

Media Report 26 Nov 2021

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

My Observations from the Deputy Ministers “Virtual” Teams Meeting held Thursday 18 November 2021

A “Virtual” Teams meeting was held 1300hrs to 1500hrs with the DM VAC (Paul Ledwell – he has been DM since 25 May). His biography is available at <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/who-we-are/departement-officials/deputy-minister> My “observations” are provided for information. The DM and his senior officials present to the Veteran “Advocates” with what they are doing and we all have an opportunity to voice our concerns. Veteran Advocates are the Legion, CAVUNP, Aboriginal Veterans Autochtones, Rwanda Veterans (about 500 CF pers served in Rwanda), Gulf War Veterans, Rainbow Veterans (LGBTQ2+), Royal Canadian Mounted Police , Gulf War veterans, ourselves and there are others:

- Budget 2021 provided funding to ensure Veterans receive timely access to high quality mental health care for Veterans with PTSD, depressive or anxiety disorders while their disability benefit application is being processed. The work is proceeding well and the delivery of the new program and supports is expected by April 1, 2022. There will be an option to go back retroactively for clients who experienced expenses prior to the official launch on April 1.
- Budget 2021 committed an additional 15 million over three years for the Veteran and Family Wellbeing Fund. The timing for the distribution of the funding should be released soon.
- April and May were two of the highest production months in terms of making decisions on Disability Adjudication Claims. Approximately 6,000 decisions were made in April, and approximately 7,000 decisions were made in May. The backlog is at approximately 15,000, down from 23,000 a year ago. There is a better understanding of the “flow” of claims – they do not want to move “bottlenecks”. The processing of Male/Female claims is now much closer – they have shrunk the gap that females once had. The average now is 37 weeks.
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is now a substantive issue and supporting resources for victims is being acted upon as a priority. Peer support should be in place early spring 2022. There are over 15,000 MST claims.

- Disability claims and wait times remains a major concern. VAC is working to bring additional staffing support into action! The pandemic is always a factor to be considered, In person service will be gradually returned – no timelines were given.
- Ministerial Advisory Groups will be re-activated. Applications for membership on the six different groups is now being vetted. NVOOC had Percy Price as one of our representatives and he has “retired” . NVOOC has had two members make application. The Minister will make the decision on members!
- VAC has a monthly newsletter that is electronic and available to veterans. I am not familiar with this?
- Indigenous Veterans celebrating “Remembrance” on 8 November was mentioned. Several NVOOC members had sent me emails about this. Here is what my comments were at this meeting:UN Peacekeepers hold an annual “Remembrance” ceremony on the Sunday close to August 9th every year at the Peacekeepers Monument here in Ottawa. They organize and conduct the event and invite other veteran groups. The Hong Kong families of veterans conduct a day of Remembrance at the Hong Kong memorial here in Ottawa. They organize and conduct the event and invite other veteran groups. The Para’s hold an annual “Remembrance” ceremony in Pettawawa in May to remember the deadly drop into the Ottawa river. They organize and conduct the event and invite other veteran groups. These are just a few “Remembrance” events that come to mind. There are others – the RCD, the LdSH(RC), the RCA, the Infantry and many others conduct focused “Remembrance” events at different times of the year.The RCAF Remembers the “Battle of Britain” and the RCN “Remembers” the “Battle of the Atlantic”The “Indigenous Remembrance” on 8 Nov is not taking away from the National day of Remembrance at all! It is just blessed to fall within Remembrance week! The Indigenous Veterans would organize and conduct the event and hopefully invite other veteran groups! I would attend.”
- I did ask about the Ministers Mandate Letter.The continuity of having MinisterMacAulay remain Minister will likely see little change to the 19 December 2019 Mandate letter.<https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2019/12/13/archived-minister-veterans-affairs-and-associate-minister-national>
- NVOOC has had as our priority since we formed “Long Term Care – for veterans and their families. I did mention the name change for Perley-Rideau did raise some worries and that NVOOC fully supported an increase from 60 to 120 Long Term Care “beds” for veterans.

RandyRandy Stowell, CD

National President

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

Dear Stakeholders,

This message is being shared with you on behalf of our colleagues at Canadian Heritage.

We are pleased to reveal the five design concepts shortlisted for the LGBTQ2+ National Monument. All Canadians are invited to share their thoughts on these designs through an online survey, which closes November 28. We encourage you to promote within your networks and invite you to take a moment to [complete the survey](#).

