

Media report 13Nov 202

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic, callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy.

Honouring one of our NVOC Veterans

OUR PAST National President NATO Veterans Organization of Canada MR Gord Jenkins. Marking 11 November Remembrance Day at his home "STANDING STRONG AND PROUD"

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/#>

Gord said ---- Not properly dressed – had to get out of soaked grey flannels – had radio on outside. Picture was taken during minute of silence.

Darned if I was going to sit inside in pajamas and watch on TV

two photos below from Matt Carson

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/#!/&app=io.ox/mail&folder=default0/Deleted>

https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/20201111_090149.jpg?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=110530&attachment=3&delivery=view

Gordon Jenkins is a native of Ottawa. His wife passed away sadly in 2020 and has 3 children. He won a scholarship from the Canadian Military to attend university. He selected the university furthest from home (then Toronto) and went to Acadia University in Nova Scotia. Upon graduating from Acadia, Gord was chosen as Life President of his Class. He went to basic training for three phases /summers in Camp Borden and was selected best Graduating Cadet before serving with the Canadian Army (Regular Force), Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (Air Supply/Air Movements/Shooting Instructor) in NORAD, NATO France and Germany and Peacekeeping including UNEF1 Gaza Strip and Lebanon where he spent an inordinate amount of time!

After deciding that the military was a young man's game he transferred (without losing a pensionable day) to the federal government at Public Works Canada (DPW). He became the Director of Administration with 10 different sections (after

doing a study of the administration the Deputy Minister (DM) made the horrible decision to have him implement his recommendations). He then became the Departmental Treasurer before being selected by the DM for assignment to the Royal Bank of Canada HQ in Toronto.

After 35 years in military and federal government Gord retired and started his own consultancy firm in Electronic Banking. He then worked, accompanied by his wife, for 2 ½ years in Sweden then on to Hong Kong, Canberra, and Singapore before finishing off in New Delhi.

He is a Past National President of the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada (www.natoveterans.org). He is also Past President of the General Burns Community Association in Ward 9 (www.generalburns.ca). He has been a Freemason for over 50 years.

He was awarded the City of Ottawa Mayors Award by City Council (City Builder Award) in 2013 and was also chosen to be one of "the First 60" to receive the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal at Rideau Hall same year. He has been awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation (2009) for previous veteran's work before NATO Vet Org, also the Ottawa Carleton School Board Community Award (2008) and the International Distinguished Service Award from the Shriners (2007). Quilts of Valour was pleased to present Gord with one of their quilts in their mandate of "providing comfort and relief to CAF members and Veterans".

For more information on Quilts of Valour please visit their website at www.quiltsofvalour.ca

Thank you for your service Gord, you have been a tremendous hard worker for our Veterans and community.

NVOC PRESIDENTS REPORT – 10 NOVEMBER 2020

The DM [General [ret] Walt Natynczyk] and some of his senior staff invited a group of Veteran Advocates to join a "Microsofft Teams" meeting on 9 November [1330 to 1500hrs]. VAC is no longer using ZOOM for these events. I was a participant. Others included Steven Clark – Executive Director, Royal Canadian Legion (RCL); David Hyndman – Canadian Peacekeepers Veterans Association; Pierre Lebrun- RCMP senior executive liaison to VAC;Cliff Trollope – head of Treble Vector <https://treblevector.org/>. NOTE This is a growth veterans organization! Their mission is to enable ex-military leaders to achieve their full potential in the marketplace, through our common values, teamwork, mentorship and our network's connectivity.

