

Media Report 01 November 2019

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This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are asking such as the Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) program is to provide prompt monetary assistance to eligible Veterans and their family members, who are facing a financial crisis/emergency, with the intent of resolving the immediate need, veteran plates and local Media Articles.

### The government has no intention of discontinuing veteran plates

From our NVOC National President Mr. Stowell.

Please see the good news response I received today from the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services:

The Veteran Graphic Licence Plate has been available since 2003 through a Graphic Licence Plate (GLP) Program Partner contract between the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command (RCL ON) and the Government of Ontario. The Ministry of Transportation sponsors the Veteran GLP Program and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) administers the program on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation.

Our government has no intention of discontinuing veteran plates. We are proud to offer this product and are committed to ensuring that we continue to honour veterans.

Trust this addresses your concerns and that you will share this with anyone thinking this program was going to end.

All the best,

Michael

Michael Jiggins | Executive Assistant

Office of Steve Clark, MPP

Veterans' Week: Let's show #CanadaRemembers / Semaine des vétérans : Montrons que #LeCanadasesouvient

November 5-11 marks Veterans' Week, a time to come together and honour those who have served Canada, past and present, in times of war, military conflict and peace.

This year's theme is the 75th anniversary of Canada's participation in the Italian Campaign, which was one of the many key milestones in the lead up to the end of the Second World War. More than 93,000 Canadians served with the Allied forces in the Italian Campaign. As they fought their way up the boot of Italy, nearly 6,000 Canadians died during this bitter fight. This Veterans' Week, we will remember them.

Your organization continues to make a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families. The dedication and commitment shown through your work helps spread the message of remembrance. Please continue to share the powerful message that #CanadaRemembers within your organization and your networks.

There are various ways you can show that #CanadaRemembers:

1. Participate in a ceremony at your local cenotaph or other war memorial;
2. Wear a poppy with pride;
3. Join the conversation on social media! Use the [acts of remembrance](#) to post what remembrance means to you, and include the Veterans' Week hashtags #CanadaRemembers and #Italy75;
4. Explore stories of those who served and sacrificed for our country by reading [Faces of Freedom](#) profiles;
5. Contact a local Veterans association and invite a Veteran to be a guest speaker at your office or local group;
6. Thank a Veteran through [Postcards for Peace](#); and
7. Learn more about those who have served our country through [Heroes Remember](#) videos of Veterans sharing their experiences.

Visit [veterans.gc.ca/CanadaRemembers](http://veterans.gc.ca/CanadaRemembers) to learn about other ways to get involved with remembrance and to view the calendar of events.

Together, let's show that #CanadaRemembers, while inspiring our friends, families and loved ones to do the same.

Lest we forget.

Amy Meunier

Director General, Communications

Veterans Affairs Canada

Paul Thomson

Director General, Commemoration

Veterans Affairs Canada

Au cours de la Semaine des vétérans, qui a lieu du 5 au 11 novembre, nous nous réunissons pour rendre hommage aux hommes et aux femmes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui qui ont servi le Canada, en temps de guerre, de conflit militaire et de paix.

Cette année, la Semaine des vétérans a pour thème le 75e anniversaire de la participation du Canada à la campagne d'Italie, un des nombreux jalons importants qui ont permis de mettre fin à la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Plus de 93 000 Canadiens ont servi auprès des forces alliées lors de cette campagne. En remontant la péninsule italienne, près de 6 000 Canadiens sont morts au cours d'âpres combats. Cette Semaine des vétérans, nous nous souvenons d'eux.

Votre organisation continue de contribuer à la vie des vétérans et de leur famille. Votre dévouement et votre engagement contribuent à diffuser le message du Souvenir. Nous vous invitons à continuer de transmettre le puissant message #LeCanadasesouvient au sein de votre organisation et de vos réseaux.

Il existe de nombreuses façons de montrer que #LeCanadasesouvient :

1. Participez à une cérémonie à votre cénotaphe local ou à un autre monument commémoratif de guerre.

2. Portez fièrement un coquelicot.

3. Joignez-vous aux discussions dans les médias sociaux! Posez des [actes commémoratifs](#) en montrant ce que perpétuer le Souvenir signifie pour vous et utilisez les mots-clés #LeCanadasesouvient et #Italie75.

