

## Media Report, 12 July 2019 – 2 of 2

- News release

July 10, 2019 – Kingston, Ontario – Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada announces funding for CIMVHR in 2019-2020

<https://www.canada.ca/en/veterans-affairs-canada/news/2019/07/veterans-affairs-canada-announces-funding-for-cimvhr-in-2019-20.html>

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca)

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Cher(e)s intervenant(e)s et membres des groupes consultatifs,

L'équipe de mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants aimerait partager avec vous le communiqué de presse confirmant l'octroi d'une contribution financière à l'Institut canadien de recherche en santé des militaires et des vétérans (ICRSMV) de la part d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Cette déclaration a été affichée sur le site web d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Nous vous encourageons à le transmettre à tous ceux qui pourraient être intéressés.

Communiqué de presse

Le 10 juillet 2019 – Kingston (Ontario) - Anciens Combattants Canada

Anciens Combattants Canada annonce l'octroi d'une contribution financière à l'ICRSMV pour 2019-2020

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/anciens-combattants-canada/nouvelles/2019/07/anciens-combattants-canada-annonce-loctroi-dune-contribution-financiere-a-licrsmv-pour-2019-2020.html>

Cordialement,

L'Équipe de mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca)

# Audio Services(HearingLoss)

## Purpose

This policy provides direction on the approval of Audio Services for individuals who satisfy the applicable eligibility criteria to receive treatment benefits under the Veterans Health Care Regulations (see [Eligibility for Health Care Programs – Eligible Client Groups](#) ) or the Veterans Well-being Act (see [Rehabilitation Services and Vocational Assistance – Eligibility](#) policy).

## Policy

### Eligibility

1. Individuals diagnosed by a [health professional](#) with a hearing loss to the degree described in paragraph 2 below, or a hearing disorder such as tinnitus, may be eligible for audio services under this policy. Audio services are services which include hearing tests, the provision of hearing aids and hearing aid accessories, as well as assistive devices and services as listed in the audio services [benefit grids](#).
2. Eligibility for individuals seeking audio services from Veterans Affairs Canada for hearing loss is based on an audiogram indicating total hearing loss of 100 decibels when calculated over the speech frequencies (i.e., pure tones: 500HZ, 1000HZ, 2000HZ and 3000HZ) for either ear, or a loss of 50dB or more at the 4000HZ frequency in both ears.
3. Individuals eligible only for services under the authority of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) (VWA) may receive audio services on a case-by-case basis to help restore them to a state of independent functioning and/or facilitate their social adjustment. Those in Rehabilitation will not be eligible for POC 3 services, or for the repair or replacement of aids or devices, beyond the duration of their Rehabilitation Plan.

### Prescribers

4. Audio services must be prescribed in accordance with the audio services benefit grid.
5. An audiogram should be done by, or under the guidance of: a clinical/registered audiologist; physician; Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist, or another hearing instrument practitioner.

### Services Provided

6. The health care professional should dispense the following services to the extent required by the individual:
  1. Hearing assessment;
  2. Referral to a physician or ENT (ear, nose and throat specialist) when changes in the individual's hearing status or health of the ear are beyond the scope of practice of the provider;

3. Fitting, adaptation, verification and validation of an appropriate hearing aid or device for the individual's hearing needs;
4. Orientation and counselling on its optimum use;
5. Adjustments as required; and
6. Follow-up to confirm that, following a trial period of ninety (90) days, the individual is satisfied with the equipment, that it is in good working order, and that it is meeting the individual's needs.

#### Frequency and Rates

7. Frequency limits for audio services are contained in the audio services benefit grids.
8. The Department will pay an amount based on the rates negotiated by the Federal Health Claims Partnerships for each hearing aid, assistive listening device or accessory, fitting and dispensing fees, or as otherwise established by the Department and noted in the audio services benefit grids.

#### Authorization and Pre-authorization

9. Authorization for payment of audio services exceeding the frequency limit can only be approved on an exceptional basis where:
  1. Less costly interventions cannot reasonably address the individual's health needs; and
  2. Failure to approve the services in excess of the limit would be considered a significant health risk to the individual.
10. Where pre-authorization is required, a current (within the last six months) audiogram, needs assessment and rationale for the particular benefits recommended must be submitted for departmental review. Normally, the six-month requirement would apply to critical devices, such as hearing aids and FM systems. All Rehabilitation only individuals (those with no eligibility under other programs such as disability, treatment, etc.) must be pre-authorized for services.

#### Hearing Aids

11. Hearing aids include instruments with various levels of technology (entry level, intermediate and advanced), and various styles (BTE [behind-the-ear], ITE [in-the-ear], CIC [completely-in-the-canal], etc.). Hearing aids may be provided based on the level of hearing loss and demonstrated need for the requested technology or style.
12. Hearing aid accessories are accessories which are not normally included in the original hearing aid (e.g., cords, dry aid kits, coatings, directional microphones, autocoils, filters, manual t-coils and remote control). Hearing aid accessories may be provided in cases where they are deemed necessary for the optimum use of the device.

## Hearing Aid Remakes and Repairs

13. A remake of a hearing aid is the provision of a new shell for the aid as a result of normal wear and tear, accidental puncture or crack, improper fit, or change of hearing aid size to ensure that the aid has been returned to the equivalent standard of a new aid.
14. Repairs to a hearing aid include adjustments or replacement parts to its electronic components due to damage or malfunction, or replacement of an earmold when earmolds are poor fitting or cause feedback.
15. Loaner hearing aids are usually provided by the provider and are not the responsibility of the Department. When a provider charges an individual for the loan of a hearing aid, VAC will reimburse the individual for the rental cost of the loaner aid. The Department will not be responsible for any damage or loss incurred to the loaner aid.
16. Repairs and remakes for approved hearing aids obtained through sources other than those approved by the Department may be authorized if the individual is eligible for audio services from the Department and the repairs to the aid would be cost effective.

## Hearing Aid Early Replacement

17. Early replacement (within the frequency period) from the date of issue of the previous aid may be authorized if:
  1. In the opinion of the VAC approval authority, it has been determined that the individual has undergone changes in hearing ability significant enough to warrant a new aid (usually 20dB at each of three or more speech frequencies);
  2. Repair of the existing aid, if malfunctioning, is not reasonable (based on cost and effectiveness of repair); or
  3. If necessary to provide a treatment response to the individual's tinnitus.

## Lost or Damaged Hearing Aids

18. Replacement of hearing aids that have been lost or damaged beyond repair during the frequency period requires pre-authorization by the VAC approval authority on a case-by-case basis, subject to the following conditions:
  1. The pre-authorization request is accompanied by a statement from the individual describing the circumstances under which the hearing aid was lost or damaged. Such authorization should only be considered when, in the opinion of the VAC approval authority, the circumstances and explanation offered are reasonable; and
  2. It is confirmed that all other sources of replacement have been exhausted, i.e., manufacturer's guarantee, replacement policy or warranty, provincial programs.

19. Provided it still meets the needs of the individual, the replacement aid should be comparable to the original aid in terms of features and cost. The Department will normally replace only one hearing aid per ear in a four-year period.

#### Assistive Listening Devices (ALD)

20. Telephone amplification may be approved when there is unresolved feedback using a regular telephone in conjunction with hearing aids and a telecoil is not effective. The amplification must be specifically designed to improve the normal conversation frequencies. The individual's level of hearing loss must be at least an average of 30 decibels over the speech frequencies (i.e., pure tones 500HZ, 1000HZ and 2000HZ).

21. Infrared systems or closed captioning services may be approved when:

1. The individual has ongoing difficulties understanding the television or radio despite the use of hearing aids and requires a better signal-to-noise ratio achieved by using the infrared device; and
2. The volume level needed by the individual is disruptive to others.
3. The individual's level of hearing loss is at least an average of 30 decibels over the speech frequencies (i.e. Pure Tones: 500HZ, 1000HZ and 2000 HZ).

