

## Media Report 26 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'

**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](#).

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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](#).

Community Engagement Team / Équipe de l'engagement communautaire  
Veterans Affairs Canada / Anciens Combattants Canada  
[engagement@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:engagement@veterans.gc.ca)

**2023 Women and 2SLGBTQI+ Veterans Forum - Veterans Affairs Canada/Forum des vétéranes et des vétérans 2ELGBTQI+ de 2023 - Anciens Combattants Canada**

Dear all/ Bonjour à toutes et tous,

We are pleased to share the summary of our conversations and action items from the 2023 Forum. The discussion and action items in this report will help promote an institution-wide culture of freedom and respect for service members and Veterans, including Women Veterans and those from the 2SLGBTQI+ Veteran community.

[Report: 2023 Women and 2SLGBTQI+ Veterans Forum - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

[Videos: 2023 Women and 2SLGBTQI+ Veterans Forum - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

Nous avons le plaisir de vous présenter le résumé de nos conversations et les mesures à prendre à l'issue du Forum de 2023. Les discussions et les mesures que vous

trouvez dans ce rapport permettront de promouvoir une culture de liberté et de respect dans l'ensemble de l'organisation pour les militaires et les vétérans, y compris les vétérans et les membres de la communauté des vétérans 2ELGBTQI+.

[Rapport : Forum 2023 des vétérans et des vétérans 2ELGBTQI+ - Anciens Combattants Canada \(veterans.gc.ca\)](#)

[Vidéos : Forum des vétérans et des vétérans 2ELGBTQI+ de 2023 - Anciens Combattants Canada \(veterans.gc.ca\)](#)

Manager, Women and 2SLGBTQI+ Veterans Team  
Gestionnaire, Équipe des femmes vétérans et des vétérans 2ELGBTQI  
Community Engagement | Engagement communautaire

**The application form/ HOW TO APPLY/ WHAT INFO IS REQUIRED**

The first sections of the [Disability Benefits \(Pain and Suffering Compensation/Disability Pension\)](#) application form (A through D) are for your personal information (name, address, marital status, etc.). Section E is for your service information. Section F is where you tell us about your condition and its impact on your quality of life; it includes two main parts:

1. Health condition details – to identify your diagnosed chronic or permanent medical condition and to describe how your condition affects you (e.g., daily activities at home, recreation, your relationships, etc.).
2. Your applicant statement – an opportunity to explain how your condition is related to service. This is a key part of your application and will be important to determine your eligibility.

An effective applicant statement will answer these types of questions:

- How is this condition related to or aggravated by your service, or another service-related condition?;
- Did you seek medical attention?;
- Was your condition caused by a single event or by a repetitive injury?;
- Do you have a CF98 (Report on Injuries) or a witness statement related to the condition?;
- Were you on leave or on duty at the time of your injury?;

- Were you serving in a Special Duty Area or on Special Duty Operations?;
- Are there any other details you consider relevant to the illness or injury?

If your condition was caused by more than one event, your applicant statement should explain the series of events related to your service (or to a different service-related condition) that caused your permanent or chronic condition. If you are applying for more than one condition, please complete a separate "Section F – Tell us about your condition" for each condition.

The complete application package will also include:

#### Your health records

This can include your medical reports (e.g., diagnostic reports, discharge summaries, consultation reports, etc.). Usually, we will get these from your service health records. If the information is not in those records, we will contact you.

For Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans and serving members:

We will request a copy of your [health records](#) directly from the Department of National Defence (serving members or recently released) or from Library and Archives Canada (if you are no longer serving).

For Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP):

We will get a copy of your [health records and service file](#) directly from the RCMP. So we can do that, you need to include a complete [Consent for VAC to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties form](#) with your application. [\(See below for details\)](#).

If you also have medical documents from a non-CAF or non-RCMP health professional that would support the diagnosis of your condition, please include these with your application.

#### Medical questionnaires

If you are a serving CAF member, your service health records will usually have the information we require. If not, we will contact you.

If you are a Veteran or RCMP member (current or former), we will send the relevant medical questionnaire(s) directly to you for your current doctor or health care professional to complete and sign.

Your application package may also need to include:

#### Third-party consent form

To have VAC communicate directly with your doctor or health professional, you need to provide a signed [Consent for VAC to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties form](#) with your application.

Additional situations where this form is required include:

- If you are a current or former member of the RCMP, or
- If you are awaiting, receiving, or have ever received payment for this

condition from anyone other than VAC (e.g., Worker's Compensation Board, third party insurance, etc.)

