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For Immediate Release

Minister John Baird named Honourary Commissionaire
Recognized for his support both of veterans and of private security services in Ottawa

Commissionaires Ottawa today named Minister John Baird an “Honourary Commissionaire” for the Ottawa MP’s support both of local veterans it employs and of its full-scale, private security services throughout the National Capital community. The Minister was lauded for his efforts in ensuring passage of a Common Services Policy amendment, which provides greater employment opportunities for retired military and RCMP personnel working as commissionaires.

“With the amendments Minister Baird shepherded through Parliament while at Treasury Board, he has proven to be a true champion for the cause of Commissionaires,” stated Retired Captain(N) Paul Guindon, the CEO of *Commissionaires Ottawa*, at a brief presentation ceremony held at the organization’s Ottawa headquarters. “The amendments support *Commissionaires Ottawa*, whose mission is to provide meaningful employment opportunities to former members of the Canadian Forces or RCMP as well as other security-conscious citizens who wish to contribute to the safety and well-being of our fellow Canadians.”

“*Commissionaires Ottawa* wishes to recognize Minister Baird’s leadership and support today. We would like to welcome him to our family by designating him an ‘Honourary Commissionaire’” said Captain Guindon.

Before the designation ceremony, the Minister toured the headquarters facility and was provided a briefing from the executive of *Commissionaires Ottawa*. The Minister was told of the positive impact of the Government’s 2006 Common Services Policy legislative changes. Captain Guindon explained, “Not only have these most recent amendments helped us to greatly reduce administrative complexities and costs, but they also help to strengthen our organization’s ability to provide career-enhancing opportunities to veterans, with higher pay rates, excellent benefit packages and top-notch training.”

Captain Guindon, also a veteran with 33 years of service, adds, “Our not-for-profit security organization is proud to be providing veterans with meaningful and important work. In turn, we know the clients of our security services gain immensely from veterans’ unparalleled sense of dedication and discipline. So, we commend our local MP for helping us and making our veterans’ place within *Commissionaires Ottawa* and our community that much stronger.”

Commissionaires Ottawa provides the National Capital Region with a full array of security services. Most recently, it announced its role as Lead Division on behalf of more than 25 *Commissionaires* offices across the nation in supporting a RCMP-led, digital fingerprinting initiative. With three locations in the Ottawa-Gatineau region, *Commissionaires Ottawa* is providing public, government and business clients with the RCMP’s state-of-the-art data management system called Real Time Identification (RTID). This new fingerprinting service offers accurate and seamless updates of electronic fingerprints and criminal record data in as

little as 72 hours – welcome news for Canadians who need fingerprints taken for immigration, pardons, employment screening, passports, adoption applications, and Visa, work or travel permits.

Commissionaires Ottawa is a private, not-for-profit company that employs over 3,000 security professionals to protect and serve more than 200 client sites in the National Capital Region and across Northern Ontario. Founded on the discipline of military and RCMP cultures, *Commissionaires Ottawa* has evolved to become a diverse, multi-skilled and experienced company of security professionals. Today, the company is ranked among the top three largest non-government employers in the National Capital Region.

**For further information, visit www.commissionaires-ottawa.on.ca or call:
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