

Media report 25 Dec 2020

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A SAFE HEALTHLY 2021 NEW YEAR

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.

As 2020 comes to a close, NVOC would like to wish its members and partners a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year, we would like to thank our readers of the NVOC Media Reports. We look forward in the New Year 2021with supporting and providing you the most up todate infomation regarding our Vetetans we can, thank you.

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

Presidents Christmas Message 2020

The gift of love.

The gift of peace.

The gift of happiness.

May all these be yours at Christmas.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, thank you for all your support and guidance this year. Our thoughts are also with those Canadians that can't be with those dearest to them at this time, whether that be through their duties, either here or overseas, or other circumstances,

The Christmas holiday affords each of us time for gratitude and introspection. We can take stock of all we have accomplished for our Veterans, and all that remains to be done. May this wonderful time of the year touch your hearts in a special way. Wishing you all much happiness not just today, but throughout the New Year.

From our bubble to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season! Stay safe and take good care of yourselves.

Randy

Randy Stowell,CD

National President

Retired Canadian Army colonel Nishika Jardine, -- New veterans ombudsman experienced disability backlog firsthand

[New veterans ombudsman experienced disability backlog firsthand \(msn.com\)](#)

Navy commander Art McDonald named new chief of defence staff

[Navy commander Art McDonald named new chief of defence staff | Ottawa Sun](#)

The latest news on COVID-19 developments in Canada

[The latest news on COVID-19 developments in Canada \(msn.com\)](#)

Born Before 1970? Here Are 7 Discounts Most Seniors Fail To Claim

[born Before 1970? Here Are 7 Discounts Most Seniors Fail To Claim – Improve Savings](#)

Disability benefits

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Start the New Year on the RIGHT FOOT

Do you have an illness or injury from your service? Disability Benefits are financial recognition for the impact this service-related injury or disease can have on your life.

About this program

A disability benefit is a tax-free, financial payment to support your well-being.

The amount you receive depends on the degree to which your condition is related to your service (entitlement) and the severity of your condition, including its impact on your quality of life (assessment).

Do you qualify?

To qualify for a disability benefit you must be one of the following:

- Canadian Armed Forces member or Veteran,
- a current or former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP),
- Second World War or Korean War Veteran (includes Merchant Navy), or
- [certain civilians](#) who served in the Second World War.

You should apply for a disability benefit if you:

1. have a diagnosed medical condition or disability; and
2. are able to show that the condition is related to your service.

If you qualify for a disability benefit, you will receive either a:

1. Pain and suffering compensation * – a life-time monthly benefit or lump sum benefit – the choice is yours.
 - [View the pain and suffering compensation rates.](#)
 - [View all Pain and Suffering Compensation FAQs.](#)
- or
2. Disability pension ** - a life-time monthly benefit. If you have any dependents (e.g. spouse, common-law partner and/or children), your monthly amount will be increased. [View the disability pension rates.](#)

*If you have a pending application for a disability benefit and were expecting to receive a disability award, you do not need to re-apply. Your application for a disability benefit will now be processed as Pain and Suffering Compensation.

**A disability pension is provided if you served with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Second World War or Korean War. For other CAF service, a disability pension is provided in relation to any

application prior to April 1, 2006.

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 any [VAC office](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [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](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [Service Canada office](#) can assist you or call us at 1-866-522-2122. Service Officers with [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) or [The War Amps of Canada](#) can also assist you with your application, including helping you get all of the information you need to support your application. Their assistance is free of charge.

Disability pension corrective payment

If you received a benefit from VAC between 2003 and 2010 and it was under the Pension Act, you may receive a corrective payment because of a discrepancy in our calculations. Most payments are automatic, however, Please [contact us](#) at 1-866-522-2122 if:

- You no longer receive a benefit from VAC, or
- You represent the estate of a deceased recipient.

If you are legally entitled to inherit assets from the estate of a deceased recipient, you may [apply to receive a corrective payment](#) if you are eligible.

Additional information

[The application package](#)—learn more about all of the components that make up an application for a disability benefit.

[How we review a claim for a disability benefit](#)—learn more about how your disability claim is reviewed by the department and particularly, by the adjudicator – a trained decision-maker for disability claims.

[Disability Pension Corrective Payment](#)—If you are legally entitled to inherit the assets of a deceased benefit recipient, you may apply to receive the corrective payment.

Monthly payment dates – 2020

- January 30
- February 27
- March 30
- April 29
- May 28
- June 29
- July 30
- August 28
- September 29

- October 27
- November 27
- December 23

Reviews and appeals

If you do not agree with the decision made regarding your application for disability benefits, you may request a Departmental review. Learn more about [reviews and appeals](#).

