

Media Report 04 March 2022

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal

NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 4 March 2022

Personal Comment: I did receive an irate email from one of our members regarding my comment last week :” If you read and hear all the nonsense being spouted about NATO being “united and strong” - hope you are not thinking it to be real? My reasoning was a reaction to the Germans not allowing the RAF to overfly German airspace to deliver weapons to the Ukraine. The Germans also denied ground transport by the British through Germany to deliver military aid to the Ukraine. Germany has had a major shift in policy this week with an immediate €100-billion military fund: a remarkable change in post-war policy in response to the Ukraine crisis Published: March 1, 2022 <https://theconversation.com/germanys-100-billion-army-fund-a-remarkable-change-in-post-war-policy-in-response-to-the-ukraine-crisis-178202>

NATO's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine (Last updated: 03 Mar. 2022)

NATO condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine – which is an independent, peaceful and democratic country, and a close NATO partner. The Alliance calls on Russia to immediately cease its military assault, to withdraw all its forces from Ukraine and to turn back from the path of aggression it has chosen.

Relations with Ukraine

A sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to Euro-Atlantic security. Relations between NATO and Ukraine date back to the early 1990s and have since developed into one of the most substantial of NATO's partnerships. Since 2014, in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, cooperation has been intensified in critical areas. NATO is helping to coordinate Ukraine's requests for assistance and is supporting Allies in the delivery of humanitarian and non-lethal aid. Individual NATO member countries are sending weapons, ammunition, medical supplies and other vital military equipment to Ukraine. They are also providing millions of euros of financial assistance to Ukraine. Many Allies are also offering humanitarian aid to civilians and opening their borders to Ukrainian refugees.

Since Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea in 2014, NATO has helped to train, fund and reform Ukraine's armed forces and defence institutions. Since 2016, these efforts have been organised through a Comprehensive Assistance Package that includes a wide range of capacity-building programmes and trust funds, focused in key areas like cyber defence, logistics and countering hybrid warfare. Ukrainian forces have also developed their capabilities by participating in NATO exercises and operations. NATO's actions are defensive, designed not to provoke a conflict but to prevent a conflict. It is important to make sure that there is not an even bigger crisis in Europe where Russia challenges, or is threatening, or attacking any NATO country.

NATO, along with the European Union and other partners, has helped coordinate Allies' adoption of the unprecedented package of restrictive measures placed on Russia as a result of its brutal and unconscionable actions. These measures include massive and severe sanctions. President Putin's decision to attack Ukraine is a terrible strategic mistake, for which Russia will pay a heavy price, both economically and politically, for years to come. NATO has deployed thousands of additional defensive land and air forces in the eastern part of the Alliance, and maritime assets across the NATO area. The Alliance has activated NATO's defence plans so that it is prepared to respond to any developments and secure Alliance territory, including by drawing on highly ready response forces. All measures are and remain preventive, proportionate and non-escalatory.

Statement by NATO Heads of State and Government on Russia's attack on Ukraine.

We have met to discuss the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, enabled by Belarus. We call on Russia to immediately cease its military assault, to withdraw all its forces from Ukraine and to turn back from the path of aggression it has chosen. This long-planned attack on Ukraine, an independent, peaceful and democratic country, is brutal and wholly unprovoked and unjustified. We deplore the tragic loss of life, enormous human suffering and destruction caused by Russia's actions. Peace on the European continent has been fundamentally shattered. The world will hold Russia, as well as Belarus, accountable for their actions. We call on all states to condemn this unconscionable attack unreservedly. No one should be fooled by the Russian government's barrage of lies.

Russia bears full responsibility for this conflict. It has rejected the path of diplomacy and dialogue repeatedly offered to it by NATO and Allies. It has fundamentally violated international law, including the UN Charter. Russia's actions are also a flagrant rejection of the principles enshrined in the NATO-Russia Founding Act: it is Russia that has walked away from its commitments under the Act. President Putin's decision to attack Ukraine is a terrible strategic mistake, for which Russia will pay a severe price, both economically and politically, for years to come. Massive and unprecedented sanctions have already been imposed on Russia. NATO will continue to coordinate closely with relevant stakeholders and other international organisations including the EU. At the invitation of the Secretary General, we were joined today by Finland, Sweden and the European Union.

We stand in full solidarity with the democratically elected president, parliament and government of Ukraine and with the brave people of Ukraine who are now defending their homeland. Our thoughts are with all those killed, injured and displaced by Russia's aggression, and with their families. NATO remains committed to all the foundational principles underpinning European security, including that each nation has the right to choose its own security arrangements. We will continue to provide political and practical support to Ukraine

as it continues to defend itself and call on others to do the same. We reaffirm our unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, including its territorial waters. This principled position will never change.

