

Healing Canada's Warriors

SaskTel Pioneers' Salute Wounded Warriors Canada With Generous Donation

PUBLISHED: 26 Nov 2018



Mark Grambo (far r) President of the Bridge City Pioneers presents a cheque for \$60,000 to members of Wounded Warriors Canada.

We know there are many stressors in the day-to-day work of our military, police and emergency first responders. In dealing with any number of dangerous and life-threatening situations, these warriors often endure significant physical wounds. There are mental health consequences as well.

Through the seasons of life, these Canadian heroes deserve all the care and support they need to heal from traumatic experiences and move forward in their lives with their loved ones.

Enter in Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and assisting ill and injured Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members, First Responders, and their families. The organization was founded in 2006 with the original intent to support and improve morale among wounded soldiers who served in Afghanistan. Since its inception, however, the organization's mandate has grown to where it now delivers wide-ranging programming across Canada.

For the SaskTel Pioneers, WWC stands as a leader in mental health and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) programming for Canada's retired and active service members. On 16 Nov 2018, Pioneer members were proud to announce their \$60,000 donation to Wounded Warriors, which represents the single largest donation ever made by the SaskTel Pioneers to an organization.

"From a Pioneers perspective, this donation fits well with our support for the military community," said Mark Grambo, President of the Bridge City Pioneers and SaskTel Senior

Business Planner. “Part of our mission as Pioneers is to make recognizable contributions to our community, and this year we set out to make a difference for those who have served our country.”

“Wounded Warriors Canada is not just enriching the lives of those in need – they are changing and saving lives and families.”

Scott Maxwell, Executive Director of Wounded Warriors Canada, described how many people in uniform who approach the organization end up taking advantage of different levels of their programming as they heal and build resiliency. Donations from individuals and groups are critical as they work to expand their programs to more locations across Canada.

“For Wounded Warriors Canada, partnerships make our mental health programs possible,” he said. “This significant contribution to those who serve our country at home and abroad is a testament to the Pioneers’ principled commitment to service, community and our Canadian Armed Forces members - past, present and future - and their families.”

During the presentation, Chief Warrant Officer (ret) Darcy Elder, Wounded Warrior’s Director of Development (as well as a self-described ‘Saskatchewan boy’) described his own experience with PTSD and how he and his spouse benefitted from the couple’s therapy program offered by WWC.

In addition to its individual and group therapy programs, WWC also offers animal assisted therapy for PTSD, skills transition, and respite care offered through group retreats. Such retreats encourage wounded warriors to connect with nature and each other in a supportive setting. In July 2018, a retreat was hosted at Waskesiu specifically for First Responders who were called to the Humboldt Broncos bus crash to allow them the opportunity to pause and reflect on the tragic circumstances they experienced together.

“Wounded Warriors does really great work in our country and province to help our Veterans and first responders in need,” said Darrell Liebrecht, SaskTel Pioneer Manager. “Although the Pioneers provide funds to a number of different charities year-round, it’s a special privilege to be able to work with Wounded Warriors Canada. We are proud to support, in any way, their ability to deliver their life-changing programs.”