Reassessment

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens and medical evidence can show this change in your condition, you can request a reassessment. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your disability benefit, will be adjusted accordingly – unless you are already receiving the maximum amount of the benefit. To request a reassessment, your first step should be [to call us or visit your local VAC office](#).

Tools for Adjudication

[Eligibility Entitlement Guidelines](#)– These guidelines are current medical and scientific descriptions of known injuries and diseases related to service.

[Table of Disabilities](#)– This table helps the adjudicator assess the level of impairment and the impact that impairment has on your quality of life.

Related programs

[Critical injury benefit](#)- A one-time payment that recognizes the immediate impact of the most severe and traumatic service-related injuries or diseases.

[Rehabilitation services](#)- Services to improve your health and adjust to life after service.

[Clothing allowance](#)- Monthly payments if you need new or special clothing due to your health issues.

[Treatment Benefits](#)- Coverage for medical and health related services.

[Benefits for survivors](#)- Financial support or compensation for the survivors of a disability pensioner or of a member or Veteran who died in service or as a result of a service-related illness or injury.

[Financial advice](#)- If you receive a lump-sum payment more than 5% of the current maximum, we can pay up to \$500 for professional advice to help you manage your money effectively.

[Additional pain and suffering compensation](#)- Monthly payments in recognition of any severe and permanent disability, related to your military service, which creates a barrier to life after service.

Programs related to a disability pension:

[Attendance allowance](#)- Monthly payments for a disability pensioner whose health needs require daily personal care support.

[Exceptional incapacity allowance](#)- Monthly payments if your illness or injury impacts your quality of life.

Frequently asked questions

If I apply for the benefit and get declined, can I appeal?

Yes. If you are not satisfied with a decision you may apply in writing for a review. Learn more about [your review and appeal options](#).

How is my request for Disability Benefits decided?

Learn more about [how we review a disability benefit claim](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Disability Benefits](#) policies.

[Read more FAQs](#) about the disability benefits program.

IN THE NEWS

As 2020 comes to a close, a look at the most-read articles from the year.

[Juno Beach Tributes: D-Day Fallen Sappers](#)

CMEA

From June 5, 2020: As part of its activities to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, in 2014 the Juno Beach Center released a “Tributes” feature to recognize each Canadian Soldier who died on June 6, 1944 during the Normandy Invasion. The details in the Tributes were initially incomplete, however, and the CMEA undertook to ensure that an appropriate tribute was published for each of our 18 D-Day Fallen Sappers. Our work is now completed. Our start point has been the work of the “Lest We Forget” project led by Blake Seward, a teacher at Smiths Falls Collegiate in Smiths Falls, ON.

[Sapper Brian Collier remembered on 10-year anniversary of death](#)

Bradford Today

From July 24, 2020: Bradford residents are remembering the late Private Sapper Brian Collier who died at the young age of 24 by an explosive device while serving his country in Afghanistan in 2010. Social media posts poured in, remembering his heroism and bravery by many who knew Collier personally or were friends with his family

['Faces to Graves'... 7 stories down... 134 to go!](#)

CMEA

From May 29, 2020: The non-profit organization "Faces to Canadian War Graves Groesbeek," as part of the Faces to Graves project in the Netherlands, aims to publish a short story of every one of the soldiers buried in Groesbeek. Their latest newsletter is [HERE](#). Their partnership with Holten and Bergen op Zoom Canadian War Cemeteries will eventually realize a database for all of some 2,700 Canadian soldiers who are buried in the three Canadian War Cemeteries in The Netherlands or whose names are on the Memorial Walls. It is intended that all online stories will be available [HERE](#).

[Daring WWII Canadian stormboat rescue saves 2,500 airborne troops but costs 7 sapper lives](#)

CMEA

From Sept. 25, 2020: The night of September 25-26 is the anniversary of the Second World War Operation BERLIN. That operation was the evacuation of some 2,500 Allied airborne troops by sappers across the Rhine River after the failure of Operation MARKET-GARDEN. A memorial at Driel in the Netherlands commemorates the British and Canadian sappers of this operation. An objective of

Operation MARKET-GARDEN was to capture the Rhine bridges between Eindhoven and Arnhem with a combination of British, American and Polish Airborne Forces. This operation is known in perpetuity by the movie *A Bridge Too Far*.

[D-Day engineer vet dies at 101 years of age](#)

CMEA

From April 24, 2020: Corporal Stanley Fields landed at Juno Beach with 5 Field Company, RCE, and attended the 70th anniversary of that landing in Normandy where he was awarded the French Legion of Honour.

[The Netherlands 'Medal of Remembrance in Relation to the Liberation of Holland' is available to Veterans](#)

CMEA

From Nov. 13, 2020: Over the years, The Netherlands has struck several versions of their “Medal of Remembrance” to honour the soldiers who helped liberate their country during WW II. In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, the Netherlands offered a "Thank you, Canada" anniversary medal to the more than 20,000 Canadian veterans who came to Holland to celebrate this memorable occasion.

