

Media Report 08 DEC 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

NVOC Presidents Report to Members at the Annual General Meeting 2 December 2023

Passing of our Patron

General (Retired) Paul D. Manson, O.C., C.M.M., C.D. [AUGUST 20, 1934 to JULY 1, 2023].

General Paul Manson has been the Patron of NVOC for over a decade. General Paul was considered to be our “In case of Emergency – Break Glass” go to man for help if needed. He has been an active supporter and inspiration in NVOC efforts in advocacy for veterans.

A re- read of his Opinion in the “Globe and Mail” Published Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015 tells his story: *“My entire career was encompassed by the Cold War years, including 10 years with my family in France and Germany. The Cold War, however, was not a shooting war. I have told Canadians on many occasions that my greatest pride in having served is that, from the end of the Korean War until I retired 37 years later, not a single shot was fired*

in combat by the Canadian military. Our job was deterrence, and deterrence worked. We trained for war so that we wouldn’t have to fight a war.”

General Manson started a career with the Royal Canadian Air Force - his years of operational flying on the CF-100 Canuck, the F-86 Sabre, the CF-101 Voodoo, and the CF-104 Starfighter. He rose through the ranks as a pilot and commanding officer with increasing responsibility in the Canadian Armed Forces. Completing a 38-year career, he served as Canada’s Chief of the Defence Staff (1986 until his retirement in 1989) and was instrumental in establishing the Canadian War Museum.

NVOC had ten members wearing our distinct Blazers with crest at the Celebration of Life and NVOC has made a donation of \$1000.00 to the Canadian War Museum in memory of our Patron.

NVOC ISSUES

- A “Veterans Consultative Assembly” was hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion on 14 October and NVOOC attended. The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Veterans Affairs [VAC] presented the priorities of the Department: (1) dealing with the backlog of disability claims. There has been a surge in disability applications these past two years. VAC gets about 6600 claims a month. The good news is that the trained staff within the Department are being kept on, and ongoing budget cuts that are being made to all Departments will not impact on service support to veterans. Regional offices will not close – they are all up and running now and will continue. The support to veterans will NOT be reduced or impacted. Core support for veterans is protected. (2) Commemorations of the work and the sacrifice of veterans – including the “modern veteran” There is more interest in doing more commemorations for recent missions/operations. (3) Mental Health and Veteran Homelessness are ongoing issues that are getting serious attention.
- The Afghanistan Memorial will be built – near the War Museum in Ottawa. There has been some controversy about design selection – there was a Jury that made recommendations and there was a survey of some 12,000 veterans. The survey of veterans became a key factor in selecting Team Stimson. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/afghanistan-monument>

 - Veterans Long Term Care [LTC] – for the veteran and the family. This is the primary issue for NVOOC [and has been since we formed]. The issue is much more topical now within VAC. The idea of “age in place”/ nursing homes without walls?... has attention – The Veterans Independence Program does give veterans support in living at home. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/housing-and-home-life/help-at-home/veterans-independence-program> . ?]. As “boomers” age there will be a surge in demand for LTC and there is concern that veterans will not get the support they need? Today VAC has thirteen agreements with Provinces and Territories and all agreements are tailored to the local jurisdictions. Your Board of Directors is paying close attention to Veterans LTC. Lots of issues? ...preferred access beds?...community beds?...contract beds?... Denmark spends more on home care than institutional care! The Danes approach funding differently. Instead of funding being assigned to a bed, funding is assigned to an individual, who has the choice on how to use the money (within certain parameters). For members – The Veterans Ombudsman has a useful “Care at Home Resource Guide” A guide to the benefits and services available through Veterans Affairs Canada that support Veterans to remain independent in their own homes. <https://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en/publications/resource-guides-and-information/care-home-resource-guide>
 - Veterans Today. There are perhaps 650,000 veterans [about 110,000 get an annuity/pension] and about 140,000 are “clients” of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). Within the veteran community there are about 18,000 who are

Indigenous/Metis or Inuit. There are over 500,000 veterans who are NOT clients of Veterans Affairs. (Some 18,000 veterans are getting “cannabis reimbursement” of \$200,000.000 for this year). All members of NVOC are asked to “spread” the word that VAC does have programs and benefits for all veterans.

