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For Immediate Release

Security Industry is Responding to the New Challenges of a '9/11 World' *Commissionaires Ottawa's Paul Guindon sees great strides in industry's capabilities*

The security industry has become more sophisticated, better trained and more integrated into our daily lives since the U.S. terrorist attacks of 9/11 – so observed Paul Guindon, CEO of *Commissionaires Ottawa*, speaking at a National Press Club newsmaker event today.

In his address, the Ottawa CEO and retired Canadian Navy Captain explained that the events of 9/11 served as a wake-up call and has generated security-focused improvements in every government, every business sector, and every community. “The security industry has risen to meet many challenges of our new world reality. On September 11, 2001 we were yanked out of our comfort zones and shoved into a new, far more complex reality – one that forced us to either change or be changed. So, our businesses and government have placed a far greater emphasis on security planning; we’ve developed new I.D. technologies like enhanced electronic fingerprinting; and, there is a new focus on raising industry standards for things like training.”

Mr. Guindon suggested that the issue of security has insinuated itself into all activities of business and government and this has changed the security guard’s role. “There is a lot more being demanded of today’s security – it’s more than standing watch at a main entrance desk. Today, in the majority of cases, the security guard is the front line for emergency response and is expected to prevent incidents before they happen. A guard needs to be professionally trained for an increasing number of scenarios – suspicious parcels, public demonstrations, verbal or physical conflicts, chemical spills, and threats upon people and property.”

The ever-present threat of terrorism has also increased the need for and accelerated the development of security technologies, stated Mr. Guindon. “Security clearances and background checks have become increasingly more important and, therefore, thorough screening and I.D. protocols continue to be revisited and upgraded. Our society is demanding this kind of assurance and this has driven industry and government to invest in new technologies and make them publicly available. It’s no surprise that demand for fingerprinting services has gone through the roof here in Ottawa, where so many of the nation’s public and not-for-profit sector head offices are based.”

Mr. Guindon further stated, “Whether it’s operating sophisticated surveillance, communications and security equipment or whether it’s providing digital fingerprinting and criminal background checks, security professionals have adapted to many different security-related technologies of the day.”

“The security industry has had to improve to meet the new demands of the public in a post 9/11 world,” said Mr. Guindon. “It has made great strides and is providing better and more comprehensive security services since those terrorist attacks.”

Commissionaires Ottawa is a private, not-for-profit company that employs more than 2,500 security professionals to protect and serve over 200 client sites. 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 has the most stable workforce in the industry and is ranked among the largest non-government employers in the National Capital Region. All commissionaires are cleared to the “Secret” level or higher.

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