

Media Report 23 Dec 2022

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking 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

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

Presidents Christmas Message 2022

The gift of love.

The gift of peace.

The gift of happiness.

May all these be yours at Christmas.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, thank you for all your support and guidance this year. We were able to conduct a successful General Meeting virtually on 29 October and have elected a Board of Directors - down from twelve to eight.

Our thoughts are also with those Canadians that can't be with those dearest to them at this time, whether that be through their duties, either here or overseas, or other circumstances, We remember the Christmas's of years past, as does every generation of soldier, sailor and airmen. And we'll raise a glass to each other and one to those who will spend their Christmas on a deployment far, far away from home.

Merry Christmas to all – veterans and their families and to the Brother/Sisterhood of our youth and to those who serve today.

The Christmas holiday affords each of us time for gratitude and introspection. We can take stock of all we have accomplished for our Veterans, and all that remains to be done. May this wonderful time of the year touch your hearts in a special way. Wishing you all much happiness not just today, but throughout the New Year. From our bubble to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season! Stay safe and take good care of yourselves.

Randy Stowell,CD

National President

Letter to Stakeholders from the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay Minister of Veterans Affairs / Lettre aux intervenants de la part de l'honorable Lawrence MacAulay, ministre des Anciens Combattants

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Dear partners,

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the enormous sacrifices made by past and present members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

From the turn of the 20th century through to the present day, hundreds of thousands of Canadians have taken on the risks and responsibilities of serving our country in uniform. To each one of them we will always be grateful.

For Veterans Affairs Canada, Veteran well-being is at the heart of everything we do. We always seek to make sure that every Veteran can access the resources they need to lead a healthy and fulfilling life after they leave the military.

This includes making sure that all interactions with Veterans Affairs Canada employees are conducted in a professional and compassionate way.

We recently fell short of this, when the topic of medical assistance in dying was inappropriately raised with veterans by a Veterans Affairs Canada employee.

While the incident was isolated, it is not without impact, and it is completely unacceptable.

To the Veterans in question, their families, and anyone else who may have been shocked or offended by what was said, I am deeply sorry.

Providing advice on medical assistance in dying is not, and never has been, a VAC service. We have no mandate or role to raise or recommend it, and the conversations with these four Veterans were unacceptable should have never occurred. I want Canadians, and Veterans in particular, to know that we are doing everything we can to ensure this never happens again.

We never want Veterans to hesitate to reach out to Veterans Affairs Canada for the help they need and deserve. You and our other partners must know that one employee out of thousands does not paint the picture of the kind, caring and committed team at Veterans Affairs Canada. The department is made up of some of the most compassionate people in the country, working hard every day to ensure they provide the best possible service and support to Veterans.

I know just how committed, dedicated and focused you are in serving Veterans and their families and would like to assure you that I am dedicated to working with you to rebuild trust in Veterans Affairs Canada.

Thank you for your contributions and support for the important work we do to care for and commemorate those who have served our country.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP
Minister of Veterans Affairs and
Associate Minister of National Defence

Chers partenaires,

À l'approche de la période des Fêtes, j'aimerais prendre un moment pour réfléchir aux énormes sacrifices consentis par les anciens membres et les membres actuels des Forces armées canadiennes.

Depuis le début du 20^e siècle jusqu'à aujourd'hui, des centaines de milliers de Canadiens ont assumé les risques et les responsabilités liés au fait de servir notre

pays en uniforme. Nous serons éternellement reconnaissants envers chacune de ces personnes.

Le bien-être des vétérans est au cœur de tout ce que nous faisons à Anciens Combattants Canada. Nous cherchons toujours à faire en sorte que tous les vétérans puissent avoir accès aux ressources dont ils ont besoin pour mener une vie saine et épanouie après leur service militaire.

Pour ce faire, nous devons nous assurer que toutes les interactions avec les employés d'Anciens Combattants Canada se déroulent de manière professionnelle et avec empathie.

Nous avons récemment manqué à ce devoir, lorsqu'un employé d'Anciens Combattants Canada a évoqué de façon inappropriée le sujet de l'aide médicale à mourir en présence de vétérans. Bien qu'il s'agisse d'un incident isolé, il n'est pas sans conséquence et cela est tout à fait inacceptable.

Je tiens à présenter mes sincères excuses aux vétérans concernés, à leur famille et à toute autre personne qui a pu être choquée ou offensée par les propos tenus. Fournir des conseils sur l'aide médicale à mourir n'est pas et n'a jamais été un service offert par ACC. Nous n'avons ni le mandat ni le rôle de soulever cette question ou de faire des recommandations à ce sujet, et les conversations qui ont eu lieu avec ces quatre vétérans sont inacceptables et n'auraient jamais dû se produire. Je tiens à ce que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes, en particulier les vétérans, sachent que nous faisons tout ce que nous pouvons afin que cela ne se reproduise jamais.

