

Media Report 19 JAN 2024

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 healthy'

Maximum Rates for the Veterans Independence Program12024

Veterans and Primary Caregivers2 Service Maximum Rates (per year) Home Care Services Housekeeping3 *up to Home Care Services total amount Grounds Maintenance

\$1,837.25 Access to Nutrition \$10.64 per meal Health and Support3 *up to Home **Care Services total amount Personal Care For recipients of Attendance Allowance, the amount is not to exceed the cost of service for up to 59 days per year.**

Total amount of financial assistance for the five Home Care services listed above cannot exceed \$13,167.10 per year.

Ambulatory Health Care

\$1,531.06 Transportation \$1,837.25 Home Adaptations (for principle residence) \$7,533.33 Survivors Service **Maximum Rates (per**

year) Housekeeping *up to Survivor total amount Grounds Maintenance \$1,837.25 Total amount of financial assistance

for Survivors cannot exceed \$3,556.62 per year **Maximum Rates for Long Term Care Service Maximum Rates** (per day) Intermediate care \$184.46 Chronic care in a community facility \$309.54

1 Rates are adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index or Public Service Wage rates in accordance with Section 75(1)(3) of the Pension Act. 2 Primary Caregivers are eligible for Housekeeping and Grounds Maintenance benefits only. 3There are no individual maximums for Housekeeping or Health and Support Services; however

The Veterans Independence Program provides annual tax-free funding for services such as grounds maintenance, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, and professional health and support services.

This program does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it is intended to work with those programs to help meet your needs.

Note: If you think you may have a need for these services, be sure to complete the Veterans Independence Program application at the same time as your Pain and Suffering Compensation application. If approved, this will allow you to access support at the earliest possible date.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Veterans Independence Program if you need home care services and you:

- have qualified for a disability benefit, or
- have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance, or
- receive Prisoner of War Compensation, or
- are eligible for, but can't access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed) in a long term care facility.

How to apply

Apply online

Apply online through My VAC Account. Applying is easier with a guided form. Sign in or register for My VAC Account.

[My VAC Account](#)

Mail or in person

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

[Go to 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

Services covered by VIP funding include:

- Grounds maintenance (can include snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.)
- Housekeeping (can include assistance with cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, errands, etc.)
- Access to nutrition (e.g. meal delivery services)
- Professional healthcare and support (nursing services, occupational therapy, assessments, etc.)
- Personal care
- Ambulatory healthcare (assessments, diagnostics, activities and transportation to these services)
- Transportation (transportation to social or community activities)
- Long term care
- Home adaptations (contribution towards modifications to the Veteran's principal residence that are necessary for the Veteran to carry out everyday activities).

See [current maximum rates payable](#) for these services.

[Healthcare service providers](#) - Learn more about providing VIP services and how to become a registered provider.

Related programs

[Disability Benefit](#): Compensation to recognize that your injury or illness is a result of your military service.

[War Veterans Allowance](#): Monthly payments if you have a low household income.

[Prisoner of War Compensation](#): Monthly compensation if you were taken prisoner or detained by enemy forces.

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

[Veterans Independence Program for survivors](#): As a surviving spouse, you may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

[Veterans Independence Program for primary caregiver](#): You may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

[Guided support](#) – Sometimes life situations can be challenging. When the challenge is too much to handle independently, Guided Support services can help you and your family.

Frequently asked questions

What is the fastest way to apply for VIP services?

The fastest way to apply is by using [My VAC Account](#).

I am currently living outside of Canada, can I still receive my VIP benefits?

Unfortunately, Veterans Independence Program payments can only be provided to you when you are residing in Canada.

Can I choose any provider of services?

You may obtain services from the provider of your choice.

How is my housekeeping/grounds maintenance grant calculated?

The housekeeping and grounds maintenance grants are calculated based on your level of need and the going rate for these services in your area, up to allowable maximum amount. These rates are determined by a review of costs for these services across the country, including the labour market index. This national rate table shows the going rates payable by geographic area.

What is a “Benefit Year”? Do my benefits have an end date?

We create one-year arrangements for VIP benefits, however this does not mean that your benefits will stop after one year. Your benefits will continue for as long as you need them. The one-year arrangement is a mechanism we use to help manage your support. However, if your health needs or other circumstances change at any time, please contact us.

Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation – Nominate someone today! / Mention élogieuse du ministre des Anciens Combattants – Proposez une candidature dès maintenant!

Le français suit.

As we enter a new year, Canadians from coast to coast to coast continue to honour the service and sacrifice of Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. These volunteers and the work they do make a lasting impact in communities across the country.

Do you know someone who volunteers to support Canadian Veterans?

Whether it's someone from your own organization or in your hometown, we encourage you to nominate them for the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

This award recognizes a diverse range of work performed in contribution to the care and well-being of Veterans, and the remembrance of their achievements and sacrifices.

We have extended the **31 January 2024** deadline to the end of February, so you have the opportunity to submit a fulsome application.

We encourage you to share this message with your colleagues.

Learn more and [nominate someone today.](#)

Alors que nous entamons la nouvelle année, les Canadiens d'un océan à l'autre continuent d'honorer le service et le sacrifice des vétérans, des membres des Forces armées canadiennes et de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada. Ces bénévoles et le travail qu'ils accomplissent ont un impact durable dans les communautés à travers le pays.

Connaissez-vous quelqu'un qui fait du bénévolat pour appuyer les vétérans canadiens?

Que ce soit quelqu'un de votre propre organisme ou de votre ville, nous vous encourageons à présenter une candidature pour la Mention élogieuse de la ministre des Anciens Combattants.

Cette distinction reconnaît un large éventail de travaux contribuant aux soins et au bien-être des vétérans, ainsi qu'à la commémoration de leurs réalisations et sacrifices.

Nous avons prolongé la date limite du **31 janvier 2024** jusqu'à la fin du mois de février afin que vous ayez l'occasion de soumettre une demande complète.

Nous vous encourageons à partager ce message avec vos collègues.

Apprenez-en plus et [présentez une candidature aujourd'hui](#).

<https://natoassociation.ca/>

The Royal Canadian Legion
National Headquarters
86 Aird Place
Ottawa, ON K2L 0A1

Dear Members of the Royal Canadian Legion,

Re: NATO's 75th Anniversary: A Country Wide Celebration of NATO and Canada's Role in the Alliance

Next year, April 4th, 2024, will mark the 75th anniversary of NATO ensuring the collective defence of its member countries. Throughout the upcoming year, the NATO Association of Canada will be organizing various events across the country highlighting NATO's history and Canada's role in the alliance. In addition to hosting events, we also launched a 2024 Canada-wide event schedule featuring events in relation to NATO and the 75th anniversary.

The country-wide event schedule consolidates individual events taking place across the country into a single Canada-wide celebration of NATO's 75th anniversary. The schedule will be featured on our social media and shared across the country to bring increased

attention to the organizations and institutions coordinating NATO related events. If your branch is planning or is interested in planning an event highlighting its part in NATO's history or present-day operations and would like to be featured in our 2024 event calendar, please contact us at Bogdana.Torbina@natoassociation.ca including the following details about your event:

- Title, date & location:
- Link to a webpage mentioning the details of the event OR a brief 50 to 250 word summary of the event to be featured on our website including your preferred contact details and registration link (if applicable):

If your organization is not currently planning an event, but would be interested in doing so, we would also like to offer support.

Our collective goal is to bring awareness about NATO and the role of Canada and Canadians in supporting the alliance. We invite you to be a part of this initiative and share your organization's contribution to NATO's collective history.

Robert Baines

President & CEO

NATO Association of Canada

Government Vacation Rewards is the Travel Community for CF One Members!

CF One Members receive exclusive offers and can save up to 60% on Cruise, Resort, Flights, Car Rentals and more. New Members receive an instant \$250USD Travel Credit on us!

Resorts - Choose from over 250,000 resorts worldwide.

Cruise - Choose from over 45 contemporary & luxury cruise lines.

Tours - Cruise the Rhine, take a safari or climb Mt. Kilimanjaro

Hotels - Best rates on 1000's of Hotels worldwide.

Now available - Sunshine Travel Sale. Guaranteed the lowest travel rates in 2024.

Ask your GVR Travel specialists about additional savings options with upgraded memberships.*

IN THE MEDIA

['Definitely a Trap': Ukraine's Sappers Face New Dangers](#)

Kyiv Post

A deafening explosion shakes the ground, sending lumps of dirt and smoke into the air, breaking the seeming tranquility of a cold January morning in the frozen fields of war-torn Ukraine's eastern Donbas region. After almost two years of grinding trench warfare against invading Russian troops, some 30 percent of Ukrainian territory is thought to be littered with unexploded mines. [Read More](#)

[Ukraine builds barricades, digs trenches as focus shifts to defence](#)

Reuters

Rows of white concrete barricades and coils of razor wire stretch across an open field for more than a kilometre. Trenches with rudimentary living quarters are being dug under cover of darkness. Artillery rumbles not far away. New defensive lines visited by Reuters near the northeastern city of Kupiansk on Dec. 28 show how Ukraine has stepped up construction of fortifications in recent months as it shifts its military operations against Russia to a more defensive footing. [Read More](#)

[Winnipeg military team parachuted into remote Northwest Territories to rescue plane crash survivors](#)

CBC

A military search and rescue team from 17 Wing Winnipeg navigated through treacherous terrain and weather to save 10 people whose plane had crashed about 300 kilometres north of Yellowknife last week. The Twin Otter plane operated by Air Tindi, a Yellowknife-based airline, was carrying eight passengers and two crew members when it went down on the afternoon of Dec. 27. [Read More](#)

[Bond en avant dans la logistique militaire des Forces Canadiennes](#)

TruckStopQuebec

L'engagement du gouvernement canadien à doter les Forces armées canadiennes (FAC) de véhicules et d'équipements de pointe se concrétise de manière significative avec le projet de Modernisation des Véhicules Logistiques (LVM). Cette initiative est cruciale pour renforcer les capacités opérationnelles des FAC tant au niveau national qu'international. [Lire Plus](#)

[Air force worried about keeping new maritime helicopters' weapons systems operational](#)

CBC

The air force is worried about keeping the aging weapons systems aboard its CH-148 Cyclones operational into the future, according to leaked documents obtained by CBC News. It's an understatement to say that the \$5.8 billion maritime helicopters project is a work-in-progress for the Department of National Defence (DND) and the aircraft's U.S. manufacturer, Sikorsky. [Read More](#)

[RCAF 100th anniversary celebrations feature aircraft from Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum](#)

SKies

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, aircraft from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, Ont., will participate in several air shows across Canada. The museum's iconic Avro Lancaster bomber, B-25 Mitchell bomber,

Douglas C-47 Dakota and Grumman Avenger will all make appearances, as well as a Consolidated Canso A, which is based in Victoria, B.C. [Read More](#)

[Questions surround Canada's promise of air defence system for Ukraine one year on](#)

CBC

Ukraine's president says getting air defence systems onto the battlefield is the top priority in the new year, but the system Canada promised a year ago still hasn't been delivered — and it's not clear when it will be. Ottawa announced plans to donate a \$406-million surface-to-air missile defence system, known by the acronym NASAMS, on Jan. 10, 2023. Nearly a year later, one of the two companies involved in building the NASAMS system says it does not have a contract for the Canadian donation. [Read More](#)

[La GRC mène des perquisitions à la base militaire de Valcartier](#)

le journal de quebec

La Gendarmerie royale du Canada mène jeudi des perquisitions sur la base militaire de Valcartier et à une autre adresse de la région de Québec. Les perquisitions ont commencé mercredi soir et se sont poursuivies jeudi matin et sont menées par une équipe intégrée de la sécurité nationale (EISN). [Lire Plus](#)

[Mine-spotting drones and tracked robots: The Army's efforts to breach minefields with tech](#)

Defense One

Faced with a thicket of mines, tank traps, and bunkers, future U.S. Army engineers might not rush to the front. Instead, they may reach for a remote control to choose from a menu of drones and tracked robots to sweep away the problem. Among the several units experimenting with new tech is the 18th Airborne at Camp Liberty, N.C., where engineers from the 20th Engineer Brigade ran a multi-day experiment in mid-December to test various options for breaching barbed wire, dragon's teeth tank barriers, and deep ditches.

Base/Wing — Newspaper

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)
22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)
4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)
CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)
CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)
CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)
19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)
CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)
CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)
CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)
CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)
CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)