ISSUES

- Veterans Long Term Care – LTC for modern veterans- the current position from VAC is that while they have approved some (45 at Perley) they are hesitating on further approvals until they make regulatory changes to keep them “legal”. Given COVID the issue has gone on the back burner. I raised this with the DM and he did speak to the Provincial aspect of working with VAC staff – the preferred words are “priority access beds” for “Post Korea War Veterans”. The DM described the ongoing discussions with each Province – and each Province has particular concerns and desires. A complex and slow process.
- VAC has had over 300,000 “contacts” since March [telephone calls/emails/written queries etc]. Applications for disability claims that exceed 16 week turn around times are less than 20,000 and VAC has hired an additional 300 staff who are at the “virtual school house” getting ready to start reviewing and adjudicating claims by Christmas. The one statistic I thought interesting – VAC has a daily average of \$4million being awarded for disability claims! VAC continues to function – adapting-learning- and adjusting processes.
- Veterans Week is like no other and the situation for gatherings to remember are still tenuous. There is considerable effort by VAC with podcasts - “Faces of Freedom” was one example available on the VAC website. On line engagement is strong. In December they intend to introduce a new consultative platform – “Lets Talk Veterans” and a newsletter will be available – free – veterans will need to subscribe. This has much promise for communication with veterans.
- Homeless Veterans – In November 2019 the RCL hosted a “Veterans Consultative Assembly” [Ted Bransfield and I attended on behalf of NVOC]. Housing for homeless veterans was an agenda item – at the time the estimate was that there are between 3,000 and 5,000 “homeless” veterans. NVOC has provided modest financial support to Veterans House [on the former Rockcliffe Air Base and VAC has given significant financial support to this multi-faith effort [in the order of \$5million]. Small houses in Calgary, housing in Victoria for homeless veterans- initiatives in most cities are ongoing. VAC is not in the “bricks and mortar” business of building homes – they are very engaged in partnering with local people and can provide financial support. Homeless Veterans are not priorities for Municipal or Provincial governments. Solving homeless veterans living conditions need homes and not shelters.
- Veterans Emergency Fund has settled into an average range of usage.Changes were made to the program to allow for increased opportunity for people to access this funding at the beginning of the fiscal year when the pandemic started. Changed terms and conditions around the way in which they apply the fund, for the period of 6 months starting this fiscal year, to allow for the maximum amount of money for Veterans and their families to access. This was initially set for a period of 6 months starting at the beginning of this fiscal year. This is now being extended until the end of March 2021.

- Long Term Care – Similar approach to the Veteran Emergency Fund, amended the rules so that that families who want to take their Veteran who is placed in long term care home can do so. This has been extended until the end of fiscal year, March 31, 2021.

Ceremonies that help us all Remember past and present service to the Nation will be different this year. We can wear a Poppy and remember in our homes and communities tomorrow 11 November. If you are a non-profit organization or a registered charity that supports Veterans and their families, the Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund (VOESF) may help your organization maintain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. A one-time-only call for applications will run from 10 to 22 November 2020.

Randy

Randy Stowell,CD

National President

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

Nishika Jardine is named as new Veterans Ombudsperson / Nishika Jardine est le nouvel ombudsman des vétérans

- Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members,
Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach would like to share with you the following news release - [The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, welcomed the appointment of Nishika Jardine as the new Veterans Ombudsperson.](#)

This has been posted to the Veterans Affairs Canada website. We encourage you to pass this along to anyone who may be interested.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

Cher(e)s intervenant(e)s et membres des groupes consultatif, L'Équipe de Mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants aimeraient partager avec vous le communiqué de presse suivant – [L'honorable Lawrence MacAulay, ministre des Anciens Combattants et ministre associé de la Défense nationale, a](#)

[salué la nomination de Nishika Jardine à titre de nouvel ombudsman des vétérans.](#)

Ce communiqué de presse a été affiché sur le site Web d'anciens combattants Canada. Nous vous encourageons à le transmettre à tous ceux qui pourraient être intéressés.

Cordialement,
L'Équipe de Mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants
Anciens Combattants Canada
vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

National Remembrance Day Ceremony 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al3qm3dCtHU>

Canada Pension Plan Amounts and the Consumer Price Index

1.0%

The indexing rate for 2021 is 1.0%. The indexing of public service pension plan benefits is governed by two pieces of legislation; the Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA) and the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (SRBA).