In light of Russia's actions, we will draw all the necessary consequences for NATO's deterrence and defence posture. Allies have held consultations under Article 4 of the Washington Treaty. We will continue to take all measures and decisions required to ensure the security and defence of all Allies. We have deployed defensive land and air forces in the eastern part of the Alliance, and maritime assets across the NATO area. We have activated NATO's defence plans to prepare ourselves to respond to a range of contingencies and secure Alliance territory, including by drawing on our response forces. We are now making significant additional defensive deployments of forces to the eastern part of the Alliance. We will make all deployments necessary to ensure strong and credible deterrence and defence across the Alliance, now and in the future. Our measures are and remain preventive, proportionate and non-escalatory.

Our commitment to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty is iron-clad. We stand united to protect and defend all Allies. Freedom will always win over oppression.

Veterans Independence Program VIP

[Share this page](#)

Could home care services help you remain independent in your own home? The Veterans Independence Program provides annual funding to help cover the cost for these services.

About this program

The Veterans Independence Program provides annual tax-free funding for services such as grounds maintenance, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, and professional health and support services.

This program does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it is intended to work with those programs to help meet your needs.

Note: If you think you may have a need for these services, be sure to complete the Veterans Independence Program application at the same time as your Pain and Suffering Compensation application. If approved, this will allow you to access support at the earliest possible date.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Veterans Independence Program if you need home care services and you:

- have qualified for a disability benefit, or
 - have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance, or
 - receive Prisoner of War Compensation, or
 - are eligible for, but can't access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed) in a long term care facility.
-

How to apply

Get help with your application

The staff at any [VAC office](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Additional information

Find out more

Services covered by VIP funding include:

- Grounds maintenance (can include snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.)
- Housekeeping (can include assistance with cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, errands, etc.)
- Access to nutrition (e.g. meal delivery services)
- Professional healthcare and support (nursing services, occupational therapy, assessments, etc.)
- Personal care
- Ambulatory healthcare (assessments, diagnostics, activities and transportation to these services)
- Transportation (transportation to social or community activities)
- Long term care
- Home adaptations (contribution towards modifications to the Veteran's principal residence that are necessary for the Veteran to carry out everyday activities).

See [current maximum rates payable](#) for these services.

[Healthcare service providers](#) - Learn more about providing VIP services and how to become a registered provider.

Related programs

[Disability Benefit](#): Compensation to recognize that your injury or illness is a result of your military service.

[War Veterans Allowance](#): Monthly payments if you have a low household income.

[Prisoner of War Compensation](#): Monthly compensation if you were taken prisoner or detained by enemy forces.

[Attendance Allowance](#): Monthly payments if your health needs require personal care support.

[Veterans Independence Program for survivors](#): As a surviving spouse, you may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

[Veterans Independence Program for primary caregiver](#): You may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

Frequently asked questions

What is the fastest way to apply for VIP services?

The fastest way to apply is by using [My VAC Account](#).

I am currently living outside of Canada, can I still receive my VIP benefits?

Unfortunately, Veterans Independence Program payments can only be provided to you when you are residing in Canada.

Can I choose any provider of services?

You may obtain services from the provider of your choice.

How is my housekeeping/grounds maintenance grant calculated?

The housekeeping and grounds maintenance grants are calculated based on your level of need and the going rate for these services in your area, up to [allowable maximum amount](#). These rates are determined by a review of costs for these services across the country, including the labour market index. This national rate table shows the [going rates payable by geographic area](#).

What is a "Benefit Year"? Do my benefits have an end date?

We create one-year arrangements for VIP benefits, however this does not mean that your benefits will stop after one year. Your benefits will continue for as long as you need them. The one-year arrangement is a mechanism we use to help manage your support. However, if your health needs or other circumstances change at any time, please contact us.

Are there policies for this program?

Read the [Veterans Independence Program policies](#).

Each month, Salute! provides news about:

- benefits and services available to Veterans and their families and tips on accessing them;**
- remembrance and commemoration activities in Canada and abroad; and**
- other events, including public discussions.**

You will also see stories about today's Veterans, their challenges and successes, and how they contribute to their communities after leaving the military.

In this edition:

- [Black History Month](#)
- [Remembering Private Mark Graham](#)
- [VAC wants your opinion](#)
- [Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund announces support for more programs](#)
- [Job opportunities for Veterans, transitioning CAF members or serving reservists](#)
- [Helping military spouses find jobs](#)
- [New supports for Veterans who experienced sexual misconduct](#)
- [Veteran story: Laurie White](#)
- [Check in on your well-being](#)

IN THE MEDIA

[\\$592 million contract awarded for North Warning System](#)

[Operation REASSURANCE: Canada's NATO mission explained](#)

[Tensions en Ukraine : Mélanie Joly rentre au pays plus tôt que prévu](#)

[Satellite images show new military bridge near Ukraine amid Russian buildup](#)

[Exercise NIJMEGEN on hold for CAF personnel until 2024](#)

[Forces armées canadiennes : les grades ont récemment été féminisés](#)

[Russian sappers in Syria](#)

[CME Family Last Posts / Dernière sonnerie de la famille du GMC](#)

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THESE CF NEWSPAPERS

Base/Wing — Newspaper

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)

22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)

4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)

CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)

CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)

CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)

19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)

8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)

CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)

CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)

CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)

CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)

CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)

3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)

CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)