

Media report 27 Nov 2020

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.

## **Ontario Improving Access to Public Service Careers for Veterans**

Former Members of the Canadian Armed Forces Now Eligible for Restricted, Non-Unionized Opportunities in the Ontario Public Service

November 10, 2020

[Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59141/ontario-improving-access-to-public-service-careers-for-veterans>

Update from the Minister of Seniors,  
Deb Schulte

Seniors across the country agree that they want to keep living in their own homes for as long as possible — safely and injury free.

The Government of Canada [recently announced](#) the new [Aging in Place Challenge Program](#) led by the National Research Council. It will partner with like-minded private, public, academic and other research organizations in Canada and abroad to develop breakthroughs to help older adults and their caregivers to live safe, healthy and socially connected lives while remaining in their homes and communities of choice.

The aim is to reduce by 20 per cent the number of older adults requiring nursing home care across Canada by 2031.

The program will support safe and healthy aging in four areas:

- Safety: Innovative living environments and injury prevention at home
- Health: Cognitive monitoring and enablement, chronic health management and daily living support
- Connection: Mobility, transportation and social engagement
- Standards: Smart home standards that support safety, and enhance technical interoperability

The program is currently seeking researchers from the academic community, the not-for-profit and private sectors, and Indigenous governments to [express their interest](#) in collaborating. A panel of experts with lived experience will also be created. Seniors, caregivers and advocates who wish to share their real-world insights and experience are invited to [submit](#) their interest.

#### New Horizons for Seniors Program — Regional Committees Recruitment

The New Horizons for Seniors Program is seeking candidates to serve on Regional Committees, which help ensure that funding decisions take regional needs into account. Members are volunteers who are active in seniors-related issues as well as broader community issues. To help make a difference in the lives of seniors, [submit](#) your application by Nov. 30, 2020.

Reminder to Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) recipients who have not filed their 2019 income tax

GIS recipients who have not already filed their 2019 income tax information should contact Service Canada by calling 1-800-277-9914 and provide their income information over the phone. Service Canada will need to have received and processed seniors' income information by Nov. 29, 2020, to prevent an interruption in benefits in January 2021.

Sincerely,

## Quality of Life Rating Chapter

### •Introduction

This chapter is used to assess the effects of an entitled condition on a Member/Veteran/Client's Quality of Life (QOL). Activities of Independent Living, Recreational and Community Activities, and Personal Relationships are all components considered in a QOL rating. One QOL rating is arrived at for each entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions. The term "bracketed conditions" is defined as entitled conditions which affect the same body areas or result in a similar loss of function and cannot be separated for medical assessment purposes, that are grouped or "bracketed" together to arrive at one Medical Impairment rating.

The effects of an entitled condition may limit or prevent the fulfilment of a role in the above-noted QOL components that would be normal for a Member/Veteran/Client of the same age without a disability.

It must be emphasized that, when and where possible, the usual or accustomed activities that the Member/Veteran/Client was engaged in prior to the disability or worsening of the disability should be the major consideration in determining the QOL effects from the entitled condition or the bracketed entitled conditions. In addition, the inability to perform or to modify usual QOL activities must be directly due to the entitled condition and not other variables or characteristics such as non-entitled condition(s), lack of skill, motivation, choice, availability or access to recreational activities, employment, etc. The appropriate QOL level will be determined based on the provided information. In the absence of the QOL information, a Member/Veteran/Client will be awarded the minimum QOL level 1 rating in relation to the Medical Impairment rating.

Judgement is to be used by the decision maker as to the extent that the entitled condition contributed to the QOL effects versus other factors such as non-entitled condition(s), etc. The Partially Contributing Table should not be applied to the QOL rating as that table is specific to the calculation of Medical Impairment ratings only.

Each time there is a new entitlement award or a review of an assessment, at either the departmental or VRAB level, a QOL rating for each entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions is added to the Medical Impairment rating to arrive at the Disability Assessment. It is the final Disability Assessment which would be the subject of a review or appeal.