The LGBTQ2+ National Monument, which will be located in the National Capital Region, will memorialize the historic discrimination against LGBTQ2+ Canadians, including the LGBT Purge. The purge was a prolonged and widespread campaign led by the Government of Canada to identify and expel thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the federal public service. The Monument will reflect the profound impacts of discrimination experienced by Canada's LGBTQ2+ community, as well as celebrate the achievements of those who fought for equality, educate visitors, and inspire hope and change for the future.

Thank you for your collaboration.

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

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Chers intervenants,

Ce message vous est transmis au nom de nos collègues de Patrimoine canadien.

Nous sommes heureux de dévoiler les cinq propositions de design retenues pour le Monument national LGBTQ2+. Tous les Canadiens sont invités à faire part de leur opinion sur ces concepts dans le cadre d'un sondage en ligne, qui se termine le 28 novembre. Nous vous encourageons à en faire la promotion au sein de vos réseaux et vous invitons à prendre un moment pour [répondre au sondage](#).

Le Monument national LGBTQ2+, qui sera situé dans la région de la capitale nationale, commémorera la discrimination historique à l'endroit des Canadiennes et Canadiens de la communauté LGBTQ2+, y compris les personnes victimes de la Purge LGBT. Cette purge fut une vaste et longue campagne menée par le gouvernement du Canada pour identifier et expulser des milliers de membres LGBT des Forces armées canadiennes, de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada et de la fonction publique fédérale. Le monument reflétera les profondes répercussions de la discrimination subie par la communauté LGBTQ2+ du Canada, tout en célébrant les réalisations des personnes qui se sont battues pour l'égalité, en éduquant les visiteurs et en inspirant l'espoir et le changement pour l'avenir.

Merci de votre collaboration.

L'équipe de Mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

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Rate tables for VAC disability benefits and allowances

Every year, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) updates the [VAC Rate Tables](#) that show the amounts paid for certain disability benefits and allowances:

- Attendance Allowance

- Canadian Forces Income Support
- Clothing Allowance
- Death Benefit
- Disability Award
- Disability Pension
- Earnings Loss Benefit
- Exceptional Incapacity Allowance
- Permanent Impairment Allowance
- Veterans Independence Program
- War Veterans Allowance

Rates benefits will increase 2.4 % 01 Jan 2022

Effective from: July 1, 2021

Attendance Allowance

GRADE	AMOUNT
1	\$1,945.50
2	\$1,751.04
3	\$1,167.34
4	\$778.29
5	\$311.38

[Read More about the Attendance Allowance...](#)

Caregiver Recognition Benefit

A monthly payment increased annually by the Consumer Price Index. The current payment is \$1,053.89 per month.

[Read more about the Caregiver Recognition Benefit...](#)

Veterans Independence Program

This [PDF chart](#) shows the maximum VIP amounts.

[Read more about the Veterans Independence Program...](#)

Clothing Allowance

GRADE	AMOUNT
1	\$220.46
2	\$176.33
3	\$132.29
4	\$88.15

GRADE AMOUNT

5	\$78.33
6	\$63.67
7	\$58.76
8	\$48.94
9	\$39.21
10	\$24.44

The Clothing Allowance is provided if you are receiving a disability benefit for a condition that causes wear and tear on your clothing or requires you to wear specially-made clothing.

Pain and Suffering Compensation**EXTENT OF DISABILITY (%) MONTHLY BENEFIT LUMP SUM AMOUNT**

5	\$59.18	\$19,254.58
20	\$236.71	\$77,018.32
40	\$473.43	\$154,036.64
60	\$710.14	\$231,054.97
80	\$946.86	\$308,073.29
100	\$1,183.57	\$385,091.61

View the complete [Pain and suffering compensation rate table](#).

Read more about [Disability benefits...](#)

Income Replacement Benefit

This income replacement provides 90% of your gross pre-release military salary while you are participating in Rehabilitation services. This ensures a pre-tax income of at least \$50,018.64 per year.

[Read more about the Income Replacement Benefit...](#)

Canadian Forces Income Support

MAXIMUM PER MONTH			
VETERAN OR SURVIVOR	VETERAN WITH SPOUSE/PARTNER	ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR EACH DEPENDENT CHILD	ORPHAN
\$1,667.06	\$2,484.37	\$369.62	\$792.29

[Read more about the Canadian Forces Income Support...](#)

War Veterans Allowance

MAXIMUM PER MONTH					
VETERAN OR SURVIVOR	VETERAN OR SURVIVOR (BLIND)	VETERAN WITH SPOUSE/PARTNER	VETERAN WITH SPOUSE/PARTNER (BOTH BLIND)	ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR EACH DEPENDENT CHILD	ORPHAN
\$1,667.06	\$1,728.96	\$2,484.36	\$2,546.07	\$264.41	\$792.29

Important note to Veterans and qualified civilians:

If you had wartime service and your income is higher than the maximum level because you or your spouse/common-law partner receive OAS benefits, in certain cases, you may qualify for [treatment benefits](#).