Nous ne voulons jamais que les vétérans hésitent à s'adresser à Anciens Combattants Canada pour obtenir l'aide dont ils ont besoin et qu'ils méritent. Nos autres partenaires et vous devez savoir que le comportement d'un seul employé parmi des milliers d'autres ne reflète pas la gentillesse, la bienveillance et le dévouement de l'équipe d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Le Ministère est composé de certaines des personnes les plus attentionnées au pays, qui travaillent fort chaque jour pour s'assurer qu'elles offrent le meilleur service et le meilleur soutien possible aux vétérans.

Je sais à quel point vous êtes résolu, dévoués et déterminés à servir les vétérans et leur famille, et je tiens à vous assurer que je m'engage à travailler avec vous pour rétablir la confiance à l'égard d'Anciens Combattants Canada.

Je vous remercie de votre contribution et de votre soutien dans le cadre du travail important que nous accomplissons pour prendre soin des personnes qui ont servi notre pays, et pour leur rendre hommage.

Cordialement,

L'honorable Lawrence MacAulay, C.P., député

Ministre des Anciens Combattants et

ministre associé de la Défense nationale

This Christmas, raise a glass to our military serving far from home

<https://ottawasun.com/opinion/columnists/taylor-this-christmas-raise-a-glass-to-our-military-serving-far-from-home/wcm/8f058800-9d7c-49a9-885e-211a2a42a930>

The Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) disability benefits are offered by Veteran Affairs Canada to health support the well-being of those who have served in the armed forces. As of 2021, roughly 19% of veterans are served by Veterans Affairs Canada.

What Is Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Disability Program?

The Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) disability program operates through the Bureau of Pensions Advocates. It is a [tax-free](#) monetary payment that is meant to support the welfare of qualifying veterans. Based on need, the amount beneficiaries receive depends on your entitlement level and your condition's severity. The more your disability reduces your quality of life, the higher the value of the benefit. This is determined through an assessment performed by VAC.

Who Is Eligible For The VAC Disability Program?

To qualify for this benefit, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a veteran thereof
- Be either a former or current Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) member
- Be a veteran of World War II or of the Korean War, including the Merchant Navy
- Be a qualifying civilian who served during World War II

If you fall into one of the above categories, have a [diagnosed disability or medical condition](#), and can prove that your injury originated from your service, then you should apply. To be eligible for the plan, you must meet all of the above criteria.

VAC Disability Payment Dates 2022

As with most government-issued benefits, you can register for [direct deposits](#) to receive the payment on the day the benefit gets issued. The VAC disability and pension payment dates for 2022 are as follows:

Benefit Payment Dates

January 28, 2022

February 25, 2022

March 30, 2022

April 28, 2022

May 30, 2022
 June 29, 2022
 July 28, 2022
 August 30, 2022
 September 28, 2022
 October 28, 2022
 November 29, 2022
 December 22, 2022

VAC Benefits

Depending on your situation, you can qualify for one of two types of benefits.

Compensation For Pain and Suffering

Compensation for pain and suffering comes in either the form of a lifetime monthly benefit or as a lump sum amount. The choice lies with the beneficiary, with specific amounts as follows:

Rate of Pain and Suffering Compensation (%)	Disability Extent (%)	Monthly Benefit (\$)	Lump Sum Amount (\$)
5	5-7	60.84	19,793.71
20	18-22	243.34	79,174.84
40	38-42	486.68	158,349.67
60	58-62	730.03	237,524.51
80	78-82	973.37	316,699.34
100	98-100	1,216.71	395,874.18

*The table above is a shorten sample, for the full list of rates [please click here](#).

Disability Pension

Disability pension provides a lifetime benefit, paid monthly. It increases depending on how severely your disability impacts your life. The VAC performs an assessment to determine the level that which the issue impacts your ability to function. This determines the class into which you get categorized. Additionally, if the qualifying veteran has any dependents such as children or a spouse, then the amount increases.

Class	Monthly Benefit (\$)	Additional Monthly Payments (\$)		Each Additional Child	
	Single Veteran	With Spouse	One Child		Second Child
1	3,019.53	754.88	392.54	286.85	226.46
5	2,415.62	603.91	314.03	229.48	181.17

10	1,660.74	415.19	215.90	157.77	124.56
15	905.86	226.47	117.76	86.06	67.94
20	150.98	37.75	19.63	14.34	11.32

If there is exceptional incapacitation, there is an additional allowance issued based on severity. The highest amount is \$1,598.45 and the lowest is \$532.84 per month. There are other benefits, such as Critical Injury and Death Benefits that address the immediate expenses paid after extreme circumstances.

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) [Learn More](#)

British Columbia Disability Assistance [Learn More](#)

Nova Scotia Disability Support Program [Learn More](#)

New Brunswick Disability Support Program [Learn More](#)

Child Disability Benefit (CDB) [Learn More](#)

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) [Learn More](#)

How To Apply For The VAC Disability Program?

If you are an eligible veteran and plan to apply for the VAC benefit, there are two main avenues to apply:

1. Using your My VAC Account, you can complete an online application. If you don't yet have an account, you can create a new one using a secure online service. The next step involves verifying your identity using personal information.
2. If you have any issues with the online service, you can call the toll-free number or visit Service Canada or Royal Legion and complete the application in person. You can download the forms, fill them out, and mail them in rather than completing an online application.

