

Military underemployment for spouses being addressed with transition program

MFRC Special

Military Family Services (MFS) has recognized the need to address unemployment and underemployment for military spouses.

The Canada Company had already established a successful transition program for releasing military members; they were ready and willing to expand their existing program to incorporate military spouses and address their specific needs.

This past April 1, the Canada Company, in partnership with MFS, launched the METSpouse program (Military Employment Transition Program for Spouses). For a period of one year, seven Military Family Resource Centres (MFRCs) across the country are piloting the program.

CFB Shilo is one of the pilot sites.

The METSpouse program has been developed to connect spouses to a network of national military spouse friendly employers. Spouses who register for METSpouse online through their MFRC employment counsellors are able to access career development tools, “hot jobs,” employer profiles and much more.

All military spouses of Active, Reserve and Veteran military service members are eligible to register for the program.

How do you register?

Simply contact the Shilo MFRC’s Employment and Education program co-ordinator Christine Helgason to set up an appointment where she will determine your “job readiness.”

For example, do you have an attainable job goal and an effective resume/cover letter? Do you have at least two professional references and an appropriate email address?

Once the job readiness checklist has been completed, registration takes a couple minutes and then you will have direct access to the METSpouse program and all its resources.

If you know a “military friendly” employer, you can refer them to Helgason for inclusion as an employer partners in the program.

Additionally, the METSpouse program promotes educational institutions that have something to offer military spouses; either scholarships/bursaries, well developed prior learning assessments or training geared for mobile careers.

For more information about the METSpouse program, e-mail Helgason at christine.helgason@forces.gc.ca or dial 204-765-3000 ext 3227.