[Read more about the War Veterans Allowance...](#)

Disability Pension

CLASS	MONTHLY RATE		ADDITIONAL MONTHLY AMOUNTS		
	SINGLE	SPOUSE	ONE CHILD	SECOND CHILD	EACH OTHER CHILD
1	\$2,940.15	\$735.04	\$382.22	\$279.31	\$220.51
5	\$2,352.12	\$588.03	\$305.78	\$223.45	\$176.41
10	\$1,617.08	\$404.27	\$210.22	\$153.62	\$121.28
15	\$882.05	\$220.51	\$114.67	\$83.79	\$66.15
20	\$147.01	\$36.75	\$19.11	\$13.97	\$11.03

[Read more about the Disability Pension...](#)

[View the complete Disability Pension rate tables](#)

Exceptional Incapacity Allowance

GRADE AMOUNT

1	\$1,556.43
2	\$1,296.99
3	\$1,037.60
4	\$778.29
5	\$518.83

[Read more about the Exceptional Incapacity Allowance...](#)

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation

GRADE MONTHLY AMOUNT

1	\$1,543.79
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GRADE MONTHLY AMOUNT

2 \$1,029.19

3 \$514.60

[Read more about the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation...](#)

Critical Injury Benefit

The Critical Injury Benefit is a \$76,838.36 tax-free lump-sum award to address the immediate impacts of the most severe and traumatic service-related injuries or diseases sustained by Canadian Armed Forces members.

[Read more about the Critical Injury Benefit...](#)

Death Benefit

The death benefit is a one-time, tax-free amount of \$385,091.61 paid to a spouse or common-law partner and any dependent children if a CAF member dies while in service.

[Read more about this assistance...](#)

Education Training Benefit

This program offers funding for college, university, technical education or short-term programs.

YEARS OF SERVICE (AUTHORIZED PAID DAYS)	MAXIMUM AMOUNT
6 years	\$42,155.62
12 years	\$84,311.24

You can use \$5,269.45 of this benefit to participate in one-time courses aimed at certification, professional designations, or professional development.

[Read more about the Education Training Benefit...](#)

**NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From
SHELLDRAKE] 26 November 2021**

NATO Climate Change and Security Action Plan.

Impact of climate change on security

1. Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our times. It is a threat multiplier that impacts Allied security, both in the Euro-Atlantic area and in the Alliance's broader neighbourhood.
2. Climate change makes it harder for militaries to carry out their tasks. Greater temperature extremes, sea level rise, rapid changes in precipitation patterns, and an increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events test the resilience of our military installations and critical infrastructure, impair the effectiveness of our capabilities, and may create harsher conditions for our military operations and missions.
3. The effects of climate change shape our geopolitical environment and may influence state behaviour. For example, thawing permafrost, desertification, and the opening up of new shipping lanes are factors that can contribute to increased instability and geostrategic competition.
4. The implications of climate change include drought, soil erosion and marine environmental degradation. These can lead to famine, floods, loss of land and livelihood, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls as well as on poor, vulnerable or marginalized populations, as well as potentially exacerbate state fragility, fuel conflicts, and lead to displacement, migration, and human mobility, creating conditions that can be exploited by state and non-state actors that threaten or challenge the Alliance.

Context for the Alliance

5. NATO has been addressing environmental challenges for over half a century, initially mostly from a science and research perspective. Since the turn of the century, a number of environmental standards and guidelines have been developed. Climate change featured in the 2010 Strategic Concept, a Green Defence framework was adopted in 2014, and climate issues were highlighted in Summit Statements since Lisbon 2010. However, further work and sustained political ambition is needed to ensure that NATO is fully prepared to continue to deliver in a changing climate.
6. As parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and signatories of the Paris Agreement, NATO Allies have recognized the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change, and subscribed to the goal to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. In recent years, NATO Allies have stepped up their ambition and are taking concrete action, at national level and through coordinated efforts in a United Nations and European Union context, where applicable, to realize a transition towards durable sustainability.

7. Although NATO is not the first responder for every challenge related to climate change, the Alliance has a role to play in a comprehensive response to climate change. NATO also has to take into account the impact of climate change on security to successfully fulfil its three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management, and cooperative security.