- Disability Claims made to VAC. Most of us – regardless of rank – seldom did have to complete “paper work” during our service. The Company/Squadron/Ships Clerks did the staffing and it became a “...*sign here*” bit of staff work. As veterans we do not have “clerk” support. The good news is that VAC Regional Offices give great support – and there are helpful ways to get on-line assistance as well. We offer two suggestions: (1) never lie! If you can’t remember details don’t make things up; and (2) Be patient.
- Gulf War Veterans. NVOC did send the Minister of VAC a letter that supported ongoing efforts seeking Government recognition for all Canadian military veterans who served in the Gulf War and who are deemed to be “special duty area” veterans instead of being recognized as “war service” veterans.
- I repeat word for word from my report to the AGM last year the following related to Mental Health:

“Wounded Minds” – *all military personnel suffered from sleep deprivation, cold weather, isolation and other “stressors” during their service. The issue of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD] is not a new result of modern research. A range of symptoms from battlefields have been known for centuries. The emotional toll of war – depression, exhaustion, angst. The ancient Greeks called it “Divine Madness” (debilitating flashbacks, mood disorders, feelings of emotional detachment). During the Age of Chivalry...“those who don the mail and take up the sword – the horrors of combat await you”. During the 18th Century nervous disorders were thought to be a yearning for” hearth and home” and was called “Nostalgic Homesickness”. During the American Civil War it was called “Soldiers Heart”. WW I “Shell Shock” and WW II “Battle Fatigue”. As veterans we should be aware that there are fellow/women veterans who may be having mental health issues and we should also be aware that VAC has support available for veterans who suffer. VAC support is immediate and extensive. If you encounter a veteran who does not know about the support that is available – have them contact VAC and ask what help is available. They will be pleasantly surprised.*

[Email received 1 Dec 2023] Veterans Affairs Canada wants your opinion! / Anciens Combattants Canada souhaite connaître votre opinion!

Dear Stakeholders,

We need your help reaching Veterans who are not being served by Veterans Affairs Canada. We are conducting online focus groups for Veterans, family members and caregivers who do not currently receive services from Veterans Affairs Canada to help us understand if they find the information on the Veterans Affairs Canada website clear and useful, or not. Specifically, we’ll gauge their understanding of current program information and eligibility requirements for the [Veterans Independence Program](#) and [Disability Benefits](#).

We kindly ask that you share the below message with your network

.Engagement and Events Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

advisorygroups-groupeconsultatifs@veterans.gc.ca

Veterans Affairs Canada wants your opinion!

NANOS is conducting online focus groups, on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada, for the Veteran community to find out the level of clarity Veterans have around the information on the Veterans Affairs Canada website. We're looking for Veterans, family members and caregivers who are non-clients of Veterans Affairs Canada.

The focus groups will take about 90 minutes to complete. It is being conducted on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada by the independent Canadian research firm, NANOS Research.

Please visit the [NANOS Research website](#) for more information and to participate.

Participation is voluntary and any responses and personal information will be kept confidential in order to comply with the [Privacy Act](#). All responses, whether by phone or online, are anonymous; they are not kept or shared with Veterans Affairs Canada and will not have any impact on the benefits or services you receive or may receive in the future.

If you would like to share this opportunity with your friends and followers on social media, feel free to use the following message:

We want to hear from Veterans, their family members and caregivers who have not received benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada. Your input will help us improve the information on our website. Have your say.

Please share this link with your friends and family if it applies to them. <https://surveys.nanosresearch.com/441931?lang=en>

Monday 4 December is Saint Barbaras Day! Barbara is the patron saint of **artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives**. Her association with the lightning that killed her father has caused her to be invoked against lightning, explosives and fire. St. Barbara's Feast Day is a day where artillery and Sappers formations, units, and sub-units host parades, sports days, guest nights, cocktail parties, feasts, open houses, and other activities.

Your volunteer members of the NVOC Board of Directors will continue our advocacy efforts and we welcome inputs from you – our members. Hope you are all healthy and safe!

Randy
Randy Stowell, CD
National President
NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

email: rg.stowell@sympatico.ca

Veterans Affairs Canada wants your opinion!

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
À tous les intervenants,

Nous avons besoin de votre aide pour communiquer avec les vétérans et vétéranes qui ne reçoivent pas de services d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Nous organisons des groupes de discussion en ligne pour les vétérans et vétéranes, les membres de leur famille et leurs aidants qui ne reçoivent actuellement pas de services d'Anciens Combattants Canada pour nous aider à déterminer si l'information présentée sur le site Web d'Anciens Combattants Canada est claire et utile. Plus précisément, nous évaluerons leur compréhension des informations actuelles sur le programme et des critères d'admissibilité pour le [Programme pour l'autonomie des anciens combattants](#) et les [prestations d'invalidité](#).