4. Découvrez les histoires de ceux qui ont servi notre pays au péril de leur vie en lisant les profils des [Visages de la liberté](#).

5. Communiquez avec une association locale de vétérans et invitez un vétéran à venir s'adresser aux employés de votre bureau ou aux membres de votre organisation locale.

6. Remerciez un vétéran au moyen des [Cartes postales de la paix](#).

7. Apprenez en plus au sujet des vétérans qui ont servi notre pays grâce aux vidéos « [Des héros se racontent](#) ».

Consultez [veterans.gc.ca/LeCanadasesouvient](http://veterans.gc.ca/LeCanadasesouvient) pour connaître d'autres façons de participer à la commémoration et voir le calendrier des activités.

Ensemble, montrons que #LeCanadasesouvient, tout en encourageant nos amis, les membres de notre famille et nos proches à faire de même.

N'oublions jamais.

Amy Meunier

Directrice générale, Communications

Anciens Combattants Canada

Paul Thomson

Directeur général, Commémoration

Anciens Combattants Canada

Veterans Emergency Fund

## Purpose

This policy provides a general description of the Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) and the provision of funding under the VEF benefit.

## Authority

The Order-in-Council #2017-1696 and the VEF [Terms and Conditions](#) set out the authority, eligibility and other requirements for the VEF.

## General

1. The objective of the VEF program is to provide prompt monetary assistance to eligible Veterans and their family members, who are facing a financial crisis/emergency, with the intent of resolving the immediate need. Where appropriate, applicants will also be referred to any alternate and/or additional resources for longer-term support.
2. The VEF will allow VAC to meet its mandated commitments of assisting Veterans with their care, treatment and re-establishment in civilian life, as well as repaying the nation's debt of gratitude toward those who have sacrificed for our country.
3. VEF funds are considered social assistance payments under section 56(1) (u) of the Income Tax Act. Pursuant to section 233(2) of the Income Tax Regulations the recipient is not required to report the funds on their income tax returns as the VEF is not designed to provide funds in the form of a series of payments.

## Policy

4. Applicants are required to fill out the VEF application form. However, the VAC staff member making the VEF decision has the discretion to determine what additional documentation they may need to make the decision. While it is not required, and taking into account the totality of the situation the applicant has presented with, a decision maker has the right to request confirmation which will allow them to validate the attestations made in the application. This could include outstanding bills, quotes, invoices, or bank records to verify financial resources, or documentation to confirm identity or relationship status to a Veteran.
5. Where it is possible and appropriate to do so, payments are to be made directly to 3rd parties on behalf of applicants.
6. The costs will be shared with the recipient and/or with other government programs and/or the private sector and/or non-profits in the community, where possible and appropriate.
7. An applicant will be expected to use the liquid assets at their disposal, in conjunction with funds from the VEF, towards addressing the emergency. There is no standard means test other than an attestation on the application that they do not have access to liquid assets to meet the emergency.

8. The maximum amount payable per Veteran per household per fiscal year (April 1 – March 31) will be \$2,500. In cases where both spouses are Veterans or where Veterans are otherwise sharing accommodations, each shall be eligible in their own right up to the maximum amount payable per fiscal year.
9. Eligible recipients may make application to the VEF more than once a year, but the total annual amount will not exceed the maximum of \$2,500. Exceptions [\[1\]](#) may be considered on a case by case basis.
10. In order to receive funds under the VEF the applicant must reside in Canada, which means they are absent from Canada for no more than 183 total days between April 1 and March 31 of a given year.
11. Any issues that arise related to VEF decisions, such as re-considerations, will be dealt with informally and expeditiously at VAC Head Office by a Benefits Program Officer in the Benefits Adjudicating and Processing unit who was not involved in the original decision.
12. Staff administering the program should discuss with the applicant any other VAC programs for which they may be eligible.
13. Overpayments [\[2\]](#) will be addressed using VAC's existing policies and procedures on overpayments.

#### Eligibility

14. Eligibility for this fund is intentionally broad to enable access for those who require immediate financial help and to assist as many people as possible. A Veteran or other applicant does not need to be in receipt of any other benefits from VAC in order to be eligible for the VEF. Eligible recipients for funding include:

- Veterans
- Current Spouses/Common-law partners of Veterans
- Survivors of Veterans or of deceased Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members
- Orphans of Veterans or CAF members (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18 years)

NOTE: A Dependent of a Veteran or a Dependent of a Current Spouse or Common-law partner of a Veteran is not eligible to apply in their own right to the VEF. However, the Veteran, Current Spouse or Common-law partner may apply for funding to assist with an emergency that is affecting a Dependent.

