

For further information contact:

**RED DEER:** Mary Anne Jablonski at  
(403) 346-0041.

**KINGSTON:** Mary Ballantyne at  
(613) 546-6476.

**OTTAWA:** Lucie Laliberté at  
(613) 235-6299.

Marnie Draper at  
(613) 46-1133.

**NEW BRUNSWICK:** Gaila Friars at  
(506) 488-3290.

**OSOMM**

**APPLICATION FOR  
MEMBERSHIP**

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

Postal Code.....

Phone.....

Regular Membership or Associate  
Membership:

By Donation \$.....

Please make cheques payable to:  
OSOMM

and mail to:

116 Albert Street, Suite 305  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G3

Tel: (613) 235-6299/731-9975

**Organization of**

**Spouses**

**Of**

**Military**

**Members (Canadian)**

**WORKING FOR**

**MILITARY FAMILIES**

**WHAT IS OSOMM?**

The Organization of Spouses of Military  
Members (Canadian) was formed to  
provide an effective voice for the military  
family.

OSOMM is an organization which  
recognizes the need for improvement in  
the status of military spouses and their  
families.

OSOMM lobbies the government to improve living conditions.

OSOMM liaises between the military community and the civilian population to promote a better understanding of the military lifestyle.

OSOMM is a national organization which has its roots in Alberta. There is a need for OSOMM to exist on every Canadian base or station as evidenced by the growing support of the organization has received.

#### WHO OSOMM?

Times have changed. OSOMM wants the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to extend into their military communities. Military spouses do not now have the guaranteed Charter Rights to freedom of speech or to freedom of assembly and association in the military community. OSOMM maintains that military spouses are not members of the Armed Forces and should therefore be entitled to the same rights and freedoms guaranteed to every other Canadian citizen by the Charter.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Base Commanders have the discretion to determine which issues may be addressed by spouses and which may not.

By this same discretion OSOMM members have been denied the N.P.F. status received by other community groups.

Base Commanders have denied spouses the right to run home-based direct sales businesses. Pension legislation allows Treasury Board to deny pension benefits to former spouses. Separating spouses receive little or no support or information from military authorities.

There is no base and station-wide national policy on wife and child abuse.

OSOMM is at the forefront in ensuring that these and similar issues raised by our members are addressed at all the appropriate levels.

#### MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. OSOMM prepares news-letters, information and workshops on issues of interest to military spouses and their families.
2. OSOMM has established a network with other women's Organizations which increases our knowledge while gaining necessary support for issues that directly affect our members.
3. OSOMM has established credibility as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the national and provincial levels of government.
4. The dental plan was obtained after a strong national lobby by OSOMM.
5. OSOMM has obtained litigation funding from the Court Challenges Program to challenge the discriminatory pension provisions.
6. OSOMM has given direct support to individual spouses in times of distress and crisis.