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&lei=HSWsX_KcNO2IggenvoyIDw&q=pension%20indexing%20rate%20for%202021%20canada&ved=2ahUKEwiyn-vKh_vsAhVthOAKHScfA_EQsKwBKAN6BAgjEAQ&biw=1600&bih=739

Indexing rate – Retired members – Pension – Canada.ca

Canada Pension Plan (CPP) rate increases are calculated once a year using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) All-Items Index. They come into effect each January. These increases are legislated under the [Canada Pension Plan](#) so that benefits keep up with the cost of living.

COVID-19 income aid could cost Canadians at tax time, experts say

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/money/topstories/covid-19-income-aid-could-cost-canadians-at-tax-time-experts-say/ar-BB1aXZ2d?li=AAggNb9>

[Back by popular demand for the third time](#) -- COVID-19 Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund / COVID-19 Fonds d'urgence à l'appui des organismes de vétérans

Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members,

Veterans' organizations play a critical role in the lives and well-being of Veterans

and their families. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of your organizations are experiencing a significant loss of charitable donations and other fundraising revenues.

Today, I am pleased to announce that Veterans Affairs Canada will begin receiving applications for the Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund—a fund specifically designed to help Veterans organizations continue to operate and serve Veterans and their families in their communities.

Non-profit and charitable Veterans organizations can apply for the fund. It will be a one-time payment provided in the form of a grant to address a portion of your core operational costs. Applications for funding and further information on how to apply are available [here](#). If you have questions please e-mail vac.vo esf-fuaov.acc@canada.ca.

A significant portion of the \$20 million fund will go to the Royal Canadian Legion (\$14 million), ANAVETS (\$1 million), True Patriot Love (\$1.5 million) and VETS Canada (\$850,000) to cover a portion of their operating expenditures. If you are part of The Royal Canadian Legion and/or representing a Legion branch, you should contact the RCL Dominion Command for more information at 1-888-556-6222. If you are part of ANAVETS and/or representing a provincial command or part of a Unit, you should contact the Dominion Command for more information at 613-744-0222 or ANAVETS@STORM.CA

Thank you for all the work you and your organization are doing to help Veterans during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay

Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

Chers intervenants et membres des groupes consultatifs,

Les organismes de vétérans jouent un rôle essentiel dans la vie et le mieux-être des vétérans et de leur famille. En raison de la pandémie de COVID-19, bon nombre de vos organismes subissent une importante perte de dons de bienfaisance et d'autres revenus de collecte de fonds.

Aujourd'hui, je suis heureux d'annoncer qu'Anciens Combattants Canada commencera à recevoir les demandes au titre du Fonds d'urgence à l'appui des organismes de vétérans – un fonds spécialement conçu pour aider vos organismes à continuer de fonctionner et de servir les vétérans et leur famille dans leur collectivité.

Les organismes de vétérans sans but lucratif et de bienfaisance peuvent présenter une demande au titre du Fonds. Il s'agira d'un paiement unique fourni sous la forme d'une subvention pour couvrir une partie des coûts opérationnels de base de vos organismes. Les demandes de financement et d'autres renseignements sur la façon de présenter une demande se trouvent [ici](#). Si vous avez des questions, veuillez les adresser au courriel suivant: vac.vo esf-fuaov.acc@canada.ca.

Une part importante du financement de 20 millions de dollars sera versée aux organismes de vétérans sans but lucratif et de bienfaisance, comme la Légion royale canadienne (14 millions de dollars), ANAVETS (1 million de dollars), la Patrie gravée sur le cœur (1,5 million de dollars) et VETS Canada (850 000 \$) afin de couvrir une partie de leurs dépenses de fonctionnement. Si vous êtes membres de la Légion royale canadienne ou un représentant d'une succursale de la Légion, vous devriez communiquer avec la Direction nationale de la Légion royale canadienne pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements au 1-888-556-6222. Si vous faites partie d'ANAVETS, représentez une direction provinciale ou faites partie d'une unité, vous devriez communiquer avec la Direction générale au 613-744-0222 ou à ANAVETS@STORM.CA pour obtenir plus d'information.

