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For Immediate Release

**Commissionaires Ottawa raises \$46,000 for CFB Petawawa's military families  
RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES and Red Friday Ladies already confirmed for May 5-6, 2011**

National Capital Region/Ottawa Valley – After two days and over 200 km on the road, about 20 commissionaires and 20 military personnel crossed the RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES finish line at the Red Friday Rally held in Petawawa on Friday, May 7. The purpose of the relay-style run was to raise awareness and funds in support of the Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre (PMFRC), a non-profit agency located at CFB Petawawa whose mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and families of the military community through positive action, education, and support.

The RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES launched on Parliament Hill on May 6 and made stops that day in Kanata, Arnprior, Renfrew and the Township of McNab/Braeside. On Day 2, runners made stops in the Township of Whitewater Region and Pembroke before crossing the finish line in Petawawa.

A \$46,000 cheque was presented to the PMFRC at the Red Friday Rally in the presence of hundreds of supporters – veterans, active personnel of every rank, and the families who love and support them. At the Rally, it was announced that the Fourth Annual RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES would proceed on May 5-6 in 2011. Over the weekend, the Red Friday Ladies confirmed that the date of the fifth anniversary of their Red Friday Rallies will be celebrated with a huge event to be held on May 6, 2011 – and that *Commissionaires Ottawa* is welcome to cross the finish line at one of their rallies once again.

Paul Guindon, CEO of *Commissionaires Ottawa*, Lead Sponsor and Organizer, said, “Given the overwhelming support we received from schools, communities, the media, and Red Friday Ladies Karen Boire and Lisa Miller, the RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES has become a high-profile event that is supported in every community. We are grateful to various Mayors, Legions and businesses that hosted fundraisers in advance of or during our event this year. In particular, special mention goes to Arnprior Mayor Terry Gibeau and his council, and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 174 President Bob Adkins and his membership, who collaborated to gather about 1000 people to greet our runners. They also hosted a second event later that evening which included a full meal and social, offered solutions for free accommodations, and prepared breakfast for our runners and organizers beginning at 4 a.m. the next morning.”

Mr. Guindon continued, “There is no question that the highlight for our runners was the ‘heroes’ welcome’ they received from schools in every community,” said Mr. Guindon. “Students were indeed our biggest fundraisers and our most enthusiastic supporters. We had a record eleven schools register with us this year. An honourable mention goes to St. Isidore Catholic School on March Road in Kanata, which raised \$2,254.00 – which brings their total to \$4,754.00 in donations to our cause since 2008. We would like to express our gratitude to any and all students, teachers, principals and school boards for their tremendous support of our family-focused cause.”

The CEO explained that this event would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of well over one hundred *Commissionaires Ottawa* and CFB Petawawa volunteers. Special thanks also went to the RCMP, OPP, local police services, fire departments, Military Police, Legions, community organizations, churches, businesses, as well as all the Mayors and their municipalities along the way who were instrumental in assisting *Commissionaires Ottawa* with event logistics, permits, vehicles and equipment, volunteers, support for the runners and helping to spread the word. In addition, he saluted Captain Moe St-Louis, Founder and Creator of the RUN concept and his partner Denise Lanctôt, both of whom have been organizers since Day 1. Moe was also distinguished for being a runner three years in a row.

“I would especially like to pay tribute to our partnership with CFB Petawawa,” said Mr. Guindon. “This is the third year in a row that CFB Petawawa has joined forces with us to plan for this event. Base Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Rudderham and Base Chief Warrant Officer Kevin O’Rourke not only assisted with planning, they were also among our runners! That shows tremendous dedication and respect on their part.”

Mr. Guindon added, “*Commissionaires Ottawa’s* social mandate includes hiring veterans, RCMP officers and other security-focused citizens. We have been hiring veterans since 1939. So many of our employees know from first-hand experience what it’s like for military families – because we have been there. That’s why we are the Lead Sponsor and Organizer of the Third Annual RUN FOR MILITARY FAMILIES. CFB Petawawa is the closest Base to our Headquarters in Ottawa. We have close to 90 commissionaires working at CFB Petawawa. What Military Family Resource Centres do for military families is close to our hearts. It is an honour to raise awareness and funds for military families. I think we can all agree that’s more than any dollar can buy. We hope to see you all next year!”

The public can learn full event details at [www.commissionaires-ottawa.on.ca](http://www.commissionaires-ottawa.on.ca).

**For more information or to request an interview, please contact:**

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