#### Eligible Expenses

15. The categories listed below describe the types of financial emergencies that are eligible to be funded through the VEF to eligible recipients (or to eligible recipients on behalf of their dependents). The list is not exhaustive

and each application should be considered on the merits of the individual's circumstances and demonstrated need:

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Medical care/expenses (not otherwise covered by other programs or insurance)
- Expenses required to maintain safety and shelter

16. Funding through the VEF will not be provided on the basis of the following categories:

- Funding requests of an ongoing nature (e.g. a series of payments such as rent, mortgage, vehicle payments, etc.)
- Funding requests of a commercial nature
- Funding requests to purchase non-essential goods, services or travel
- Any other expense that is otherwise covered by a Provincial, Federal or an eligible insurance program or benefit.

## Definitions

For the purpose of administering this policy the following definitions apply.

17. Veteran: A Veteran is a person with Regular or Reserve Force service (regardless of the amount of time served) in the Canadian Armed Forces or merchant navy, or in the navy, army, air forces or merchant navies of Her Majesty's allied forces.

NOTE: A CAF member who has left service and become a Veteran but who then subsequently rejoined the CAF, and is therefore a serving member at the time of application, shall remain eligible for funding under the VEF.

18. Spouse: A spouse refers to a person who is married to and residing with a Veteran. A spouse and Veteran who are involuntarily or temporarily separated will still be considered spouses for the purposes of the VEF.

19. Common Law Partner: For the purposes of the VEF, a common-law partner is someone who, at the time of application, is cohabitating with the Veteran in a conjugal relationship and has been doing so for at least the preceding twelve months. In the case of an involuntary or temporary separation at the time of application, they will still be considered a common law partner for the purposes of the VEF.

20. Involuntary or Temporary Separation: An involuntary or temporary separation includes, but is not limited to, situations such as when one spouse or common-law partner is away for work, school, or health reasons. Cases of temporary separation of Veterans and their common-

law partners will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

21. Survivor: A survivor, in relation to a deceased Veteran or CAF member, means the spouse or common-law partner who was, at the time of the Veteran's or CAF member's death, normally residing with the Veteran. A survivor who was involuntarily or temporarily separated from the Veteran or CAF member at the time of death will be considered to be normally residing with them for the purposes of the VEF.
22. Orphan: An orphan, in relation to a deceased member or a deceased Veteran, means their child, or a child of their survivor or a child of a former spouse/former common-law partner who was, at the time of the member's or Veteran's death, receiving financial support from the Veteran, and who is, at the time of application:
- under the age of 18 years;
  - under the age of 25 years and following a course of instruction [3]; or
  - over the age of 18 years and prevented by physical or mental incapacity from earning a livelihood, if the incapacity occurred
    - before the child attained the age of 18 years, or
    - after the age of 18 years and before the age of 25 years while the child was following a course of instruction [3].
23. Dependent: A dependent is the Veteran's natural or adopted child or a child of his/her spouse or common-law partner, or a child of the former spouse/former common-law partner to whom the Veteran provides financial support. This includes a child who is:
- under the age of 18 years;
  - under the age of 25 years and following a course of instruction [3]; or
  - over the age of 18 years and prevented by physical or mental incapacity from earning a livelihood, if the incapacity occurred
    - before the child attained the age of 18 years, or
    - after the age of 18 years and before the age of 25 years while the child was following a course of instruction [3].
24. Household: Refers to a person or a group of persons who occupy a collective dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada, and for the purposes of this section includes an Orphan or Dependent, regardless of whether they physically reside with the Veteran.
25. Financial Support: Refers to money provided to assist and support a child or dependent with the necessities of life, which includes but is not limited to food, shelter, clothing, education, child-care expense or other expenses which are necessary because they are in the best interests of the child.

26. Liquid Assets: Are assets in the form of cash or easily convertible into cash (e.g. savings or chequing account). A credit card or line of credit is not considered a liquid asset.

#### Footnotes

[1] An example of circumstances where the amount exceeds \$2,500 may be the unexpected costs associated with crucial inter-provincial travel to a children's hospital.

