

History of the Blind Fund

Colonel James Riley Stone, CM, OMM, DSO, CD, was the founder of the Military Police Fund for Blind Children (MPFBC), which had its humble beginnings in 1957. Colonel Stone was the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry when his daughter Moira was afflicted with cancer of the eye, resulting in eventual blindness and death at the age of seven. During his daughter's illness, Colonel Stone came into contact with organizations that were struggling to help blind children. He became aware that there were many other blind children less fortunate than his daughter who were unable, through lack of money, to enjoy some of the simpler things in life. Their plight affected him tremendously and he was determined to help them in every way he could. Also during this time period, he was appointed as the Canadian Army Provost Marshal (Military Police). He canvassed members of the Military Police, asking them to voluntarily contribute one or two dollars per year and using their donations, established a Fund to help blind children under the age of 13 years.

As a consequence of Colonel Stone's enthusiasm, the Military Police Fund for Blind Children was established. Issued with a Letter of Patent on October 18, 1976 and a Trust Agreement on October 27, 1977 the Military Police Fund for Blind Children was established as a Charitable Corporation (number -164763) in accordance with Part II of the Canada Corporations Act. This Act, which is administered by the Corporations Directorate of Industry Canada, provides instruction on the establishment and operation of not-for-profit Corporations as well as the framework for by-laws of which the MPFBC must adhere.

One of the very notable aspects of the Blind Fund is that it is run and managed totally by Military Police volunteers. It remains unique in Canada, as the only official authorized 'military' charity in the country. Members of the Military Police, including other military and civilian community members, become personally involved in fund raising activities for the Blind Fund. They involve themselves with funding recipients, visit visually impaired children in many different environments, and invite them to Canadian Forces bases to learn more about the Canadian Military.

In every Military Police unit, regardless of size or geographic location, you will find a Blind Fund representative. These volunteers are responsible for the coordination of fund-raising activities and identifying children or organizations which could benefit from MPFBC assistance

The fund is run by a Board of Directors, inclusive of all ranks within the Military Police, which supervise the management of the Fund's activities. In accordance with Letters Patent and as amended by the Board of Directors, the objectives of the Corporation are:

- to aid blind and visually impaired children and young adults up to and including the age of twenty-one; and
- to support charitable organizations and individuals involved in the education, training and recreation of blind and visually impaired children and young adults.

The MPFBC is an activity that continues to proudly promote the involvement of Military Police in the community. Volunteers from the Canadian Forces Military Police continue to exercise stewardship in the Fund's continued success.



Application procedures

In order for an application to be considered and to avoid unnecessary delays, applicants must adhere to the following directives:

1. Complete in full the MPFBC Submission Form (Annex A).
2. A letter or other correspondence from a competent authority (doctor, social worker, educational therapist, etc) describing the medical condition of the person and severity of visual impairment.
3. It is encouraged to submit an introduction letter in which the parent or sponsor describes how and why the specific item(s) and/or service(s) would assist the beneficiary.
4. In very rare circumstances where it can be clearly and undeniably shown that only one resource is possible, singles quotes will be considered. In such circumstances, the Unit Representative must be made aware of this fact well in advance of the submission deadline.
5. There are three types of items and/or services that the MPFBC may provide funding for:
 - a. funding for item(s) such as computer equipment which requires a minimum of **three** official quotes.
 - b. funding for general services (i.e. horseback riding, music lessons, therapy, therapeutic horseback riding) which requires **two** official quotes; and
 - c. funding for unique services (i.e. Camp Hornby, Space Camp) only **one** official quote is required.

Important Notes

1. Official quotes are quotes produced/compiled by Service Providers and/or Dealers only.
2. Each and every one of the official quotes provided for computer equipment must pertain to the same items (brand, model, etc) sought for.
3. Quotes for therapeutic services must include the number of hours, hourly rate and start/end date of when the classes/sessions will take place.
4. Funding will not be provided for an item(s) and/or service(s) that has already been purchased or benefited for.
5. The MPFBC does not fund warranties, extended warranties or service maintenance agreements or long term program such as two years or more..
6. The MPFBC committee meetings normally occur four times a year (usually, March, June, September and December). Forwarding applications ahead of time is recommended.
7. Applications will not be considered from applicants who have not previously received this Application Package directly from the local MPFBC Representative. This measure is in place to avoid the exchange/distribution of outdated "application packages". It is suggested that the MPFBC Representative's contact information be forwarded as opposed to the MPFBC Application Package itself.



Web sites that may assist you in obtaining price quotes
(Computer equipment)

www.pulsedata.com
www.enablemart.com
www.frontiercomputing.on.ca
www.freedomscientific.com
www.aroga.com
www.specialneedscomputers.ca
www.humanware.ca
www.microscience.on.ca

Questions or queries should be addresses to

Corporal Brad Wallman
Local MPFBC Representative
Military Police Section
CFB Esquimalt
Victoria, BC
V9A 7N2
Office (250) 363-4316
Fax (250) 363-4037
E-mail: Sorbie.tr@forces.gc.ca

Please read all the information fully, attached is the **new** Annex D Submission form, and as you can see it is user friendly.

Further, it would be more beneficial to **email** your submission to me as this will assist me in forwarding it to Ottawa.