Assessment Example:

Member/Veteran/Client is entitled for chronic sinusitis and hearing loss:

Medical Impairment rating for chronic sinusitis

[Table 10.2](#)

(Nose, Throat, Sinus Impairment Assessment chapter) is 5.

QOL rating for chronic sinusitis

[Table 2.2](#) (QOL chapter) at level 1 is 1.

Disability Assessment for chronic sinusitis is 6%

Medical I

[Table 2.1](#) Quality of life (QOL) Level Determination Table

• [Table 2.2](#) Quality of Life Conversion Table impairment rating for hearing loss

[Table 9.1](#) (Hearing Loss and Ear Impairment) is 20

QOL rating for hearing loss

[Table 2.2](#) (QOL chapter) at level 1 is 2.

Disability Assessment for hearing loss is 22%.

The Member/Veteran/Client would have a Total Disability of 28% (6% + 22% ).

## **Partial Entitlements**

In cases of partial entitlement, the Medical Impairment rating and the QOL rating are added and the level of entitlement is applied to determine the Disability Assessment.

In cases of bracketed assessments, the bracketed Medical Impairment rating and QOL rating are added and the highest degree of entitlement is applied to determine the Disability Assessment.

## **Definitions:**

“Activities of Independent Living” refer to the Member/Veteran/Client's ability to sustain effective routines in a domestic and/or work environment and to perform important activities such as using forms of transport which enable the Member/Veteran/Client to maintain self-sufficiency. The ability to work takes into account any necessary changes or modifications to employment or the workplace. Only the impact of the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions on the Member/Veteran/Client's ability to engage in these activities is to be taken into account; the Member/Veteran/Client's inability to do domestic, travel or employment activities for some other reason (e.g. choice, habit, inexperience, lack of skill) is not to be taken into account.

“Recreational and Community Activities” refers to the ability to take part in any activities of the Member/Veteran/Client's choosing. A recreational rating is based on the Member/Veteran/Client's normal recreational and community activities and measures the limitation placed by the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions on the ability to continue those activities. It also takes into account the Member/Veteran/Client's need to modify recreational pursuits or to seek alternatives. Community activities include work in a voluntary capacity.

“Personal relationships” refers to the Member/Veteran/Client's ability to initiate, take part in and maintain appropriate and customary social, sexual and interpersonal relationships. To determine the effect on personal relationships, it is

necessary to establish how the physical and psychological effects of the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions affect the Member/Veteran/Client's usual ability to interact socially with others.

## **Method of Assessment**

To determine the appropriate QOL level, three (3) levels of ratings are used within [Table 2.1](#) (Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3).

Once the appropriate QOL level is determined, and the Medical Impairment rating of the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions is identified, the final calculation of the QOL rating is determined using [Table 2.2](#).

### **Level 1**

At this level the Member/Veteran/Client's QOL is considered mildly affected by the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions. "Mildly Affected" is defined as a slight degree of change in usual and accustomed QOL functioning which is due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions.

### **Level 2**

At this level, the Member/Veteran/Client's QOL is considered to be moderately affected by the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions. "Moderately Affected" is defined as a medium degree of change in usual and accustomed QOL functioning which is due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled condition.

### **Level 3**

At this level, the Member/Veteran/Client's quality of life is considered to be extremely affected by the entitled conditions. "Extremely Affected" is defined as a significant degree of change in usual and accustomed QOL functioning which is due to the entitled condition and or bracketed entitled conditions.

## Calculation of Quality of Life Rating and Disability Assessment

Follow the steps below to calculate the QOL rating.

### Step 1:

Determine the QOL level due to each entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions using [Table 2.1](#).

### Step 2:

Determine the QOL rating using [Table 2.2](#). Identify the Medical Impairment rating for the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions as calculated using the Medical Impairment chapters and apply the QOL level to determine the final QOL rating for each entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions.

### Step 3:

If there is full entitlement for an entitled condition, add the Medical Impairment rating and QOL rating to form the Disability Assessment.

[If there is partial entitlement for an entitled condition]:

the Medical Impairment rating and the QOL rating are added and the level of entitlement is applied to determine the Disability Assessment.