22. The FM system may be approved when the individual requires it in most situations where the background noise interferes with their ability to hear speech. FM systems are available for those individuals with bilateral hearing loss, who require hearing aids or have a speech recognition level of 32 % or less with a pure tone average of 50 dB.

23. Signalling devices systems are used to alert hearing impaired individuals of important sounds such as the telephone, fire alarm and door bell. The Department covers the cost of the alerting system and installation.

24. These signalling devices are available to individuals who are eligible for amplification and the average hearing loss at 3000Hz and 4000Hz is 55dB hearing loss or greater in each ear. Without this per ear dB loss, the individual would not be considered to have met the hearing loss eligibility level for an assistive listening device.

#### Assistive Listening Devices Repairs

25. The manufacturer's warranty will govern repairs or remakes to assistive listening devices. If the warranty is expired, repairs will normally be considered for approval in accordance with the frequency limits set out in the audio services benefit grids.

26. Repairs for approved assistive listening devices obtained through sources pre-approved by VAC may be considered if the individual is eligible for audio services from the Department and the repairs to the device would be cost effective.

## Lost or Damaged Assistive Listening Devices

27. Replacement of assistive listening devices that have been lost or damaged beyond repair during the frequency period requires pre-authorization by the VAC approval authority on a case-by-case basis, subject to the following conditions:

1. The pre-authorization request is accompanied by a statement from the individual describing the circumstances under which the device was lost or damaged. Such authorization should only be considered when, in the opinion of the VAC approval authority, the circumstances and explanation offered are reasonable (i.e., repeated occurrences should be questioned); and
2. It is confirmed that all other sources of replacement have been exhausted, e.g. manufacturer's guarantee, replacement policy or warranty, provincial programs and the individual's private insurance coverage.

28. The replacement device should be comparable to the original in terms of features and cost. The Department will normally consider replacing only one device in the frequency period (see audio services benefit grids).

## Lip Reading Instructional Media Services

29. Lip reading instructional media services may be approved when prescribed by a treating physician, specialist or audiologist.

## Cochlear Implants

30. In order to be considered for a cochlear implant, the individual must have:

1. Profound or severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss for pure tones and less than 30% open-set sentence recognition under the best aided listening condition for the better ear;
2. Post-linguistic hearing loss; and
3. Limited benefit from hearing aids.

31. The implant must be recommended by a cochlear implant team consisting of appropriate medical specialists.

## Tinnitus

32. A formal diagnosis of tinnitus will normally suffice in order to begin treatment. However, additional information as to the severity of the condition (perhaps in the form of a full tinnitus evaluation) may be required if there is evidence to suggest that the condition has deteriorated since diagnosis.

33. The following treatments and coping tools may be approved for tinnitus, when the need has been determined by an ENT, medical doctor or clinical audiologist. In jurisdictions that grant prescribing authority to hearing

instrument specialists, prescriptions from these practitioners will be honoured by VAC.

1. Tinnitus masker and/or pillow speakers;
2. Amplification with the use of hearing aids;
3. Amplification with a tinnitus masker added to an aid;
4. Tinnitus retraining therapy; and/or
5. Harmonic sound stimulation (e.g., the zen program) added to a hearing aid.

#### References

[Veterans Well-being Act](#), sections 8-17, 73 and 74

[Veterans Health Care Regulations](#), sections 4(a) and 4(b)

#### [Benefit Grid](#)

## Aids For Daily Living (ADL)

#### Purpose

This policy provides direction on the nature of aids for daily living (“aids for DL”), as well as general guidelines around eligibility and approval of such aids.

#### Policy

#### Eligibility

1. Clients eligible to receive treatment benefits in accordance with applicable policy, and who have a health-related need, may be eligible to receive aids for DL. Rehabilitation clients who satisfy the eligibility requirements of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) may also have access to aids for DL.

