

Executive Director's Report

2024 Annual General Meeting - Mainland BC Military Family Resource Centre Society

Developing and stewarding relationships has continued to be an important part of my work. These relationships were some of the contributing factors to a 49% increase in donations received in 2023/24 vs 2022/23. Notable was the support that came from local Legions as well as the Canadian Walk for Veterans. Our relationship with True Patriot Love Foundations continued to be strong, and they supported important resources (two of which are highlighted below) to supplement the Military and Veteran Family Services Program.

Working with other MFRCs also proved beneficial last year, as the Centres in BC each offered training sessions that were open to staff in all three locations. Beyond the immediate learning, these collaborations provided the opportunity to develop shared resources and best practices. At the national level, executive directors of seven smaller MFRCs began regular online meetings to discuss challenges specific to Centres not on large bases.

2023/24 Highlights in Key Program Service Areas

Joining a New Community

When families post into BC, often one of their first concerns is finding a doctor. This remains a difficult task both locally and across the country; however, our Information & Referral Coordinator diligently researched—and sometimes tested—various virtual delivery options, so we can now confidently provide viable options to families for their health care needs.

Community Engagement

Through our work with True Patriot Love Foundation, we were pleased to be introduced to the team organizing Invictus Games 2025 which will take place next February in Vancouver and Whistler. Our Community Engagement Coordinator has worked closely with the Invictus staff, supporting their outreach activities and connecting them with local families who can share their stories about the military journey.

Work-Related Absence

With Canada's expanded commitment to Operation REASSURANCE (the Canadian Armed Forces largest overseas mission through which it contributes to NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe), 39 Canadian Brigade Group has been called on to deploy more members. As these preparations ramped up, our Military Outreach Coordinator provided deployment support to increasing numbers of families.

Wellness

Last fall, our Family Liaison Officer brought together a group of people, all of whom were related to a Canadian Armed Forces member (child or spouse) who had died by suicide. True Patriot Love provided funding for this 2-day session that provided a vital opportunity for healing and support.