[2] Overpayments as outlined in the Overpayments – Recovery, Remission and Write Off Policy

[3] Course of Instruction as outlined in the Children Following a Course of Instruction Policy.

#### References

[Children Following a Course of Instruction](#) - Policy

[Order-in-Council #2017-1696](#)

[Overpayments – Recovery, Remission and Write Off](#) - Policy

[Veterans Emergency Fund Terms and Conditions](#)

May be of interest to the NVOC members.

#### Multimedia

[2019 Veteran's Week Video featuring Shania Twain's song soldier](#)

[The Royal Canadian Legion – Music of Remembrance](#)

- [Veterans Affairs Canada Image Gallery](#)

#### Events

- [Veterans' Affairs Canada Calendar of Events](#)
- [Remembrance Day Events](#)
- [Veterans' Week Parade](#)

#### Feature Links

- [National Veterans' Week Speakers Program](#)
- [National Defence Veterans' Week](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Canada](#)
- [Operation Veteran](#)



## 2019 Historic Milestones

- [75th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign](#)
- [75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy](#)
- [5th Anniversary of the end of Canadian mission in Afghanistan](#)

### National Remembrance Ceremonies

The launch of the National Poppy campaign by the Governor General on October 15th, at which a number of us represented CAVUNP, was the beginning of Remembrance time of the year.

Next Tuesday, November 5th is the Annual Candlelight Tribute at the Canadian War Museum, as per the invitation I forwarded to you earlier this month.

Attached is an invitation of an event of which I only learned today, "Letters in a Time of War", at the Canadian War Museum on Sunday November 10th at 4:00 pm. This looks very interesting.

Monday November 11th the National Remembrance Ceremony will again be held at the Cenotaph. Veterans are welcome to gather in the Adams Room of the Chateau Laurier any time after 0800 hrs, from where we will form up for parade as directed to arrive at the Cenotaph by 1035. I can confirm that after the parade the Chateau Laurier, as it has done for many years, will be providing lunch for all veterans.

That morning there will also be a Remembrance Observance at the National Military Ceremony in Beechwood Cemetery. This has become increasingly well attended. I believe this is also at 1100 hrs but I have not been able to confirm any details about this event. If any of you has further information about this, please send them with a "reply to all" to this msg.

You have also received a notice forwarded from Wayne MacCulloch about participation in a wartime meal at "Encounters with Canada" on Wednesday November 13th. If you haven't yet expressed your interest to him pls do so.

There are many other remembrance ceremonies, services and other events happening around Canada Remembers Week in schools, communities, towns, etc.

You are encouraged to attend as many as you are able so that our blue beret (and blazer if you have one) is seen on such very important occasions. If you know of any events which you would like to bring the attention of other members of CAVUNP please use the helpful "reply to all" button.

In Memory of Col John Gardam. I'm delighted to be able to tell you that, as reported at our October chapter meeting, we have received sufficient contributions to proceed with our project of a bench in the Peacekeepers Park in Angus, Ontario (near CFB Borden). Contributions are still welcome and donations over and above the costs of the bench will be used to fund plaques being installed at the Memorial for each individual who died. We would like to have the bench installed some time in the spring and a number of our members have expressed an interest in being present.

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## [Celebrating the Canadian Military Engineers](#)

The Great Trail

On a beautiful sun-filled day in September 2019, a diverse group of supporters joined Trans Canada Trail in recognizing its long-standing partnership with the Canadian Military Engineers, at The Great Trail's recently renovated pavilion in Dartmouth, N.S. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Canadian Army divers assist with Saint John River microplastics study](#)

Canadian Army

The Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering Army Dive Centre and the 5th Canadian Division Support Group Environmental Services Branch helped advance the research of Atlantic Canada scientists from Mount Allison University who are studying the emerging concerns of microplastics (MPs) pollution in the Saint John River watershed. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Campagne du coquelicot: les Montréalais sont invités à rendre hommage aux vétérans](#)

45e Nord

En cette semaine du lancement de la Campagne du coquelicot, le maire suppléant, Sterling Downey, a accueilli vendredi 25 octobre à l'hôtel de ville le président de la Légion royale canadienne, M. Kenneth Ouellet, ainsi que des vétérans montréalais. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [44 Engineer Squadron wraps up training exercise near Trail](#)

