

Media Report 28 August 2020

This media report will be posted on our website. Go to <http://www.natoveterans.org/news> and click on News – Current News."

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 **Thinking of going back to school after your career in the military? Get financial help to go to college, university, technical school, or a short-term program.**

(Third time requested)

Support you need, when you need it. When the unexpected happens we can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses

- Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendations Awarded to two NVOC National Board of Directors members

I am pleased to inform you all that our National President Randy Stowell of NATO Veterans Organization of Canada and Ted Bransfield NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Vice President and Director of Advocacy. has been awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for there service with the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion. in recognition of there contributions to there community service. Administered by the Office of Minister of Veterans Affairs, this commendation is part of the Canadian Honors System and celebrates exceptional volunteer achievements in a wide range of fields

A short paragraph, that we call a citation, reflects the reasons for there Commendation award.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/who-we-are/departments-officials/minister/commendation>

CITATION:

Stowell, Randall Cornelius CD, LCol(retired), Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Randal Cornelius Stowell is a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces with 36 years of service. He is nominated for the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for his service with the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion.

Stowell has sat on the National Board of Directors for the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada since 2015 and is presently serving as President. In this role, he meets with senior Veterans Affairs Canada officials and rallies parliamentarians to advocate on behalf of Veterans and their families. He also attends commemorative and memorial events as a representative of the organization.

Stowell has also been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 245, Merrickville since 2009. From 2010-2017, he sat on the Executive, including service for four terms as Branch President, Chair of the Sports Committee, Branch Poppy Chair, Chair of the Poppy Committee, and as Master of Ceremonies for the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. As President, he has shown great judgement and leadership in overseeing the entirety of the branch activities.

As a result of his efforts, the branch successfully obtained two federal grants to upgrade accessibility. This resulted in the installation of an elevator and wheelchair lift in the building. He has also spent countless hours performing day-to-day maintenance at the branch and was the "Chief Cook" for four years for monthly dinners.

Stowell continues to perform speaking engagements and monthly visits to hospitalized Veterans.

Stowell, Randall Cornelius CD, LCol(retired), Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

President NVOC

CITATION:

Bransfield, Theodore Steven, Chief Warrant Officer (Retired), CD, Combat Engineer

Chief Warrant Officer (Retired) Theodore (Ted) Bransfield was nominated for the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for his dedicated service to Veterans as part of The Royal Canadian Legion, the

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, and the Veterans Liaison Committee at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. He is also a Veteran, having retired from the Canadian Armed Forces with over 35 years of service as a Combat Field Engineer.

In 2014, Mr. Bransfield was elected to the Executive Board as Service Officer at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593, Bells Corners and continues to serve in that role. As Service Officer, he helps Veterans communicate with Veterans Affairs Canada, guides them through the benefits application processes, and helps Veterans in the community acquire mobility devices. To date, he has helped more than 300 Veterans submit their claims to Veterans Affairs Canada with a great rate of success.

On top of his duties as Service Officer, he has also been a member the Poppy Committee since 2014. He helps with the setup and operations of social events at the Legion, and sits of other Legion committees, including the Honours and Awards and the Seniors Visitations Committees.

Since 2015, he has also been on the Veterans Liaison Committee at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. As part of this committee, he has continuously advocated for the needs of Veterans living in the facility.

Mr. Bransfield joined the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada in 2015 and now sits on the Board of Directors as Vice President and Director of Advocacy. In this role, he has worked tirelessly to advocate for long-term care beds and facilities for elderly Veterans. He is also a member of the Recruitment and Membership Committee.

Ted Bransfield,CD, CWO (retired), Combat Engineer
Vice President NVOC

Education and Training Benefit (ready to go back to school)

[About this program](#)

If your studies have been affected by COVID-19 or you are thinking of applying for the Education and Training Benefit, there is [important information](#) you need to know.

Getting additional training, a certification, a degree or a diploma can help you be more competitive in the workforce; setting you apart from other applicants. Whether you are continuing a learning program or just starting out, the Education and Training Benefit can help finance the education you need to reach your career goals.

The Education and Training Benefit is not limited to formal post-secondary training. A smaller amount of funding is also available for short courses, such as those aimed at career and personal development. This can include business boot camps, workshops and seminars.

The Education and Training Benefit is a taxable benefit.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Education and Training Benefit if:

- you were honourably released from the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve Force) on or after April 1, 2006, or are a member of the Supplementary Reserve and;
- you meet the “length of service” requirement:
 - at least 12 years of authorized days of CAF Service (4382 days) to receive up to \$83,476.48 (2020) or
 - at least 6 years of authorized days of CAF service (2191 days) to receive up to \$41,738.24 (2020).

You have up to 10 years following your release date to access this funding. If you released from the Canadian Armed Forces between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2018, you have until 1 April 2028 to access the funding.

Please note: You cannot access this funding while you are participating in VAC's [Rehabilitation and Vocational Assistance program](#), or if you are receiving

the [Canadian Forces Income Support](#).

How to apply

Before you apply

If you're not sure what education to pursue, consider applying for [Career Transition Services](#) first. This program will give you access to a trained career coach. They will work with you to help you find your best educational or training path.

Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. My VAC Account offers a guided web form that makes applying easier. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

Mail or in person

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

Get help with your application

The staff at any [VAC office or Transition Centre](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Additional information

After you apply, you can expect a decision on your eligibility for the Education and Training Benefit within four weeks.

Find out more

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Education and Training Benefit.

Build your education plan

If you are approved for funding, you will then submit your education and training plan. The first step is to think about your options. Here are some things to consider:

- Are you interested in pursuing a university degree? A trade school? A few workshops?
- How many years does it usually take to complete the program?
- Will you need to work while going to school?
- Do you have other commitments which might limit the time you can dedicate to your studies?