Additional Veteran Programs You May Qualify For

Regardless of whether you qualify for the VAC disability benefits, there are other Veteran support benefits you may be able to access. These include:

Critical Injury Benefit

The [Critical Injury benefit](#) has a cash value of \$78,989.83 that gets issued as a lump sum amount. It is entirely tax-free and is designed to address the immediate results of traumatic and severe injuries or diseases that resulted from service.

Rehabilitation Services

This service is a part of the Income Replacement Benefit and is meant to supply 90% of your gross, pre-discharge military salary. It is available while you

participate in [Rehabilitation Services](#) through the VAC. The benefit provides a minimum income of \$51,419.23 yearly, before tax.

Clothing Allowance

If you receive a disability benefit for an issue that directly causes extra wear and tear on your clothing, then you can [qualify for this benefit](#). It also applies if you have a service-related disability that causes you to require specialty clothing. There are ten tiers for the benefit, each representing a different level of severity. The highest value of the benefit is \$226.41 and the lowest amount is \$25.10.

Treatment Benefits

[Treatment benefits](#) offer financial benefits and a variety of services to assist veterans in maintaining health. If you qualify, you can get a VAC healthcare card that covers medical out-of-pocket expenses for things like prosthetics and prescriptions. The actual amount of coverage depends on the severity of your issue.

Benefits For Survivors

Financial [support is provided for survivors](#) (spouse, children, etc.) of a pensioner receiving disability, a member of the armed forces, or a Veteran who died in service.

If your spouse has passed away, you may qualify for the [Allowance For The Survivor](#) benefit.

Financial Advice

Veterans have access to various [support services to assist with financial management](#). There are services to assist with money management and financial planning. While there are many services online, you can also contact your local VAC office to receive assistance.

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation

This [tax-free benefit](#) is issued to veterans who incur a permanent, service-induced disability. The extreme severity must pose a barrier to the veteran becoming established as a civilian after service. As with the other benefits, it varies based on how much the disability impacts the veteran. The minimum value is \$529.01 monthly while the maximum is \$1,587.02 per month.

Attendance Allowance

This benefit is meant to [compensate for the price of hiring a caregiver](#), whether full or part-time, to assist with regular activities. It varies from \$319.79 to \$1,998.03 per month, based on how severe the disability is. Attendance refers to the amount of time the caregiver spends tending to the needs of the veteran.

Exceptional Incapacity Allowance

A tax-free benefit issued monthly, the [exceptional incapacity allowance](#) is for serious injuries or illnesses that drastically impact the veteran's quality of life. Provided the veteran undergoes ongoing pain, emotional, mental, or physical, the benefit has a value of up to \$1,598.45. As with the other benefits, it is based on the severity of the issue

Branch Holiday Hours and Branch Events
Bells Corners Legion <bellringer593@gmail.com>

Good Day

Branch New Year's Eve Party

Tickets now on sale and available at the bar.

As of Friday, December 16th, 2022, tickets will be available to public

So, members please get your tickets soon. Already quarter of the tickets are sold for the party.

Please note that there is no sit-down diner, but we will have a light buffet around 10:30 pm

See attached poster of details

Branch New Year's Day Levee

All are welcome

Doors open at 11 am

Live music and refreshments available

See attached poster of details

Branch Holiday Hours

Please note that from December 24th, 2022, to Jan 2nd, 2023, will be on reduce hours for the holidays and please note that the Friday lunch on December 30th, 2022, will be cancelled. This will give all our volunteers time to enjoy and holidays and spent time with their families.

See attached poster of details

Membership

Thank you to all those members that obtained your 2023 membership. The branch achieved an 77.8% renewal rate.

Congratulations to the following members

September early bird winner is Janice Ellen Langeland

October early bird winner is Philip Bent

November early bird winner is Tracy Berrea

Stop by the branch to receive your prize

Up & Coming Events

Saturday afternoon Dances

- News Years & Levee – Classics
- Saturday, January 14th, 2023 – Terry McCann
- Saturday, January 28th, 2023 – Doug & Pam
- Saturday, February 11th, 2022 – The Classics
- Saturday, February 25th, 2023 – Divided Highway

The kitchen will be open for refreshments

Updates of Branch events please visit our branch website (www.legion593.ca or www.legion593.com) and click on Calendar of Events

Shawn Taillon
Branch Newsletter Editor

IN THE NEWS

[Fall of Hong Kong](#)

[Anand begins process for cultural reform](#)

[Une première cheffe d'orchestre de la Musique du Royal 22e Régiment](#)

[International team of 1,000 sappers helping to demine Ukrainian territory](#)

[Focus on the Polish motorized floating bridge](#)

[Quand une guerre mondiale engendre une guerre d'affiches](#)

[Canadian military troops will experience Christmas Joy in a Box](#)

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](#)

CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa Post](#)

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](#)