A NATO Agenda on Climate Change and Security-On 23-24 March 2021, NATO Foreign Ministers endorsed NATO's Climate Change and Security Agenda. It provides a 360-degree approach and encompasses measures to increase both NATO's and Allies' awareness of the impact of climate change on security, along with developing clear adaptation and mitigation measures, and enhanced outreach, while ensuring a credible deterrence and defence posture and upholding the priorities of the safety of military personnel and operational and cost effectiveness. This approach capitalizes on existing initiatives, structures and mechanisms, enhances and brings coherence to ongoing efforts, and identifies new policies and tools, where needed. It will allow NATO to respond to the impact of climate change on security within the framework of its mandate and purpose. Climate change and security is also an integral part of the NATO 2030 decisions taken by Heads of State and Government at the 2021 Brussels Summit.

THANK YOU Randy S

Psychiatric Impairment

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Introduction

This chapter provides criteria for assessing permanent impairment from entitled psychiatric conditions.

For VAC disability assessment purposes, this chapter is only used to assess chronic psychiatric conditions where the diagnosis has been established according to the "Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM).

The criteria in this chapter are used to assess the following psychiatric conditions:

- adjustment disorders
 - anxiety disorders
 - bipolar and related disorders
 - depressive disorders
 - dissociative disorders
 - feeding and eating disorders
 - mood disorders
 - obsessive-compulsive and related disorders
 - *pain disorders / chronic pain syndrome
- Note: only applies to DSM-IV-TR Axis I diagnosis
- personality disorders
 - schizophrenia (spectrum) and other psychotic disorders
 - **somatic symptom disorder with predominant pain
 - substance-related (and addictive) disorders
 - trauma-and stressor-related disorders

*DSM-IV-TR somatoform disorders (excluding pain disorders) are rated on individual merits.

**DSM-5 somatic symptom and related disorders (excluding somatic symptom disorder with predominant pain) are rated on individual merits.

There is considerable overlap in the presenting signs, symptoms and effect on function (medical impairment) of psychiatric conditions. It is difficult to determine the extent to which each psychiatric condition contributes to the medical impairment. For this reason, the disability assessment of an entitled psychiatric condition(s) includes the medical impairment resulting from both entitled and non-entitled psychiatric conditions.

If a non-entitled psychiatric condition(s) contributes to the psychiatric disability assessment, the Partially Contributing Table (PCT) is not applied.

For example, in the presence of entitled Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and non-entitled Substance Use Disorder, the disability assessment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder will include the signs and symptoms of both psychiatric conditions.

If conditions which are not assessed in chapter 21 (e.g., dementia, postconcussion syndrome, fibromyalgia syndrome) contribute to the medical impairment, the PCT must be applied.

If more than one condition is to be rated from this chapter, the conditions are bracketed for assessment purposes.

The emphasis in this chapter is on rating psychiatric conditions, as seen by the effect of the condition(s) on emotion, behaviour, thought, cognition, coping (adaptability), the basic activities of daily living, and treatment needs. The effects of the psychiatric condition on personal relationships, social functioning, and activities of independent living (meal preparation, shopping, home care, etc.) are rated in [Chapter 2](#), Quality of Life.

Under [Tables 21.1 – 21.4](#), no signs or symptoms may be rated twice. Emotional and behavioural features or symptoms associated with physical disorders that do not meet DSM criteria are assessed as part of the physical condition and should not be rated within this chapter.

Assessing psychiatric impairment requires a thorough review of the history of the psychiatric disorder and the individual's signs and symptoms over time. Symptoms from a psychiatric disability can fluctuate in severity. It is important to obtain and evaluate Member/Veteran/Client information over at least a 6-month to 1-year period (with attention given to his or her worst and/or best period of functioning).

Impairment from neurological conditions which affect cognition (e.g., dementia, postconcussion syndrome) is rated within Chapter 20, Neurological Impairment.

When entitled psychiatric conditions result in permanent impairment of other organ systems, a consequential entitlement decision is required. If awarded, the resulting impairment of that organ system(s) will be rated using the applicable body system specific table(s).

IN THE NEWS

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[Bradford's Sapper Brian Collier recognized at Orillia Remembrance Day ceremony](#)

[Chilliwack cadets honour fallen soldiers at evening candlelight vigil](#)

[La mémoire des militaires honorée à Montréal](#)

[Canadian military boosts air support to help B.C. flood evacuations, supply chain chaos](#)

[BMO honours service members throughout Canada with 3 donations](#)

[Help for homeless veterans in Ottawa](#)

[En mission pour ne pas oublier ceux qui sont tombés au combat](#)

[In search of a soldier's footsteps](#)

[Dismantling of iconic Canadian bridge](#)

[Opération militaire: une Saguenéenne en mission au Koweït](#)

[Report: America and its foes remain in the way of a landmine-free future](#)

[Vietnam's first sapper unit joining UN peacekeeping operations makes debut](#)