



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada Company and Military Family Services to launch Military Employment Transition Spouse (METSpouse) program across Canada

March 22, 2017 (**Toronto, ON**) — On April 19, Canada Company, the leader in military employment transition, in partnership with Military Family Services (MFS), will launch a nationwide expansion of the METSpouse Program. The program is dedicated to empowering the spouses of Active, Reserve and Retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces and connecting them with vibrant, transportable careers and employment opportunities.

Leveraging Canada Company's innovative Military Employment Transition (MET) program and employer partner network, METSpouse focuses on providing solutions to the issue of underemployment for the over 61,500 military spouses in Canada. Of that group, 87% are women, 67% are between the ages of 22-44 and 62% have a post-secondary degree.

Founded as a pilot program in 2016, this will mark the official launch of a nationwide expansion to the network, making the program available in Canadian military communities across Canada and abroad. By implementing a national METSpouse program, Canada Company and MFS are leading a concerted effort to help tackle one of the biggest issues facing Canadian military families.

"The METSpouse program recognizes that the spouses of our military and Veterans face unique employment realities and challenges," says Angela Mondou, President of Canada Company, "METSpouse is a chance to put our expertise to work for military spouses while creating more opportunities for Canadian businesses to benefit from our remarkable military community."

From April to December 2016, the pilot program consisted of seven locations from Nova Scotia to Manitoba and connected 51 spouses with stable employment. The program currently counts over 375 registrants and more than 120 employer partners with the national launch providing a greater platform to continue growing the network and matching spouses with career opportunities commensurate with their skills and experience.

"The METSpouse program changed my life," says Julianne Oakes, military spouse. "Belairdirect hired me directly from the program's job fair in Ottawa and I've fallen in love with my new career. It's given me a renewed purpose and empowered me to dream big again."

Canada Company's network of local, regional and national employers have recognized the inherent employability of this undervalued workforce and, while many corporations have already put their weight behind the METSpouse program, Canada Company is looking forward to engaging other major corporations and current MET program partners.

Canada Company will launch the national expansion of the METSpouse program at an event on April 19 2017, at the TD Tower in Toronto, ON. From 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. spouses will be able to register for the program, participate in a workshop and network during a Career Connect job fair.

For more information on METSpouse visit:

<https://www.canadacompany.ca/canadacompany/met/en/index.jsp>

About Canada Company:

Canada Company is a federally registered charity created in 2006 by Canadian businessman and Honorary Colonel, Blake Goldring M.S.M., LL.D., CFA. Canada Company takes pride in serving our country in many ways, celebrating our Military heroes, and their families, and fostering a mutually beneficial exchange between Canada's remarkable military tested resources and our innovative Canadian business community – helping create a Better Canada.

A trusted Program Builder, Canada Company offers the Military Employment Transition - MET Program; hosts the National Transition Symposium and Strategic Knowledge Exchange; and funds Scholarships for children of military members killed while serving on an active mission with the Canadian Armed Forces. To learn more visit: CanadaCompany.ca

About Military Family Services:

Military Family Services, a division of Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, is mandated to support Canadian military families on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence. The Military Family Services Program has proudly supported military families for more than 25 years and is established to mitigate the challenges of a military lifestyle which is characterized by frequent separation, mobility and inherent risk. Military Family Services provides three access points for military families to access information and services—in person at local Military Family Resource Centres, by calling the 24/7 Family Information Line (1-800-866-4546) or online at www.CAFconnection.ca. Military Family Services works closely with a number of stakeholders, both within the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces, and with the larger Canadian community at large to mobilize, deploy and sustain the network of support required to contribute to the well-being of military members and their families.

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