#### Direct Deposit form

The [Direct Deposit Request form](#) allows us to send your financial benefits directly to your bank account if we confirm that you have a service-related disability. If you have already enrolled for Direct Deposit with VAC, you only need to complete and return this form again if you want to make changes to your banking information.

#### Proof of identity

If it is your first time applying for a VAC benefit, you will also need to provide your current and valid proof of identity. You can mail a copy or submit an electronic copy using My VAC Account. Current and valid proofs of identify include:

- Driver's license (provincial);
- Provincial health care card (if it includes photo identification);
- Other provincial identification card;
- Other federal identification card;
- Certificate of Indian Status;
- Vital statistics documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate);
- Employee identification card (Federal, provincial or municipal);
- Canadian passport ; or
- Department of National Defence (DND) Casualty Notification.

You only need to re-submit your proof of identity if there has been a change (such as a name change, moved to another province, etc.).

How do I know I have a complete application?

A complete application for a disability benefit will have all the information we need to make a decision regarding your diagnosed medical condition and its relation to your service. Read more about [how we review a disability benefit application](#).

Apply online or by mail

Apply online using My VAC Account

Use the guided web form to apply for disability benefits in [My VAC Account](#). The application is easy and fast. Your form saves automatically, so you can start your application and come back later to finish it. The questions are targeted to your condition, and the form automatically fills in some information for you when possible, and ensures you have completed all areas.

Apply by mail using a paper form

If you are mailing in your application, be sure to carefully review the checklist (Section I of the application package) and the "before you send your application" section to ensure you have included all the information we need.

## Disability Award Increase

Index

- [What is the new maximum amount of the tax-free Disability Award?](#)
- [How was the new maximum amount for the Disability Award determined?](#)
- [Is the Death Benefit also increased?](#)
- [Will anyone who received a Disability Award or Death Benefit prior to April 1, 2017, benefit from the increased rate?](#)
- [Will I need to apply?](#)
- [I am eligible for the increase in Disability Award. When should I expect a payment?](#)
- [Do I need to complete a VAC 888 Disability Award Payment Options to receive this additional payment?](#)
- [I received a "Verification of address and Banking Information" form. I have verified the information and/or made my changes on My VAC Account, do I still need to upload the form to My VAC Account? My address and payment instructions are the same, do I still need to send the form back to VAC, i.e., Matane?](#)
- [I had to change banks and did not think to notify VAC of the change as I was not receiving any regular payments. My old account is closed, what will happen to my additional payment?](#)

- [I changed my bank account yesterday for personal reasons but my other account is still open, what will happen with my additional payment?](#)
- [My spouse and I have separated in the last week and my account with VAC is a joint account but I updated my banking information today. Will my additional payment go to this new account?](#)
- [I am a Canadian Armed Forces member/Veteran who has received a Disability Award and have not been contacted yet?](#)
- [What do I need to do to get my payment as soon as possible?](#)
- [I am a survivor/dependent child who received a Disability Award and/or Death Benefit payment on behalf of a deceased member or Veteran prior to April 1, 2017. Will I benefit from the increased rate?](#)
- [My spouse/common-law partner/parent was a CAF member/Veteran who received a Disability Award, but is now deceased. Am I entitled to the additional payment? How do I apply?](#)
- [I am an individual who was a dependent child at the time of my parent's death and I am now 18 years of age or older. Will I receive the additional payment directly?](#)
- [I am the mother/father/guardian calling on behalf of an individual who was a dependent child at the time of the Veteran's/member's death and she/he is less than 18 years of age. Will I receive the additional payment on their behalf?](#)
- [How is this one-time lump sum additional payment calculated?](#)
- [I have an outstanding overpayment with VAC. Will the additional payment be used towards this overpayment?](#)
- [I noticed an amount was deposited into my bank account and I am wondering if it is the additional payment related to the Disability Award increase. It shows up as Government of Canada deposit and not Veterans Affairs Canada.](#)
- [I received a letter saying that I can expect a payment within two weeks but I never applied for anything. Can you explain?](#)
- [I received a letter saying that I can expect a payment within two weeks, however it is over that period of time now. Who should I contact?](#)
- [I am a survivor of a deceased Canadian Armed Forces member or Veteran and received my letter and my mother is getting 50% of the additional payment and my sister and I are only getting 25% each. Why is it not split equally among all three of us?](#)
- [I have moved since the last time I communicated with VAC. How can I change my address?](#)
- [How can I confirm OR update my bank account information?](#)
- [Will the new rates for the Disability Award be indexed?](#)
- [I previously chose to have annual payments for my Disability Award instead of a lump sum. Will the additional payment that I receive impact my annual payment?](#)
- [Is the additional payment taxable?](#)
- [I am currently receiving a monthly Disability Pension or a Survivor's Pension and I have never received a Disability Award . Am I eligible for an additional payment? Why am I not included in this change?](#)

