

## **Media Report 28 April 2023**

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 health.

### **Kingston Veterans' Village to Open November 2023**

On Friday, April 14th, I was pleased to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the [Homes for Heroes Foundation](#)'s Veterans' Village being built in Kingston.

It was a perfect sunny day to break ground on this project for veterans in our community.

Located at 730 King Street West, the Village will consist of 20 tiny homes and is scheduled to open in November 2023.

I was proud to represent both the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to acknowledge over \$2 million in federal funding through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (part of the National Housing Strategy) and seed funding through CMHC.

Further details are available here: [Kingston veterans housing project breaks ground | The Kingston Whig Standard \(thewhig.com\)](#).

### **Summary of Videoconference with Deputy Minister VAC, 21 Apr 2023 / Résumé de la vidéoconférence avec le sous-ministre ACC, 21 avril 2023**

Fellow Peacekeepers / Chers gardiens de la paix,

A Zoom videoconference was hurriedly called by the Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Deputy Minister (DM) for the DM's Coffee Group at 1:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, 21 April 2023, to explain the impacts of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) strike on VAC operations and support to Veterans.

The DM opened by noting that 75% of VAC employees were members of PSAC, most of whom had not been deemed essential and therefore were on strike. During what will hopefully be a short strike, VAC will focus on Veterans and their support programs, especially any urgent needs that may arise. (Urgent need = immediate health situation.) The DM emphasized that there would be no payment disruptions and continued access to treatment benefits would be maintained; however, the strike has forced smaller VAC offices to close temporarily due to a lack of staff.

The Veterans Emergency Fund is in place for urgent requirements and picketers

appear to be allowing Veterans access to VAC offices for emergency situations as, for example, happened in Montreal last week.

There are roughly 15,000 Veterans in case management and only 30% of case managers (or 144 of a total of 480) were deemed essential employees (not permitted to strike), so some delays with in-person services should be expected. In addition, Veterans who need to contact a case manager may have to deal with someone other than the usual case manager due to the strike. Longer wait times for telephone service will also be the norm, to 15-20 minutes or longer. Strike-related service interruptions will affect the processing of new claims; however, a prioritization system has been put in place to reduce the impacts of these as much as possible.

Although VAC currently has a limited capacity to respond to issues due to the strike, the DM stressed that he keenly wanted to be informed about insights and problems encountered by Veterans. Communications remain open through the VAC help line, Web site and other outreach means. You may also send your comments to me and I will relay them to VAC.

Une vidéoconférence Zoom a été convoquée à la hâte par le sous-ministre (SM) d'Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) pour le groupe de café du SM à 13 h. HAE le vendredi 21 avril 2023, pour expliquer les impacts de la grève de l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada (AFPC) sur les opérations d'ACC et le soutien aux vétérans.

Le sous-ministre a commencé en notant que 75 % des employés d'ACC étaient membres de l'AFPC, dont la plupart n'avaient pas été jugés essentiels et étaient donc en grève. Pendant ce qui, espérons-le, sera une courte grève, ACC se concentrera sur les vétérans et leurs programmes de soutien, en particulier sur les besoins urgents qui pourraient survenir. (Besoin urgent = situation de santé immédiate.) Le DM a souligné qu'il n'y aurait pas d'interruption de paiement et que l'accès continu aux prestations de traitement serait maintenu ; cependant, la grève a forcé les petits bureaux d'ACC à fermer temporairement en raison d'un manque de personnel.

Le Fonds d'urgence pour les vétérans est en place pour les besoins urgents et les piqueteurs semblent permettre aux vétérans d'accéder aux bureaux d'ACC pour les situations d'urgence comme, par exemple, ce qui s'est produit à Montréal la semaine dernière.

Il y a environ 15 000 anciens combattants en gestion de cas et seulement 30 % des gestionnaires de cas (ou 144 sur un total de 480) étaient considérés comme des employés essentiels (non autorisés à faire la grève), il faut donc s'attendre à des retards dans les services en personne. De plus, les vétérans qui ont besoin de communiquer avec un gestionnaire de cas peuvent avoir à traiter avec quelqu'un d'autre que le gestionnaire de cas habituel en raison de la grève. Des temps d'attente plus longs pour le service téléphonique seront également la norme, à 15-20 minutes ou plus. Les interruptions de service liées à la grève affecteront le traitement des nouvelles réclamations ; cependant, un système de priorisation a été mis en place pour en réduire au maximum les impacts.

Bien qu'ACC dispose actuellement d'une capacité limitée pour répondre aux problèmes dus à la grève, le sous-ministre a souligné qu'il souhaitait vivement être informé des idées et des problèmes rencontrés par les vétérans. Les communications restent ouvertes par le biais de la ligne d'assistance d'ACC, du site Web et d'autres moyens de sensibilisation. Vous pouvez également m'envoyer vos commentaires et je les transmettrai à ACC.

