



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unique program helping Veterans transition to civilian life expands nationally with \$500,000 from The Royal Canadian Legion

OTTAWA, 2 November, 2012 – The only program of its kind in Canada that assists Veterans in their transition back to civilian life has received the full endorsement for national expansion from Royal Canadian Legion along with \$500,000 spread over the next two years. Gordon Moore, the Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion, and Tim Laidler, Executive Director, Veterans Transition Network announced the partnership today at Legion House.

Originally established in 1997 by the University of British Columbia as the Veterans Transition Program with funding from the Legion BC/Yukon Command, the free program addresses the invisible wounds of service personnel to help them recover and regain a healthy, full life.

“The University of British Columbia’s pilot Veterans Transition Program involved some 275 Veterans and has proven to decrease depression and trauma and boost self-esteem – three of the primary barriers to making a successful transition to civilian life,” says Moore. “The Legion is satisfied with the merits of the program at the local level and would now like to help UBC expand this program to meet the growing need for transition support for all CF Veterans. Any attempt at a national program delivery requires funds to increase awareness, advocacy and train more paraprofessionals across the country; a key role the Legion is proud to play” says Moore.

“Soldiers returning from service face complex issues and require multiple layers of support. We are grateful to the Legion for helping make the Veterans Transition Program available across Canada,” says Tim Laidler, Executive Director of the Veterans Transition Network, the nonprofit organization formed at UBC that will administer the Veterans Transition Program. “This is one of the best examples of the community, postsecondary and troops working together to provide an established treatment program that will help all veterans.”

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For further information please contact Bruce Poulin at Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion, at (613) 591-3335 ext. 241 or by cell at (613) 292-8760.

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About The Legion

Established in 1926, the Legion is the largest not-for-profit, dues-supported Veterans organization in Canada with more than 330,000 members. Its mission is to serve all Veterans and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members and their families, to promote Remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.

Since inception the Legion strives to secure adequate pensions and benefits for veterans and their dependants, by advocating directly with the Federal Government. Poppy funds collected are used for assistance to Veterans, serving members and their families who are in need. Additionally the Legion supports programs for seniors, community, housing, youth, Long Term Care, education, sports, Cadets, Guides and Scouts and many other community organizations.

About The Veterans Transition Network

VTN is a non-profit organization established at the University of British Columbia to deliver the Veterans Transition Program across Canada to former and current members of the Canadian Forces. The VTP is a group-based program to help men and women returning from military service transition to productive civilian life. The program helps all Veterans deal with operational stress injuries so that they can regain a healthy, full life. Developed in 1997 by UBC psychologists and medical experts, the program has been shown to reduce trauma symptoms, decrease depression and increase self-esteem.

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