- [Is there a plan to have the Disability Pension increased in addition to its annual indexing?](#)
- [Prior to May 2012, Disability Pensions were taken into consideration when calculating the Earning Loss Benefit \(ELB\) amount. Will this additional payment create an overpayment for ELB payment?](#)
- [Will individuals who received an ex gratia payment for a sudden service-related death that occurred between May 2005 and April 2006 be eligible to receive the additional payment?](#)
- [How much will my increase be?](#)

## **IN THE MEDIA**

### **Canada's defence chief Gen. Eyre retiring after 40-year military career**

CTV News

Gen. Wayne Eyre is planning to retire as Canada's chief of the defence staff this summer, he said in a statement to military members Friday. Eyre took on the role in an acting capacity in February 2021, when the Canadian Armed Forces was dealing with sexual misconduct scandals involving several senior leaders. He was officially appointed Canada's defence chief in November that year. [Read More](#)

### **Canada leads the way in building better fitting respirators**

Lookout

A made-in-Canada invention is poised to make respirators used in Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) training more inclusive for all Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members. The final testing phase for the C5B respirator occurred at CFB Esquimalt's Damage Control Training Facility Galiano in Colwood at the end of November. Those leading the phase have declared the C5B respirators a technological breakthrough. [Read More](#)

### **Ottawa a contribué à la 'planification'**

La Presse

Le Canada a confirmé vendredi avoir participé à la planification des « frappes de précision » américano-britanniques contre des zones du Yémen contrôlées par les houthis. Londres et Washington répètent pour leur part que l'opération menée jeudi relevait de la « légitime défense. [Lire Plus](#)

### [Civilian workers on strike at military bases in Ontario, Quebec](#)

CBC

Nearly 500 civilian employees at military bases in Ontario and Quebec are on the picket line Monday, their union says, after negotiations with their employer broke down last week. The strike affects workers at the Petawawa, Kingston, Valcartier, Montreal St-Jean, and Bagotville bases — along with other employees whose jobs are in Ottawa — who deliver programs through Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS). [Read More](#)

### [Russian propaganda campaigns in Latvia flopped, Canadian military says](#)

Ottawa Citizen

Russian propaganda campaigns in Latvia have been largely unsuccessful and have failed to gain traction with that country's population, says a Canadian military briefing obtained by this newspaper. For years the Canadian Forces and analysts linked to the military had been warning that Russia was trying to target Latvians with misleading information about Canadian and NATO troops. [Read More](#)

### [Top NATO military officer urges allies and leaders to plan for the unexpected in Ukraine](#)

Military.com

Ukraine is locked in an existential battle for its survival almost two years into its war with Russia and Western armies and political leaders must drastically change the way they help it fend off invading forces, a top NATO military officer said on Wednesday. At a meeting of the 31-nation alliance's top brass, the chair of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral Rob Bauer,

also said that behind President Vladimir Putin's rationale for the war is a fear of democracy, in a year marked by elections around the world. [Read More](#)

### **Les expéditeurs canadiens ressentent les effets des attaques dans la mer Rouge**

RCI

Les expéditeurs canadiens commencent à ressentir la pression des attaques contre les cargos dans la mer Rouge. Les tarifs des conteneurs augmentent et les bateaux tardent à arriver. Des données du port d'Halifax montrent que 57 des 87 navires – près des deux tiers – qui devaient arriver au port au cours des quatre prochaines semaines sont maintenant attendus avec au moins une journée de retard sur le calendrier, certains avec quelques semaines de retard. [Lire Plus](#)

### **Elistair and Rheinmetall Canada partner on unmanned ISR solution for military users**

sUAS News

Elistair, a leader in long-endurance, tethered unmanned aircraft systems, announced that it has partnered with Rheinmetall Canada Inc. to provide military customers with an on-the-move ISR solution that combines Elistair's fully automated KHRONOS tethered drone with the Mission Master family of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs).