



**Dr. Colin Carrie MP
Oshawa**

Oshawa's reserve soldiers finally recognized with long overdue pension plan program

For immediate release.

OSHAWA, 14 March 2007 – Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa is pleased to confirm that for the first time in history, a pension plan for Canadian Forces Reserve Personnel, including those in Oshawa and Durham Region, is now in place.

Last fall, the Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defence and General Rick Hillier, Chief of Defence Staff announced that the Federal government would be creating a pension plan for Canada's reservists. On March 1, 2007, that commitment became reality.

"These landmark changes to the Canadian Forces (CF) pension plan will ensure that current and future members of Canada's Reserve Forces, including members of the Ontario Regiment in Oshawa, are properly recognized for their dedicated service at home and abroad," said Carrie.

Canada's reservists including several former senior officers of Oshawa's own The Ontario Regiment (Royal Canadian Armoured Corps) had fought for reservists' pension rights for a generation. Despite promising to make pensions for reservists a reality, the previous Liberal government showed little interest in implementing this long-overdue program.

"Getting things done for our local reserve soldiers is a commitment I made during the 2004 election campaign and restated during the 2005-06 campaign," said Carrie.

"These important changes represent real progress and demonstrate our steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life for Oshawa's reservists, who have served at home and abroad in Germany, Cyprus, the Golan Heights, Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan."

Regular Force members will also see positive changes to their pension plans as their coverage will be increased to the standards enjoyed by other federal public sector employees.

Currently there are more than 21,000 Reserve Force members serving across Canada in land, sea and air elements. Oshawa is home to "The Ontarios", one of Canada's most senior armoured regiments and oldest continuing reserve army units. Officially known as The Ontario Regiment (Royal Canadian Armoured Corps), the unit celebrated its 140th anniversary in September 2006.

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With a 140 year history in both infantry and armoured (since 1936) roles, the Ontarios were recently re-tasked as an armoured reconnaissance unit. Several members of the unit have just returned home from a tour of Afghanistan and several more soldiers are expected to rotate into the Afghan theatre over the coming weeks and months.

“Being a member of the Reserve Forces demonstrates a strong sense of duty and commitment to our country and all Canadians. The creation of a pension plan for these special people was long overdue,” concluded Carrie.

More information on the Reserve Pension Plan may be found online at <http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dgcb/cfpmp/>.

Additional information on history of The Ontario Regiment RCAC in Oshawa, Ontario County and Durham Region is available online at <http://www.ontrmuseum.ca>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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