Je vous remercie de tout le travail que vous et vos organismes accomplissez pour aider les vétérans pendant cette période difficile.

Cordialement,

L'honorable Lawrence MacAulay

Ministre des Anciens Combattants et ministre associé de la Défense nationale

Funeral and burial assistants

Funeral and burial assistance is provided through the [Last Post Fund](#) – a non-profit organization – to help pay for funeral and burial services, including a military gravestone, for eligible Veterans.

To qualify the Veteran will have met service as well as health or financial criteria.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for this assistance if the Veteran met the following military service and either the service-related (matter of right) or financial (means tested) criteria.

Military service

To qualify, the Veteran must have been:

- a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or any predecessor naval, army or air forces of Canada or Newfoundland; or
- a Canadian Merchant Navy Veteran of the Second World War or the Korean War; or
- an Allied Veteran who served with the Allied Forces during the Second World War or the Korean War. The Veteran must also have lived in Canada for at least 10 years, or lived in Canada prior to enlisting and was living in Canada at their time of death.

Service-related (Matter of right)

If the deceased Veteran received (or qualified for) a disability benefit from Veterans Affairs Canada and died as a result of that service-related disability.

Financial (means tested)

Eligibility is based on net assets at the time of death. If the assets of the deceased and the financial resources of the estate are insufficient to cover funeral and burial costs, a total or partial coverage of the cost is possible.

In the case of a Veteran with a spouse or dependent children, the combined assets of the couple are considered, excluding:

- A base amount of \$37,720
- \$700 per dependent child
- The family house and vehicle
- Income received during the month of death

If the net value of the estate of a single Veteran is not sufficient to pay off existing liabilities, including the cost of funeral and burial services, the Veteran is deemed to be eligible for this assistance.

How to apply

Please note there is a one-year time limit after the Veteran's death to apply for assistance.

Apply online

An online form may be used to initiate an application. Once submitted, a Last Post Fund representative will contact you. An official application form will follow by mail.

Apply by phone

If you'd like to apply for funeral and burial assistance call the Last Post Fund at 1-800-465-7113.

Additional information

[Find out more](#)

The current maximum rate payable toward funeral home costs is \$7376 + tax. Funeral and burial assistance can cover the following types of costs:

- any medical costs of the deceased Veteran's last sickness that have not otherwise been paid by the Minister and are not covered by a private or provincial health care

plan;

- the following funeral services:
 - preparation of remains,
 - a casket or an urn that meets the standards specified by the Minister,
 - ceremonial services
 - death notices
 - transportation of the remains from where death occurred to a funeral home and to the place of burial and cremation;
- if required, a single grave and reasonable costs of opening and closing the grave as well as its perpetual care;
- a grave liner, if required;
- cremation
- a military style grave marker—upright or flat granite, or in certain cases, flat bronze—fitting with the standards of VAC.

Related programs

[Grave-marker maintenance](#) – Maintenance of all markers and grave sites that were provided by the Government of Canada.

Frequently asked questions

Are all Veterans eligible for funeral and burial assistance?

Any Veteran who meets the service criteria and who dies of a service-related injury or illness or their estates cannot pay for some or all of the funeral and burial costs would be eligible for this assistance.

Can an application for assistance be made prior to a Veteran's death?

No. An application form cannot be issued or approved until the actual date of death because financial information and marital status can change right up to that time. The Last Post Fund would be pleased to discuss the information necessary to apply for assistance under the Funeral and Burial Program so a family member may prepare the information ahead of time should anything occur.

Where I can read about the regulations for this program?

For more detailed information about the regulations, please read the [Veterans Burial Regulations](#).

