environment for women in the military.

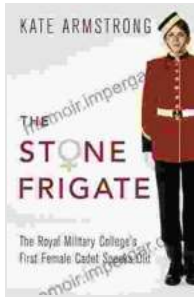
"We have come a long way since 1980, but there is still room for improvement," said Burke-Robertson. "I hope that my story will inspire others to continue the journey towards a more equitable and inclusive military, where women have the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Sarah Burke-Robertson's groundbreaking story is a testament to the power of breaking barriers and challenging the status quo. Her memoir, *The Royal Military College First Female Cadet Speaks Out*, is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of women in the military, diversity and inclusion, and the transformative power of leadership.

Burke-Robertson's legacy as a trailblazer will continue to inspire generations to come, reminding us that anything is possible with determination, perseverance, and the belief that everyone deserves a fair chance to succeed.

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