



16th Annual Invisible Ribbon Gala Postponed Until 2022

8 WING/CFB TRENTON – April 15, 2021 – In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the directions provided by the Government of Ontario, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Trenton Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) has decided to postpone the Invisible Ribbon Gala until May 7, 2022. The 16th annual Invisible Ribbon Gala: CANADA was set to be held virtually on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

In early March, the Trenton MFRC announced preparations were underway to host its annual gala, which was postponed the year prior due to COVID-19. The gala's theme, fundraising focus, and title sponsor were to remain the same.

The virtual event would have provided a safe, thoughtful and engaging experience for guests. However, given the Government of Ontario's most recent stay-at-home order, which is tentatively scheduled to conclude just two days before the gala, the Trenton MFRC believed it was in the best interest of all those involved to put the community and its members first.

The gala is a significant undertaking that encompasses many elements. Although it was to be virtual, there were many in-person elements for those involved in the planning and execution of the gala. This included staff and volunteers travelling and collecting donations from local businesses, delivering the meals to our attendees, and working behind the scenes to run the entertainment and auction. Given the current stay-at-home order, it would not have been in good conscience to disrespect these regulations put in place to keep the community safe.

The Trenton MFRC will keep the theme of 'CANADA' and bring it to life again next year when the 16th iteration of the fundraising event can be held **May 7, 2022**. The theme of 'CANADA' is a fitting tribute worth revisiting as many military families resonate with the saying, "home is where the military sends us."

Another element that will remain the same for next year is the event's title sponsor. Dibbits Excavating and Landscape Supply, a long-time supporter of military families.

Information regarding the Invisible Ribbon Gala: CANADA and the Trenton MFRC can be found at www.trentonmfr.ca / www.invisibleribbon.ca or by contacting Makala Chapman.

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Quotes:

"Over the last 16 years we've been so fortunate to build some incredible relationships that we're honoured to call our community partners. Postponing this year's gala was not an easy decision to make, but one we felt necessary in order to protect those very same individuals, their families and the community. While we were shifting to a virtual platform, the potential risk involved to those behind the scenes was not one we were willing to take. I look forward to when we can all come together in support of this great cause - safely. Until then, we will continue focusing on supporting our military families with the resources available to us. We will get through these uncertain times, it just requires a little bit more patience and understanding - something we've been so fortunate to receive in spades from the community."

-Tamara Kleinschmidt, Executive Director, Trenton MFRC

"With the challenges we are facing as a nation, even the best laid plans need to change mid-step, but great things keep moving forward. We are confident that the incredible MFRC team is already at work planning the gala for 2022 and that they are going to knock it out of the park. We are fully committed to our ongoing support of the Invisible Ribbon gala, and look forward to meeting together in person next year to support and honour our Canadian military families."

-Joe Dibbits, President, Dibbits Excavating and Landscape Supply

The Trenton Military Family Resource Centre

The Trenton MFRC is a non-profit organization that promotes and facilitates community-based services that enrich, strengthen, and enhance the quality of life for our military families. The MFRC serves over 4,400 military members and approximately 7,500 dependents living in the Quinte region. Every year, hundreds of military members and their families use the resources offered by the Trenton MFRC.

Invisible Ribbon Gala

The Invisible Ribbon© Campaign raises awareness about the role of the military family, the resilience required in supporting our troops by "wearing the invisible uniform" and pays tribute to the sacrifices military families make in support of Canada. 100% of net proceeds from the Invisible Ribbon Gala will support military families in our community.