[Archival crash-rescue training film found](#)

CMEA via Facebook

From Feb. 28, 2020: [THREE MINUTES TO LIVE...](#) Comments by Phil Brown:

There's a bit of a story behind this film. I was assigned to give a three-hour lecture to the Field Engineering course at Camp Chilliwack around 1961. I worked up a slide series and thought what we really needed was a film that showed the technical aspects of our trade. One thing led to another (as it usually does) and the idea of a standard, purely technical film would be a decided asset not only to our crash rescue training at Borden but would also be a good PR film anytime we were asked to give a lecture to civilian Fire Departments who wanted to know why we claimed to be special because of our triple role. Like you, I was like a turtle. If you don't stick your neck out, you'll never get ahead

[CME Day in Adazi, Latvia](#)

CMEA

From May 8, 2020: [Canadian Military Engineers deployed on Op REASSURANCE in the National Support Element, Task Force Latvia, celebrated CME Day by hosting a dinner of grilled cheese, soup, and beaver cake! The event was attended by logisticians, electrical mechanical engineers, military police, and PSP staff that make up the National Support Element, as well as engineers throughout Task Force Latvia. While the dinner of grilled cheese, tomato soup, and chocolate cake was simple one, it provided a welcome change and a small taste of home to our members as they near their fifth month of deployment..](#)

[How to beat the bomber](#)

Legion Magazine

From Feb. 21, 2020: Ten years ago on Feb. 19, an improvised explosive device was found under a major road in Afghanistan. The device was placed about 10 metres down a small culvert — out of reach of equipment, impossible to shield. A robot couldn't finish the job. There was nothing for it but to send in someone — a volunteer — to defuse the nasty thing. Corporal Dale Kurdziel put up his hand. He had only been in the country a few months, on his first tour to Afghanistan, working with the counter-IED task force.

[Put Sapper Tommy Prince on the \\$5 bill!](#)

CMEA

From July 10, 2020: The Bank of Canada has decided to put a new face on the \$5 bill and are

accepting recommendations for great Canadians worthy of consideration. There are many great Canadians worthy of consideration including Sergeant Tommy Prince — a great Indigenous Canadian who embodies duty, courage, bravery, and patriotism

[Future Sapper Officer leads RMC Cadets to conquer Kilimanjaro](#)

By OCdt Jacques D. Pecora, RCE

From Jan. 17, 2020:The Royal Military College of Canada is committed to developing junior officers that lead with distinction for all branches of the Canadian Forces. One way of doing so is to provide Officer Cadets with unique opportunities and challenges. During the Christmas holidays, a group of nine OCdts were sent to Tanzania to climb to the highest point in Africa, Mt Kilimanjaro. After two years of planning and preparation, the group of nine, accompanied by an MWO, had the experience of a lifetime. Mt Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano that sits on the border between Tanzania and Kenya. Its summit, Uhuru peak, towers over the Serengeti at 5895 metres above sea level. After seven days of hiking, the RMC team conquered the summit, but it did not come without its challenges. The greatest of which was acute mountain sickness.

[Big build for big team at Gagetown](#)

DCC at Work

From July 3, 2020:Gagetown's 4 Engineering Support Regiment (4ESR) is a big group, with a big challenge. Their 450-person unit has been operating out of a disconnected group of aging buildings that simply can't meet their needs any longer. "It's a lot of old infrastructure that wasn't purpose built for them," said Jamie Parker, DCC Coordinator, Construction Services at CFB Gagetown.

[Could Canada's next chief of defence staff be a woman?](#)

Global News

From July 31, 2020:Divining who might be the next chief of defence staff after the departure of Gen. Jonathan Vance is like predicting which cardinal will cause white smoke to rise from a chimney in the Vatican. The white-hot question of the moment among the 68,000 Canadian men and women in uniform is whether Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will seek to burnish his progressive credentials by naming a woman as the CDS. If so, there are three leading possibilities. The most experienced woman in uniform by far and the only one who is personally well known to the prime minister is Lt.-Gen. Christine Whitecross. The others are Lt.-Gen Frances Allen and Maj.-Gen. Jennie Carignan.

[How Canada rescued 2,000 Soviets in the Arctic](#)

Malaysia Sun

From June 26, 2020:If it weren't for help from Canadian forces, the Soviet population of Norway's Spitsbergen would have met certain death — either at the hands of the Nazis, or from starvation at the onset of a long Arctic winter. On Aug. 23, 1941, an entry was made in the military log of Canada's Saskatoon Light Infantry: "The men were saying it was the first time their feet had been cold in August." The Canadians had up until then never participated in military operations in the Arctic