#### General

2. Aids for daily living are aids or devices designed to assist clients in performing the activities of daily living (ADL’s). These may include, but are not limited to:
  1. walking aids, such as canes and poles;
  2. self-help aids for dressing and/or feeding, such as dressing sticks and food guards;
  3. bedroom aids, such as lifting devices and contoured pillows; or,
  4. bathroom aids, such as transfer benches, and bathtub rails.
3. Generally, need for an aid for DL is demonstrated if it is:
  1. prescribed by the attending physician; or
  2. identified in an approved rehabilitation plan; or

3. identified in a VAC case plan for a non-rehabilitation client who is case managed.
4. Normally, it should not be necessary to require a prescription for a basic aid such as a cane if it is evident, as a result of assessment of the client's circumstances and needs, that the aid will increase independence, or restore or stabilize the client's ability to perform ADL's.

Additionally, clients do not need to present a prescription in order to be approved for the service when a need for a service or benefit has been identified and supported in an approved VAC case plan, a health professional assessment or rehabilitation plan. In such cases, the need and legitimacy of the benefit would have been confirmed by the decision maker as being appropriate, based on the evidence available.

#### Approval of Items Not Appearing on Benefit Grids

5. Aids for DL that may be approved are normally listed in the [benefit grids](#). Items not listed in the benefit grids may be approved in circumstances where the Department, based on information and medical evidence that:
  1. The device/accessory would qualify as an aid for daily living; and
  2. The aid is clinically necessary in order to maintain the client's health; or
  3. The provision of the aid would increase independence, or restore or stabilize the client's ability to perform ADL's; or
  4. The client's condition and/or general health would be negatively affected in the absence of this particular aid; or
  5. There is no other acceptable device/accessory available in this case; or
  6. Other significant factors exist.

In all cases, it is desirable to have appropriate justification for concluding that the client is a good candidate for the device/accessory being proposed and that the client's health is not expected to be negatively impacted by what is being proposed.

#### References

[Veterans Well-being Act](#)

[Veterans Health Care Regulation](#)

[Aids for Daily Living \(POC 1\) Benefit Grid](#)

## Ambulance Services

## Purpose

This policy provides direction on the provision of ambulance services.

## Policy

### General

1. Ambulance services may be approved for eligible clients if such services are medically required:
  1. relation to treatment of a pensioned or disability award condition;  
or
  2. in relation to conditions that are not for a pensioned or disability award condition if not provided as a provincially insured service.
2. Ambulance services may be approved for transportation to the nearest appropriate health care facility and by the various modes of travel listed in the [Benefit Grid](#); i.e., ground ambulance, air ambulance. The most efficient and economical mode of transportation consistent with the urgency of the situation and the medical condition of the client is to be utilized at all times.
3. Air ambulance services may only be approved for transportation to the nearest appropriate health care facility when ground ambulance is considered by the attending physician to be medically inappropriate. Return transportation to the client's home by air ambulance is excluded.

### Eligibility

4. Eligibility to receive ambulance services is outlined in [Eligibility for Health Care Programs – Eligible Client Groups](#).

### Approval Criteria – Ground Ambulance

5. Payment may be made for ground ambulance services if:
  1. there is a medical need for the service; and
  2. other means of transportation are medically inappropriate.

### Approval Criteria – Air Ambulance

6. Payment may be made for air ambulance services if:
  1. there is a medical need for the service; and
  2. ground ambulance service is medically inappropriate.

Fees for air ambulance are not provincially regulated. Therefore, if circumstances permit, estimates should be obtained, and the service provider offering the lowest estimate should be utilized unless medical circumstances dictate otherwise

## Licensing Requirement

7. Payment can only be made for ambulance services provided by operators licensed in the province/territory in which they operate.

## Third-party Liability

8. Payment cannot be made for ambulance services when there is a third-party obligation to pay (see [Costs Recoverable From Third Parties](#) ).

