

**Media Release****New Financial Aid Program Supports Military Spouses to Attend Algonquin College**

**(Pembroke-May 5, 2017)** A new partnership between Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus in Pembroke and Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) will help military spouses at Garrison Petawawa attend College this fall.

The Support Our Troops Fund will provide the college with \$2,500 to help cover transportation costs for military spouses as they transition to being full-time students at the Waterfront Campus. The funds will be used for taxi fares and for participation in car pools.

Algonquin College Manager of Community and Student Affairs, Jamie Bramburger, says "These funds are intended to support military spouses while they transition to college. Once they get settled in, we anticipate they will develop relationships with their classmates that will allow them to find more permanent transportation means to attend school. With the military population growing through the expansion of Garrison Petawawa, we expect this initiative will open up new opportunities for students who don't have access to a vehicle or public transit to attend a college program," adds Bramburger.

The Support Our Troops Fund offers financial support and assistance to Canadian Armed Forces members, Veterans and their respective families. It is funded through individual and corporate donations, proceeds from third party events and Yellow Ribbon merchandise, and contributions by external organizations.

"Spousal employment is a major hurdle for military families. Access to education is an important step for military spouses to seek and maintain meaningful employment," explains Commodore Sean Cantelon, of Canadian Forces Morale Welfare Services. "The Support Our Troops Fund is pleased to provide funding to Algonquin College for this initiative which will make a tangible difference in the lives of military spouses."

The funding will be in place for the start of classes in September of 2017. More information on the fund can be obtained by contacting the college's Financial Aid office at 613-735-4700, ext. 2709 or 2760.

**For more information,**

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