Columbia Valley Pioneer

Approximately 50 soldiers with the regional 44 Engineer Squadron recently conducted a four-day training exercise near Trail to practice key engineering skills. Squadron members were also joined by Canadian Army Reservist personnel from the Lower Mainland, who are a part of the 39 Combat Engineer Regiment parent unit. Training included rock and concrete drilling using hydraulic and gas-powered drills, chainsaw training, heavy equipment operation, non-explosive demolition with expanding grout, and explosive demolition in rock, concrete, and timber. [READ MORE](#)

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## [OP UNIFIER : Un sapeur de combat en Ukraine](#)

Journal Adsum

Depuis six mois, des membres du 5e Régiment du génie de combat (5 RGC) œuvrent en Ukraine dans le cadre de l'opération UNIFIER. L'Adsum s'est entretenu avec le sergent Jean Pelletier, sapeur de combat du 5 RGC déployé en Ukraine. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [Tiny home village for veterans opens in Calgary](#)

CBC News

Fifteen neat little houses, with exteriors covered in wood and neutral paint, have sprung up in southeast Calgary. The buildings will house veterans in need, part of a project led by the Homes for Heroes Foundation in collaboration with the Mustard Seed and ATCO. Fifteen veterans who have served terms as far back as the Korean War and as recent as Afghanistan, will move in. Each 275-square-foot house at 908 ATCO Village has complete amenities. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Miss Trail pins the first poppy](#)

B.C. Local News

For those who went to the Miss Trail 2018 pageant earlier this year, you may recall Miss Trail Robyn Chadwick's award-winning speech wherein she talked about how proud she was of her father's military service to the country. So it was very befitting for Robyn to pin the first poppy on her father, Bob Chadwick, at the Trail Cenotaph on a recent sunny morning. "This is a special moment for me because we've always been a military-oriented family," Robyn said. "To pin the first poppy on my dad really means a lot." Bob Chadwick served in Bosnia in 2003, and is now a retired combat engineer from the Canadian Forces Army Reserve. [READ MORE](#)

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## [L'Arabie saoudite en retard dans ses paiements pour des véhicules blindés canadiens](#)

Radio-Canada

L'Arabie saoudite doit toujours près de 3,4 milliards de dollars en arriérés de paiement à General Dynamics pour l'achat de véhicules d'assaut, selon les résultats financiers du dernier trimestre de l'entreprise canadienne. En vertu d'un accord controversé approuvé par les libéraux de Justin Trudeau – mais négocié par le précédent gouvernement conservateur de Stephen Harper en 2014 –, le Canada s'est engagé à fournir à l'Arabie saoudite des centaines de blindés de type LAV 6.0 (Light Armoured Vehicles), des véhicules de combat permettant de transporter les militaires sur le terrain. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [Commonwealth War Commission launched digital interactive campaign](#)

Canadian Military Family Magazine

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) recently launched a digital and interactive campaign for Canadians to tour the Commission's war graves and memorials around the world. Titled "To the Four Corners," the online resource features stories, videos, and pictures of the Commission's site. According to a CWGC press release, the work of the Commission goes beyond the formal battlefields in Europe and is spread across every continent except Antarctica. Therefore, through this campaign, Canadians can experience even the remotest of sites. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Campagne nationale du coquelicot: les vétérans manquent de bénévoles](#)

Le Huffington Post

Au moment où l'on commence à voir apparaître des coquelicots sur les manteaux et les vestons des Canadiens pour rendre hommage aux vétérans, la section québécoise de la Légion royale canadienne reconnaît qu'elle a de plus en plus de difficulté à recruter de nouveaux bénévoles parmi la relève. C'est ce qu'a confié, en entrevue à La Presse canadienne, le président de la direction provinciale du Québec de la Légion royale canadienne, Kenneth Richard Ouellet, qui chapeaute les 104 filiales de la Légion au Québec. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [The bridge that defeated Hitler: The legacy of the Bailey Bridge](#)

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The Boss Magazine

Winston Churchill once famously remarked that “never was so much owed by so many to so few.” He was, of course, talking about the pilots of the Royal Air Force and their recent triumph in the Battle of Britain, but he could just have easily have been referring to a set of steel beams and cantilevers instead. [READ MORE](#)