## Pre-authorization

9. In non-emergency situations, ambulance services must be prescribed and preauthorized as outlined in the [Ambulance Services Benefit Grid](#).
10. In emergency situations, pre-authorization is not required; however, authorization is required prior to providing payment for the service.

## Escorts for Ambulance Trips

11. The Department may authorize payment of fees for an escort to accompany the client during an ambulance trip when one is requested in writing for medical reasons by the client's physician.

12. Payment of fees and expenses for escorts approved for ground ambulance trips is made as follows:

1. for health care professionals, payment should be made under the POC which normally covers the cost of services provided by the health professional (e.g. for nurses, payment would be made under [Nursing Services](#) ), and
2. for non-health care professionals, payment is made under the conditions and rates payable outlined in the policy on [Health Related Travel](#).

13. Payment of fees and expenses for escorts approved for air ambulance trips is made as follows:

1. for health care professionals, escort fees are not applicable as crew protocol dictates the requirement for air ambulance health professionals and does not allow additional health care professionals; and
2. for non-health care professionals, approval of escort's presence must be provided by air ambulance pilot, air ambulance physician and attending physician. Payment is made under the conditions and rates payable outlined in the policy on Health Related Travel.

## References

[Veterans Well-being Act](#)

[Veterans Health Care Regulations](#)

[Ambulance Services \(POC 2\) - Benefit Grid](#)

## Clothing allowance

Do you have a disability that causes wear and tear on your clothing or do you need custom-made clothing? If this is the case, you may qualify for a monthly clothing allowance to cover this extra expense.

### About this program

If you buy special clothes to accommodate your disability you may qualify for this allowance. For example, you may wear a brace, splint, or prosthetic that requires specially-made clothes, or that causes extra wear and tear. You can also use the monthly allowance to pay for your damaged clothes to be mended.

The amount of the allowance is based on a grade that reflects the nature of your disability.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in respect of the clothing allowance, attendance allowance, and exceptional incapacity allowance.

### Policy

#### Clothing Allowance

1. A clothing allowance may be awarded to a member or Veteran under the authority of subsections 38(4-8) of the [Pension Act](#) for pensioned conditions or section 60 of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) (VWA) for disability award conditions.
2. A clothing allowance may be awarded to a member or Veteran in the following circumstances:
  1. The member or Veteran is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation for an amputation of the leg at or above a Symes' amputation.
  2. The member or Veteran is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation for an amputation of the arm at or above the wrist.
  3. The member or Veteran is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation for two amputations as described in a) and b) above.
  4. The member or Veteran is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation for a disability causing wear and tear of clothing.
  5. The member or Veteran is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation for a disability that requires the purchase of specially made apparel. This does not include minor alterations to a ready-made or factory product.

6. The member or Veteran has soiling of clothing as a result of a disability or the treatment of a disability for which he or she is in receipt of a disability pension or disability award or pain and suffering compensation.
3. In special cases, the decision maker can examine all the circumstances of the case and use discretion in determining whether or not a clothing allowance should be awarded. Examples:
  1. A Veteran has a disability pension for Reynaud's Disease which requires her to purchase additional clothing for warmth.
  2. A member has a disability award for severe burns which requires him to purchase special clothing.
4. In the case of multiple entitled disabilities which warrant an award of a clothing allowance, the following applies:
  1. One clothing allowance will be awarded if the wear and tear affects the same article of clothing.
  2. Two or more clothing allowances may be awarded if the wear and tear affects more than one article of clothing, the need of an appliance, or the need for an allowance for soiling.
5. The guidelines used in the determination of the amount of the clothing allowance (i.e. grade level), can be found in [Chapter 6 of the Table of Disabilities](#).
6. A clothing allowance may be discontinued the date of the next monthly payment when the member or Veteran ceases to use a brace or appliance, no longer requires or does not use specially made clothing, or if the circumstances leading to the award for soiling no longer exist.
7. A clothing allowance ceases to be paid on the first day of the month following the death of the member or Veteran.

Do you qualify?

To receive this allowance you must have a disability benefit for a condition that can impact your clothing.