Op Remembrance Video

In June, DEC approved financial support for a Remembrance video initiative that Dr. Paul Kavanagh, founder of Op Veteran, was preparing for students. That video is now complete and will be shared by Dr. Kavanagh with schools across the country as they observe Remembrance Day this year, albeit in a virtual setting.

The video can be viewed at: [Operation Remembrance 2020: Youth of Canada Honour and Respect our Veterans](#)

Please feel free to also share this video with branches, members or schools in your area.

In Remembrance,

Province, City partner to build 'village' of tiny homes for Canadian veterans

Province, City partner to build 'village' of tiny homes for Canadian veterans

The Ontario government is providing \$200,000 and support for the transfer of an acre of local land to help create up to 25 tiny homes for military veterans experiencing homelessness.

Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries stopped in Kingston to make the announcement on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020.

“Our Veterans, who stepped up to serve our country deserve a place to call home,” Clark said. “These men and women were there when we needed them, and now it’s our turn to provide the support they deserve. Through this innovative housing solution our government is helping to improve the quality of life of some of Canada’s military heroes.”

Tiny homes are small, private, self-contained residential units built for year-round use. The veterans’ village will be constructed from prefabricated modular housing. Each tiny home will provide transitional housing for one veteran in a private unit that includes a kitchen, living room, bathroom and sleeping area.

<https://www.kingstonist.com/news/province-city-partner-to-build-village-of-tiny-homes-for-canadian-veterans/?fbclid=IwAR0KRVRygu8IEZ-ulpf8yh5cXv2GCwEPmo0FQJdE0DyXFabuzN82YwdSGAg>

50 Free Online Courses for Your COVID-19 self-isolated at home

Whether you are self-isolated at home , following government advice, or dispersed to protect yourself, there are options to help pass your time. So, if you find yourself stuck at home for a couple of weeks – or more – here are a few personal development courses available online and from some of the worlds

leading universities. They span military-related studies, leadership and command, military reconstruction and war amongst the people, self-awareness and personal development, instructor skills, and a few little oddities to spark your imagination

50 Free Online Courses for COVID-19 Lockdown

By The Army Leader [British Army]

<https://thearmyleader.co.uk/covid-self-isolation-courses/>

Welcome! You are reading a recap of the latest news, updates and more. Throughout the year, we will share news from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and related sources so you know what's happening.

Here's a look at what's been going on since our last update in August:

On this page:

- [75th anniversary of Victory over Japan \(V-J\) Day and the end of the Second World War](#)
- [National Peacekeepers' Day](#)
- [Shortlist announced for National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan design competition](#)
- [Virtual Series: Women Veterans Forum Update and LGBTQ2+ Roundtable](#)
- [Team Canada's Invictus Games competitors share their stories \(podcast\)](#)
- [VAC National Survey extended until October 31](#)
- [Over 2,750 people participated in the annual Navy Bike Ride](#)
- [Have you downloaded the free COVID Alert app yet?](#)
- [Here's a look at what's coming up](#)

Honouring Our Veterans

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=e3ac4a30959c3a73fb47df888&id=ca8200d8f9>

IN the news

No Sapper Can Be Forgotten — Remembrance Day 2020

James Melville, The man who brought the poppy to Canada

Special offer from the Legion

Offre speciale de le Légion

Markham, ON, seniors hard at work making Izzy Dolls

National Remembrance Day Ceremony 2020: A more intimate commemoration

Cérémonie nationale du jour du Souvenir 2020 : Une commémoration à participation réduite

CAF releases CANFORGEN regarding upcoming Army Technical Staff Officer Program and Army Technical Warrant Officer Program

Alberta-born soldier killed in Netherlands in Second World War identified

Des coquelicots d'acier pour honorer la mémoire de six soldats

Greening of defence infrastructure on track in Gagetown

Canadian Armed Forces gave direction to Parksville's Kevin Pavan

Tim Hortons offrira des boissons chaudes GRATUITES aux vétérans et aux soldats canadiens à l'occasion du jour du Souvenir