
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELOVED CANADIAN TENOR PLEDGES GIFT FOR SUNNYBROOK PALLIATIVE CARE

Toronto, ON (December 13, 2010) – Through his new foundation, McDermott House Canada (MHC), Canadian singer John McDermott has committed to making a difference for veterans, first responders, military, and community members who have a terminal illness.

Today, John McDermott and friends officially launched McDermott House Canada, pledging a gift of \$3.6 million dollars to increase the number of beds and enhance the current space of the palliative care unit at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre.

“The care you receive at the end of life is as important as the care you receive at the beginning of your life. I especially want to ensure that we meet the needs of those who risk their lives for us on daily basis. Our motto at MHC is “Serving Those Who Serve”, said McDermott. “We are thrilled to have General (Ret’d) Rick Hillier, CMM, MSC, CD (former Chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces) as our Honorary Chair.”

McDermott House Canada will be the touchstone of excellence in palliative care in Canada. The unit will offer a warm homelike space with single rooms and additional accommodation for family members who wish to stay overnight. Along with a leading-edge interprofessional care team, patients and family members will have enhanced amenities to ensure there is an enriched quality of life during their stay on the unit.

“We are honoured to partner with McDermott House Canada and join this unique initiative. Together we will create a premier palliative care unit that will significantly change the end-of-life experience for our patients and their families,” said Dr. Jocelyn Charles, Medical Director of the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre.

Throughout his cross-Canada holiday concert tour, McDermott has been raising awareness and funds, committing a portion of the proceeds from his CD, entitled *Journeys* to the cause. “It is inspiring to see so many people share our vision. Everyone we talk to becomes immediately enthusiastic and wants to know how they can help out.”

For more information or to make a donation online and give your gift of support, visit www.mcdermotthousecanada.org. Donations are also accepted in person at any branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia across Canada. Account #800020546216.

McDermott has a long-standing history of supporting charitable causes, including the founding of the first McDermott House, in Washington, D.C. in 1995. The House in Washington provides lodging for homeless veterans and assists them in becoming self-sufficient. John is a proud honorary life-time member of War Amps Canada; and a recipient of one of the United States’ highest honors: the Congressional Medal of Honor Society’s Bob Hope Award. In Ottawa in November, he was presented with the prestigious Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation Award.

-30-

For further information:

Trudy Eagan
Vice President and Founder
McDermott House Canada
t.eagan@sympatico.ca
416-697-5530

Dianne Schwalm
Vice President and Founder
McDermott House Canada
dianne_schwalm@live.com
647-308-7067

Sally Fur
Communications Advisor
Sunnybrook
sally.fur@sunnybrook.ca
416-480-5057