How to apply

Before you submit

In most cases, you will not need to apply for this benefit. The allowance will be added based on the medical questionnaire you provided when you submitted your application for the Disability benefit.

If you believe that you, or someone you know, is eligible for this allowance you can [contact us](#). You can also apply online, or by mail or in person.

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](#). 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](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Additional information

Find out more

For more details about grades see the Clothing allowance [Table of Disabilities](#). If you know your grade, the Clothing allowance [rates table](#) shows the amount by grade.

Related programs

[Attendance allowance](#): monthly payments if your health needs require personal care support.

[Exceptional incapacity allowance](#): Disability pensioners who are exceptionally incapacitated may qualify for this tax-free monthly allowance.

Read more about the [Clothing allowance policies](#)

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## **Bomb squad called in after climbers find strange object in Jasper National Park**

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Edmonton Journal

A group of climbers found what looked like a rusted shell in Jasper National Park recently, sparking a joint effort by both the RCMP and the Department of National Defence's explosive disposal teams. It was technical work in hazardous terrain but the teams were able to safely detonate the device. Officials haven't determined exactly where the device came. RCMP spokesman Cpl. Jon Cormier said it was likely used for avalanche control. The "explosive armour-piercing round" dates back to the Second World War-era but was likely dropped more recently. [READ MORE](#)

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## **Feds to announce funding for unique veterans' home in Ottawa**

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CBC News

The federal government will announce financial support for Canada's first home designed specifically for homeless veterans, a month before construction is scheduled to start. The Multifaith Housing Initiative is starting construction in August to build the 40-unit home for military veterans struggling with homelessness at the former Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe, east of downtown Ottawa. [READ MORE](#)

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## **À la recherche du Diefenbunker de Rouyn-Noranda**

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Radio-Canada

Félix B. Desfossés est sur ses derniers miles en tant que chroniqueur spécialisé dans le domaine de l'insécurité et, après avoir lancé un appel à tous hier, il nous livre tout ce qu'il a accumulé comme informations à propos de la présence d'abris antiatomiques en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, lieux qui sont

longtemps demeurés secrets et dont certains le sont encore... [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [Bomb squad called after explosive found under bridge](#)

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Liverpool Echo

The bomb squad were called in after an explosive was pulled from a canal under a bridge. The incident was sparked when a rusty grenade was pulled from the Leeds Liverpool canal where Rob Trowler claims he was fishing at the time. The 29-year-old from Ormskirk told LancsLive: "I was with my friend. It's the first time I've magnet fished at that bridge but I magnet fish a few times a week." [READ MORE](#)

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## [Hydrogel based water purification system 12 times better than current systems](#)

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Phys.org

A team of researchers from the University of Texas at Austin, collaborating with a group from the Lockheed Martin Corporation, has developed a new hydrogel-based water purification system — it is approximately 12 times better than existing commercial systems. In their paper published in the journal Science Advances, the group describes their system and how well it tested. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Des plongeurs enlèveront des munitions des épaves de la Seconde Guerre mondiale à T.-N.-L.](#)

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Radio-Canada

Une équipe de plongeurs-démineurs militaires enlèvera la semaine prochaine des munitions non explosées de quatre épaves de la Seconde Guerre mondiale situées au large de l'île Bell, à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Les quatre navires d'environ 120 mètres de long ont été coulés par des sous-marins allemands en 1942, quand l'île Bell était toujours le site de la plus grande mine de fer de l'Empire britannique. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [Serbia's MTI develops improved anti-tank mine](#)

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Jane's 360

The Military Technical Institute (MTI), part of the Serbian Ministry of Defence, has confirmed that it is developing a modernised version of the TMRP-6 anti-tank mine, known as the TMRP-6E. ATMs typically use a high-explosive blast effect charge to disable an armoured fighting vehicle but the TMRP-6 uses an explosively formed penetrator-type warhead that is claimed to be able to penetrate between 40 mm and 80 mm of steel. [READ MORE](#)