In cases of bracketed assessments, the Medical Impairment rating and QOL rating are added and the highest degree of entitlement is applied to determine the Disability Assessment.

Every Member/Veteran/Client will be assigned a rating from the Level 1 column based on the Medical Impairment rating from the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions (calculated using the Medical Impairment chapters), unless it is determined that the criteria to establish a higher rating of Level 2 or Level 3 are met. To establish a level 2 or 3 rating, the majority of criteria for that level must be met.

**Table 2.1 -QOLLevel Determination Table**

Table 2.1 -QOLLevel Determination Table

QOLLEVEL	CRITERIA
Level 1	<p>Mild interference with the ability to carry out the <i>usual and accustomed</i> activities of independent living, recreational and community activities, and/or personal relationships due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to perform domestic/household activities on own but may require greater effort; or able to engage in usual employment, but experiences difficulty in carrying out full range of occupational activities due to entitled condition and may require modification to workplace, provision of aids or restructuring of tasks;</li> <li>• Able to drive a private motor vehicle or use public transportation independently, but may need vehicular adaptations, special seating or more frequent breaks;</li> <li>• Mild limitation with usual and accustomed type, frequency and quality of recreational and community activities e.g., reduced frequency of activity; may require some assistance to participate in activity; may require changes in routine or activity. Recreational and community activities are still satisfying;</li> <li>• Mild reduction in the *scope, frequency and quality of usual and accustomed social and inter-personal relationships, e.g., contact with family, casual friends, colleagues and neighbours may occur but contact with casual acquaintances and participation in large gatherings may be avoided or reduced; occurrence of conflict in relationships more frequent than before; the inability to carry out some usual and accustomed family or social responsibilities due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions.</li> </ul>
Level 2	<p>Moderate interference with the ability to carry out the <i>usual and accustomed</i> activities of independent living, recreational and community activities, and/or personal relationships due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions: Majority of the following criteria must be met for a level 2 rating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to perform domestic/household activities with assistance/special adaptations; or unable to work full time in normal occupation, or has had to change occupation or number of hours worked, or both because of the entitled condition;</li> <li>• Unable to drive but can travel using public or private transportation with assistance and/or vehicular adaptations;</li> <li>• Moderate limitation with usual and accustomed type,</li> </ul>

frequency and quality of recreational and community activities e.g., reduced frequency of activity; requires changes in routine or activity, able to participate in activity but requires assistance;

- Moderate reduction in the \*scope, frequency and quality of usual and accustomed inter-personal, social and interpersonal relationships; relationships primarily confined to immediate family and close friends; unable to carry out most of the usual and accustomed family responsibilities and is uninterested or distressed by partaking in usual family or social activities or outings due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions.

Extreme interference with the ability to carry out *usual and accustomed* activities of independent living, recreational and community activities, and/or personal relationships due to the entitled condition or bracketed entitled conditions. Majority of the following criteria must be met for a level 3 rating.

Level 3

- Not able to complete most domestic/household activities even with assistance or special adaptations; or unable to work due to entitled condition;
- Not able to use private or public transportation and is dependent on transportation for the disabled;
- Extreme limitation in usual and accustomed type, frequency and quality of recreational and community activities e.g., unable to take part in usual and accustomed activities and unable participate in alternate activities;
- Extreme reduction in the \*scope, frequency and quality of usual and accustomed inter-personal, social and interpersonal relationships. Severely affected relationships with extreme difficulty in relating to anyone e.g. virtually little or no contact with family members, close friends: relationships with family or friends, etc. are almost non-existent and extremely strained; unable to carry out most usual and accustomed family responsibilities.