Nous vous demandons de bien vouloir diffuser le message ci-dessous dans votre réseau.

Merci,

L'équipe de la Mobilisation et Évènements

Anciens Combattants Canada

advisorygroups-groupesconsultatifs@veterans.gc.ca

Anciens Combattants Canada souhaite connaître votre opinion!

NANOS tiendra des groupes de discussion en ligne, au nom d'Anciens Combattants Canada, pour que la communauté des vétérans et vétéranes puisse connaître le niveau de clarté que les vétérans ont par rapport aux informations figurant sur le site Web d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Nous avons besoin de vétérans et vétéranes, des membres de leur famille et d'aidants qui ne sont pas des clients d'Anciens Combattants Canada.

Les groupes de discussion devraient durer environ 90 minutes. Ils sont menés au nom d'Anciens Combattants Canada par la société de recherche canadienne indépendante NANOS Research.

Rendez-vous sur le [site Web de NANOS Research](#) pour obtenir de plus amples informations et pour participer.

La participation est volontaire et toutes les réponses et informations personnelles resteront confidentielles afin de se conformer à la [Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels](#). Toutes les réponses fournies, que ce soit par téléphone ou en ligne, sont anonymes; elles ne sont ni conservées ni communiquées à Anciens Combattants Canada et n'auront aucune incidence sur les avantages ou les services que vous recevez ou pourriez recevoir à l'avenir.

Si vous souhaitez transmettre cette possibilité à vos amis et abonnés sur les réseaux sociaux, n'hésitez pas à utiliser le message suivant :

Nous aimerions connaître le point de vue des vétérans et vétéranes, des membres de leur famille et de leurs aidants qui ne reçoivent pas d'avantages de la part d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Votre contribution nous aidera à améliorer l'information sur notre site Web. Faites-nous part de votre opinion.

N'hésitez pas à transmettre ce lien à vos amis et aux membres de votre famille si vous croyez qu'ils pourraient être intéressés. <https://surveys.nanosresearch.com/441931?lang=en>

Nous vous sommes très reconnaissants de votre aide.

IN THE MEDIA

Down but not out

Legion Magazine

"Things have reached a crisis here," Major-General Christopher Vokes wrote a friend in England on Nov. 2, 1944. "Personally I am absolutely brownd off. In spite of no able direction we have continued to bear the cross... I've done my best to be loyal but goddamnit the strain has been too bloody great." Vokes was the general officer commanding of the 1st Canadian Division in Italy, and the subject of his ire was the commander of I Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Eedson L.M. Burns. [Read More](#)

Pénurie de logements militaires : un manque d'espace « frustrant » pour des familles

Radio-Canada

Jusqu'à 6000 logements militaires supplémentaires sont nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins des Forces armées canadiennes. Devant cette pénurie persistante, des familles sont contraintes de vivre dans des conditions qu'elles jugent inadéquates. [Lire Plus](#)

Canada to select Boeing aircraft to replace CP-140 Auroras, sources say

Design Engineering

The federal government is expected to announce as early as Thursday that it has selected Boeing to replace the military's aging patrol planes in a multi-billion-dollar deal, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The decision to go with a sole-source contract would close the door on Quebec-based business jet maker Bombardier, which has been pushing for an open bid. [Read More](#)

N.W.T. fishing camp creating community for active and veteran military members

CBC News

An N.W.T. fishing lodge is creating community for military veterans through connecting to nature and other military peers. Jocelyn D  m  tr   served two eight month deployments in Afghanistan, one from 2007-2008, and the other from 2010-2011. After his service, he said he felt like he had to fill a hole coming from such a high adrenaline environment. [Read More](#)

Silence    Ottawa au sujet des exportations d'armes vers Isra  l

Radio-Canada

Le Canada exporte des   quipements militaires dans de nombreux pays, notamment en Isra  l, en guerre depuis plus d'un mois contre le Hamas dans la bande de Gaza, o   les autorit  s font   tat de milliers de civils tu  s. Ottawa a-t-il suspendu ces ventes depuis le d  but du conflit? Le gouvernement Trudeau reste   vasif    ce sujet. [Lire Plus](#)

CFSACO commander talks Cornwall military history at council table

Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

The commander of the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Control Operations recently reminded council of Cornwall's military history, and CFSACO's tight-knit relationship with the city.