Yours in the Service of Peace / Vôtre au service de la paix,

Wayne Mac Culloch, CD

National President / président nationale

Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP) /  
l'Association canadienne des Vétérans des Forces de Protection des Nations Unis  
(ACVFPNU)

Home address / adresse à la maison: 1815 Chopin Place, Orleans, Ontario K1C  
5G1

Home e-mail / courriel à la maison: [wrmac50@rogers.com](mailto:wrmac50@rogers.com)

Home telephone / téléphone à la maison: 613-834-8274

### **Battle of the Atlantic - Bataille de l'Atlantique**

I am taking this opportunity to inform you that the Royal Canadian Navy is hosting its annual Battle of the Atlantic ceremony on **May 7 at 13:30 at the Royal Canadian Navy Monument at Richmond Landing** (see attached map).

As there is limited space for parking at the site, it is recommended you park at the Canadian War Museum and follow the path marked on the attached map.

Please confirm your attendance by replying to this email by May 3rd.

Je profite de l'occasion pour vous informer que la Marine royale canadienne organise sa cérémonie annuelle de la bataille de l'Atlantique le **7 mai à 13 h 30 au Monument de la Marine royale canadienne à Richmond Landing** (voir carte ci-jointe). Comme l'espace de stationnement est limité sur le site, il est recommandé de stationner au Musée canadien de la guerre et de suivre le chemin indiqué sur la carte ci-jointe.

Veuillez confirmer votre présence en répondant à ce courriel avant le 3 mai.

Merci – Thank you

### **Benefits of Pre-planning**

Death affects each and every one of us sooner or later. When you plan ahead, you can customize your final arrangements, your way, to reflect your taste, culture, lifestyle and budget. Plus, you will greatly ease the stress on your family and friends.

Learn more in this informative video.

[https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/what-we-do/cremation?  
utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=national-general-search-](https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/what-we-do/cremation?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=national-general-search-)

[microsoft&msclkid=180df1abb7d31659999a95ed7aa56468](https://microsoft.msclkid=180df1abb7d31659999a95ed7aa56468)

<https://beechwoodottawa.ca/en/cemetery/beechwood-cemetery-pricelist>

## **Death Benefit**

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If your spouse dies while in service, you will have many things to worry about, money is one we can help with right away. The Death Benefit is paid to a spouse or common-law partner and the dependent children of a Canadian Armed Forces member who died as a result of a service-related injury or illness.

When military families lose a loved one as a result of a sudden service-related death, there can be great suffering as the surviving spouse and children struggle to find their place in the civilian world.

Veterans Affairs Canada pays a death benefit to help ease that struggle.

The [amount of this benefit](#) is adjusted annually according to the cost of living.

The Death Benefit is paid to a spouse or common-law partner and dependent children if a Canadian Armed Forces member has died as a result of a service-related injury or disease provided the death occurred within 30 days after the injury occurred or the disease was contracted. If the death was more than 30 days after the incident, this support is provided through Disability benefits.

You should apply for the Death Benefit if you are the survivor or dependant of a deceased CAF Veteran.

A survivor is defined as:

- the surviving spouse, who was, at the time of the member's death, residing with the member, or
- the person who was, at the time of the Canadian Armed Forces member's death, the member's common-law partner (a common-law partner means a person who is cohabiting with the member in a conjugal relationship, having so co-habited for a period of at least one year).

A dependent child is defined as:

- the child of a Canadian Armed Forces member (or of their spouse or common-law partner) who is under 18 years of age, or
- under 25 years of age and attending school, or an adult but physically or mentally incapacitated and prevented from earning a living. In addition, the child must have been living in the home of the Canadian Armed Forces member to be considered a dependent child.

When a Canadian Armed Forces member dies in service, VAC is usually notified by the military and we will contact you.

If you have not heard from us at the time of the member's death, please [contact us](#). There is an application form for this benefit, but we can help you complete that form.

#### Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

#### Mail or in person

Download the application form. Then, drop it off at a [VAC office or CAF Transition Centre](#). You can also mail your completed application directly to the address listed on the form.

#### Get help with your application

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

#### Find out more

[Information for families and survivors](#)

#### Related programs

[Survivors Pension](#): Monthly financial support paid to the surviving spouse or common-law partner of a disability pensioner.

[Funeral and Burial Assistance](#): Income-tested financial assistance when Veterans meet certain military criteria.

[Income Replacement Benefit for survivors and children](#): A monthly payment for eligible survivors and orphans of a deceased CAF member or Veteran.

[Bereavement Support](#): Support when Veterans or their families are dealing with end of life issues or bereavement.

Is the Death Benefit supposed to function as a form of life insurance?

The death benefit is not designed to be life insurance. Instead, it recognizes the impact the death of a service member has on the functioning of their immediate family, including the permanent loss of guidance, care and companionship. It is paid in addition to the usual pension-related death benefits under the [Canada Pension Plan](#) and the [Canadian Forces Superannuation Act](#).

If I apply for the benefit and get declined, can I appeal?

Yes. If you are not satisfied with a decision you may apply in writing for a review. Learn more about your [review and appeal options](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Death benefit policies](#).

## **IN THE MEDIA**

[Canadian Army Commander announces Reserve Unit COs and RSM appointments](#)

Canadian Military Family Magazine

The Canadian Army recently announced a number of Canadian Army Reserve Unit Commanding Officer (CO) and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) appointments. According to a message released by Commander Canadian Army LGen. Paul, the following members have been appointed under the authority of their respective CA Division Commands. [Read More](#)

[Operation RENDER SAFE designated as a Special Duty Operation](#)

Canadian Military Family Magazine

Operation RENDER SAFE has been designated as a Special Duty Operation to allow Veterans of the tour to qualify for the Veterans Well-Being Act. According to CANFORGEN 025/23, on Sept. 16, 2022, the Minister of National Defence approved the new designation. [Read More](#)

[Ottawa firm develops cutting-edge radar technology to defend North America](#)

Brantford Expositor

An Ottawa firm has developed cutting-edge technology that could hold the key for a billion-dollar modernization of North America's defences. Both the U.S. and Canada have announced they will be building what is being called an over-the-horizon radar system to provide long-range surveillance of threats to North America. [Read More](#)

[Trudeau accueille son homologue ukrainien et minimise les cyberattaques pro-russes](#)

Le Canada Français

Justin Trudeau a balayé du revers de la main les informations selon lesquelles des

pirates informatiques pro-russes auraient attaqué mardi matin des sites internet canadiens, alors même que le premier ministre profitait de la visite de son homologue ukrainien pour dévoiler un ensemble de nouvelles mesures militaires, économiques et culturelles pour le pays assiégé. [Lire Plus](#)

### [Canadian sappers train Ukrainian military in Poland](#)

Ukrinform

In the Republic of Poland, a team of Canadian military engineers teach Ukrainian defenders how to overcome the mine threat on the battlefield. The First Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Oleksandr Pavliuk wrote this on Telegram, *Ukrinform* reports. [Read More](#)

### [Comment: Call on military for a climate-emergency response team](#)

Times Colonist

By far the most rewarding deployment of my military career was in the sweltering summer of 2003, when British Columbia was suffering through its worst drought in 100 years. A huge high-pressure area had become anchored over the province's Interior when a lightning strike on Aug. 16 in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park ignited a fire storm that would eventually consume over 250 square kilometres of valuable forest. Soldiers from every reserve regiment in B.C. were called up, along with several regular force units. [Read More](#)

### [Repair or replace: Debate continues over historic Bailey bridge in Naufrage, P.E.I.](#)

Saltwire

Six months after post-tropical storm Fiona ravaged P.E.I., some fishers in this north shore village are conflicted as to what ought to be done with a storm-damaged bridge in the community. Lucas Lesperance, a fisher and charter boat captain out of Naufrage, said he would like to see the historic Bailey bridge fixed, not replaced. [Read More](#)

### [Défense militaire du Canada : « Il faut faire beaucoup plus »](#)

La Presse

Plus d'un an après le début de l'invasion russe en Ukraine, d'anciens ministres, ambassadeurs et chefs d'état-major appellent le gouvernement Trudeau à entamer une « réévaluation majeure » de la position de défense du Canada, afin de protéger le pays contre de potentielles menaces « étrangères ou domestiques ». [Lire Plus](#)

### [Reservists train to answer disaster call, work with Chatham-Kent officials](#)

Chatham Daily News

If Chatham-Kent is hit with a massive ice storm or devastating flooding, Canada's military is available to help. But training to respond to natural disasters — and building relationships with local authorities — is key to success. [Read More](#)

## [Internal audit raises red flags over maintenance of graves, cemeteries for veterans](#)

CTV News

An internal report by Veterans Affairs Canada is raising red flags over the country's military graves and cemeteries, warning that more permanent funding is needed to keep them from falling into disrepair. The report is the result of an internal audit following up on a similar review six years ago. At that time, nearly 45,000 out of the estimated 207,000 graves of Canada's veterans were in a state of disrepair because of a lack of resources. [Read More](#)

## [La médaille d'un soldat noir de la Première Guerre mondiale rendue à sa famille](#)

Radio-Canada

Une médaille de la Première Guerre mondiale qui prenait la poussière dans un magasin de pièces de monnaie de la Nouvelle-Écosse a finalement été rendue à la famille du soldat plus de 100 ans après sa mort. Hal Davidson a découvert la médaille d'or après avoir fermé son magasin d'Amherst, en Nouvelle-Écosse, au début de la pandémie. [Lire Plus](#)

## [Walking with death: This is the work of sappers clearing mines in Ukraine](#)

Atalayar

Although deminers have already neutralized more than 345,000 explosive devices in the former Russian-occupied territories, 30 per cent of the country is mined and it will take years to clear it all. [Read More](#)

## [3D printing is the British Army's new secret weapon](#)

Engineering.com

When important components break unexpectedly on the battlefield, the longer your supply chain is for replacements, the longer your forces will operate at a disadvantage. If you can simply manufacture a necessary tool or replacement part right in the field, you eliminate a point of weakness. [Read More](#)

### **Base/Wing — Newspaper14 04 2023**

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](#)

Base Gagetown — [Gagetown Gazette](#)



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CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)

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