\*Scope is defined as family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

**Table 2.2 – Quality of Life Conversion Table**

(Medical Impairment rating + QOL Rating = Disability Assessment)

Table 2.2 – Quality of Life Conversion Table

<b>MEDICAL IMPAIRMENT RATING (CALCULATED USING IMPAIRMENT CHAPTERS)</b>	<b>LEVEL 1 QOLRATING</b>	<b>LEVEL 2 QOLRATING</b>	<b>LEVEL 3 QOLRATING</b>
1-10	1	2	N/A
11 – 20	2	3	5
21 – 30	3	5	7
31 – 40	4	6	9
41 – 50	5	7	11
51 – 60	6	9	13
61 – 70	7	11	15
71 – 80	8	13	17
81 – 100	10	15	20

Note: As per the Pension Act, payment of disability pensions/awards/compensations cannot exceed the maximum of 100% as set out in Schedule I or Schedule 3 of the Veterans Well-being Act.

## **Drone swarms' could be used on UK military missions within six months**

The smaller drones will complement strategic assets such as the RAF's Protector aircraft, due in service in 2024

By Dominic Nicholls, Defence and Security Correspondent 22 November 2020

• <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/22/drone-swarms-could-used-uk-military-missions-within-six-months/>

Drones that could be used by the military for suicide missions are being developed with the backing of the Ministry of Defence, the Telegraph can reveal.

The development of “drone swarm” units for UK military service, announced by Gavin Williamson last year before he was sacked as Defence Secretary, could now take to the skies within six months.

The MoD hopes to deploy multiple small Uninhabited Air Vehicles (UAV), better known as drones, to overload enemy air defences, conduct cyber attacks and provide live images to control centres that could be located thousands of miles away.

Some aircraft could even be modified to carry weapons or act as ‘suicide drones’ to loiter over a battlefield and attack targets that break cover.

The MoD has invested £4 million in British company Blue Bear to develop a system of networked drones carrying multiple payloads. The company has matched the funding.

In July 2020 the MoD agreed to buy the first three Protector drones, for £65 million. They are due in service in 2024.

“You’ve got to look at it as a system, that’s where the swarming idea is coming in. We’ve got different UAVs doing different jobs, all collaborating to form a complete mission system.”

## **Only 10 per cent of military aircraft will be manned by 2040, says Defence Secretary**

UK’s Team Tempest project will eventually see AI-controlled planes surrounded by drone wingmen

By Danielle Sheridan, Political Correspondent and Alan Tovey, Industry Editor 20 July 2020 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/20/10-per-cent-military-aircraft-will-manned-2040-says-defence/>

The days of the fighter pilot are numbered, the Defence Secretary has suggested, saying that only 10 per cent of aircraft will be manned by 2040.

In a speech at the virtual Farnborough International Airshow, Ben Wallace made his predictions about what the next 20 years hold for aerospace.

"Today, well in excess of 90 per cent of RAF combat air vehicles are manned and the rest unmanned. I fully expect a major reversal of these proportions by 2040," he said, adding that the UK's combat air sector was "the pride of Britain".

Mr Wallace highlighted Team Tempest, the £2 billion programme launched two years ago to create the new generation of fighter jets, as his reason for feeling "confident about the future".

The new aircraft, due to enter service in 2035, will use AI to enable the plane to fly without a pilot on board and will be surrounded by "swarms" of computer controlled drone wingmen and laser weapons.

# Australian Special Air Service

Today's The Guardian on the fate of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR): Disbandment, while a radical step, has been used elsewhere. In Canada, the elite Airborne Regiment was disbanded in 1995, following the so-called "Somalia affair", during which troops were accused of the torture and murder of a Somali

teenager. [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/25/australias-entire-sas-regiment-must-be-disbanded-after-brereton-report-expert-says?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/25/australias-entire-sas-regiment-must-be-disbanded-after-brereton-report-expert-says?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

Here is a bit of background on the SASR which lead to The

Guardian article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/australia-war-crime-afghanistan-1.5807770>

## IN THE NEWS

[On the front line: Remembering the contributions of Indigenous veterans](#)

[Ghost Town Mysteries: The cenotaph of Phoenix, B.C.](#)

[Des restes de soldats canadiens toujours identifiés 75 ou 100 ans plus tard](#)

[OCDSB student reflecting on great grandfather's journey as decorated Indigenous veteran](#)

[Un nouveau monument aux héros canadiens de la guerre en Afghanistan](#)

[Corps of Engineers of Indian Army celebrated their 240th Corps Day at Pune](#)

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