The Sense of a Goose

By Dr Robert McNeish

When you see geese flying along in the “V” formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an up-lift for the bird immediately following. By flying in “V” formation the whole flock adds at least 70% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

*People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.*

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

*If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are.*

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

*It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.*

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

*What messages do we give when we honk from behind?*

Finally – and this is most important – when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the goose until it is able to fly or dies; and only then do they launch out of on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

*If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.*

*This is how we define teamwork at QACI.*