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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Portraits of Honour Background

Like most Canadians, Ontario's Dave Sopha has watched the media reports of our Canadian Forces' activities in Afghanistan. He, like so many others, has been heartbroken each time we learn of the loss of life of another Canadian soldier, sailor or aircrew.

Each of these news reports took a toll on Sopha but on December 5, 2008 it became too much. It was on this date that three soldiers, Warrant Officer Robert Wilson, Pte. Demetrios Diplaros, Cpl. Mark McLaren, all from 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, were killed by an IED.

Pte. Diplaros' death brought the number of Canadian troops killed in the Afghan war to 100.

Sopha is an accomplished artist. He's also a proud member of one of Canada's most prestigious service clubs: Kin Canada. At that moment in time, Sopha decided to combine his love for community service with his passion for painting and made the conscious decision to dedicate the next two years of his life to honouring every fallen soldier through a mural he called Portraits of Honour.

### The Mural

The Portraits of Honour mural now stretches 10 feet tall by 40 feet wide and features the faces of the 155 Canadian soldiers, sailors and aircrew who have lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Originally started in Dave's home, it quickly took up too much space and was moved into the basement space of Kin Canada's headquarters located in Cambridge, Ontario.

Since he began in December of 2008, Sopha has painted an average of 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. He's donated well over 6,500 hours of his recent life to the project. Despite efforts to have him slow down, Dave cannot seem to tear himself away from his mural. He feels an overwhelming obligation to each military member and to each of their families to make each portrait perfect.

And he has. In fact, if you point a newer model digital camera at any portrait, it will "ask you" if you want red eye reduction as it is tricked into recognizing a human face.

### The National Tour

The Portraits of Honour National Tour (POH) is scheduled to commence on May 28, 2011 and will take approximately 6 months to complete its national journey.

The goal of the tour is to provide Canadians from coast to coast to coast with an opportunity to honour and celebrate our Canadian soldiers, pay respect to those who've made the ultimate sacrifice and to recognize the challenges that face those who will return home with lasting physical or emotional injuries. POH will provide Canadians with a chance to grieve together, remember together, celebrate together and heal together. It will act as a catalyst, we hope, for the creation of various events and fundraising opportunities by community groups.

The overall goal is to expose the mural to as many people as possible while bringing together Canadians with our military, thereby giving them an opportunity to connect, to remember, to honour and to celebrate.

### **The Fundraising Opportunity**

The POH Tour will raise awareness of the incredible work being done by our troops and the dedicated support that they receive from the families that they leave behind while they serve overseas.

The Portraits of Honour National Tour has the potential to raise millions of dollars to financially assist the troops and families who need help.

In September we met with Chief of Defense Staff, General Walter Natynczyk and made the formal announcement that the major recipient of the Portraits of Honour National Tour Fund would be the Military Families Fund (MFF) which was started by then Chief of Defense Staff, General Rick Hillier.

We also plan to support the various Military Family Resource Centres (MFRC) who work to support our troops and their families across Canada on a more case by case basis.

Each of these funds have had an important impact on the lives of many military members and their families and the MFF in particular has proven to be effective in developing new strategies and policies that affect Canadian troops as a whole.

We will also seek to assist other military charities who have a proven record in offering support to Canadian Forces personnel.

### **About Kin Canada**

Kin Canada is proud to be Canada's largest all-Canadian service organization made up of outstanding community volunteers. From coast to coast, more than 7,000 members belong to approximately 500 Kinsmen Clubs (predominantly male), Kinette Clubs (predominantly female) and (coed) Kin clubs.

Kin members are enhancing quality of life in their communities by promoting service, fellowship, positive values and national pride. The Association boasts a proud 90-year history dedicated to fostering lifelong friendships while "Serving the Community's Greatest Need."

Kin has raised well over \$1 billion since its inception in 1920 – a milestone celebrated with an honorary cheque presentation from Kin Canada to the people of Canada, as accepted by Honourable Michael Chong, PC, MP while serving as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Sport.

Every year, Kin Canada clubs continue to contribute millions of dollars to Canadian communities. Every year, Kin Canada clubs continue to contribute millions of dollars to Canadian communities.

### **Portraits of Honour is not Kin’s First Military Themed Project**

Kin Canada has a proud history of assisting during times of war and conflict. Without question, Kin’s largest contribution occurred during WWII.

With extensive bombings occurring in Europe, Britain was faced with a grave crisis: they did not have enough milk to feed their children. Sir Winston Churchill made an emotional radio address asking for assistance.

Churchill’s plea was heard by Kinsmen founder Hal Rogers who immediately activated Kin from across Canada with the creation of a campaign called “Milk For Britain” dedicated to raise funds for the purchase of powdered milk.

The goal for the first year was to raise enough money to purchase one million quarts. Within nine months, Kinsmen and Kinettes had supplied more than three million quarts. By the end of the Milk for Britain campaign, the Kin family had raised more than \$2 million and sent 50 million quarts of milk to Britain.

For his efforts, Mr. Rogers was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire and subsequently was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada.