

CSMFRC

Central Saskatchewan
Military Family
Resource Centre Inc.



CRFMCS

Centre de ressources pour
les familles des militaires
du centre de la Saskatchewan Inc.

What are **RED FRIDAYS**?

Last week, while traveling in Canada on business, I noticed a soldier traveling with a folded flag, but did not put two-and-two together.

After we boarded our flight, I turned to the soldier, who had been invited to sit in First Class (across from me), and inquired if he was heading home.

No, he responded.

Heading out, I asked?

No. I am escorting a soldier home.

Going to pick him up?

No. He is with me right now. He was killed in Afghanistan. I am taking him home to his family.

The realization of what he had been asked to do, hit me like a punch to the gut.

It was an honor for him. He told me that, although he didn't know the soldier, he had delivered the news of his passing to the soldier's family and felt as if he knew them after many conversations in so few days. I turned back to him, extended my hand, and said, Thank you. Thank you for doing what you do so my family and I can do what we do.

Upon landing in Canada the pilot stopped short of the gate and made the following announcement over the intercom.

'Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to note that we have had the honour of having Sergeant Steeley of the Canadian Armed Forces join us on this flight. He is escorting a fallen comrade back home to his family. I ask that you please remain in your seats when we open the forward door to allow Sergeant Steeley to deplane and receive his fellow soldier. We will then turn off the seat belt sign.' Without a sound, all went as requested. I noticed the Sergeant saluting the casket as it was brought off the plane, and his action made me realize that

I am proud to be a Canadian.

Red Shirt Fridays is an initiative that has been promoted in other areas of Canada, but has yet to receive much support and promotion in Saskatchewan. Wearing Red on Fridays is a symbolic gesture to show fellow Canadians and our troops that we care and honour those who fought/fight for our freedom, our peace, and our resolve.

Our goal is to show non-partisan support for our military troops & families. We do not support any particular policy, political position, agenda or the nature of military missions. This support is for all Canadian Troops and their families regardless of their activity if it's here or abroad.

Many Canadians, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Canada supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect **starts this Friday -- and continues each and every Friday** until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that ... every Canadian who supports our men and women afar, **will wear something RED**. It could be just a small **RED** ribbon.

By word of mouth, press, TV -- **let's make Saskatchewan on every Friday a sea of RED**, much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country, will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family, it will not be long before **Saskatchewan is covered in RED** and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side.

The first thing a soldier says when asked:
"What can we do to make things better for you?"
is ... *"We need your support and your prayers."*

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example, and wear something **RED every Friday**.

On November 21, 2008, we had a visit by the SaskTel Pioneers. It was a great sight to see when they removed their coats...and saw the sea of red that said *"Yes, We support you!"*
I would like to thank them for their generous support in both monetary and physical donations to both the MFRC and the CCC.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR

From all the staff and their families at the Child Care Centre (CCC)