Your answers to these and other questions will help you build your plan. It can be a lot to think about. Fortunately, most Veterans who qualify for this benefit are also eligible for VAC's [Career Transition Services](#), which can provide one-on-one help to:

- Choose the field of study that is right for you,
- plan your studies to suit your circumstances,
- complete your forms, and
- support your search for a job when you have completed your courses.

We need to receive your completed plan in advance of your course or period of study (e.g. semester) before we can send you any funds. Unfortunately, we are

unable to provide retroactive payments.

Submit your education plan

If you use [Career Transition Services](#), your career coach will help you submit your plan. If you are doing this on your own, there are two application forms to choose from – one for a formal program and one for a short course. You can submit your plan through [My VAC Account](#) or you can download the plan and mail it to us.

Formal program

The [formal program plan](#) requires information such as number of courses, cost of the program and start/end dates. This helps us calculate your payment plan to ensure you have enough funding for the duration of your program. If we need more information from you, we will contact you. Once your plan is approved, you will receive a letter detailing the total amount you will receive and your payment schedule.

Short course

You should fill out the [short course plan](#) when the course you want is short term and will not result in a college or university certificate, diploma or degree. For example:

- small business/entrepreneurial boot camps,
- continuing education,
- workshops,
- certification or professional designations, or
- other professional development.

Monitor your progress

When you finish a period of study (e.g. semester), you will complete and submit the [Education and Training Benefit – Monitoring Form \(VAC 1550\)](#). This form is required before we can send the next payment in your schedule. When you

submit the monitoring form, you will also need to include:

- Proof of completion of the recently finished period of study (e.g. transcript), and
- Proof of enrollment in the upcoming period of study (e.g. confirmation of registration).

To ensure that these documents reach VAC quickly, we recommend uploading the monitoring form through [My VAC Account](#). Once VAC receives your completed form, your next payment will be issued.

Note: We can only issue payments within 60 days of the start of your study period.

The graduate bonus

After you complete your plan and achieve your diploma, degree or certification, you can apply for the "completion bonus." All you need to do is submit the [Education and Training Benefit – Completion Bonus \(VAC 1572\)](#), along with proof of your achievement, and you will receive an additional \$1,000.

The [Education and Training Benefit – Applicant Guide](#) (PDF) also covers all of the above steps from applying to this program through to your graduation.

Related programs

[Career Transition Services](#) - Access to a career counselor for Veterans who want to find a new job.

[Vocational rehabilitation](#) - Coaching, support and any other training you need to return to work or find a new job after an injury.

[Transition Interview](#) – Before you release, a meeting to provide information on VAC programs and services available to you and your family.

Information for education and training institutions

Veterans of the CAF have gained world-class skills and experience throughout their military careers that can translate very well into the classroom and workforce. The Education and Training Benefit will give many of these Veterans the opportunity and funding to participate in post-secondary education and other career development training programs.

Want more information? Find out how the Education and Training Benefit can [help you recruit students](#) from the Veteran community.

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 do I change or amend my plan?

After your ETB plan has been approved, circumstances may arise that may make you want to change your plan. For example, the course load is too heavy, or you have experienced a disruption in your personal life. If you want to make a change to your education plan, you must advise VAC immediately by completing and submitting the [Education and Training Benefit – Plan Amendment \(VAC 1573\)](#). We will evaluate your updated plan, and if approved, will recalculate your payment schedule for the remaining periods of study.

I am a Reservist. Do I qualify for the Education and Training Benefit?

Yes, as of 5 July 2019, members of the Supplementary Reserve are eligible for the Education and Training Benefit. Serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces or Reserves) are not eligible for the Education and Training Benefit, except for members of the Supplementary Reserve. Also, the Education and Training Benefit is available to Veterans who honourably released on or after 1 April 2006, or members of the Supplementary Reserve and have completed a minimum of six years (2191 paid days) of CAF service. The calculation of service includes Regular or Reserve Force service, or a combination of both. The calculation is completed through DND pension services.

To find out your total paid days of military service, please contact the Government of Canada Pension Centre—Canadian Armed Forces Pensions. The Pension Centre can be reached at:

Toll free: 1-800-267-0325

Outside Canada and the United States

613-946-1093

(collect calls accepted)

Online or by email

Email: pensioncentrefac.centredespensionsfac@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca.

Do family members qualify for the Education and Training Benefit?

No. This benefit is for Veterans only. But there are other options for family members. Survivors, spouses and common-law partners may be able to access [vocational assistance](#) if the Veteran is ill or injured and unable to participate in vocational rehabilitation. Also, the [Education Assistance Program](#) supports children of certain deceased Veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Education and Training Benefit policies](#).

View all [Education and Training Benefit FAQs](#).

[BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND FOR THE THIRD TIME](#)

[Veterans Emergency Fund](#)

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are using the Veterans Emergency Fund to the full extent possible to support Veterans' safety and well-being. Read more about updates to the Emergency Fund during this time in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.

Support you need, when you need it. When the unexpected happens we can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses.

About this program

The Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) provides financial support to Veterans, their families or their survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

What is an emergency?

Every situation will be different and unique, which is why applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The emergency fund covers essentials, such as:

- Food
- Clothing
- Rent, mortgage

- Medical care/expenses
- Expenses required to maintain safety and shelter.

As this is only temporary financial relief, we will also work with you to identify your long-term needs. Together, we will look for solutions to improve your financial stability.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for this program if you have an urgent financial need, and are:

- a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- the spouse/common-law partner of the former member;
- a survivor of a deceased CAF member or Veteran; or
- an orphan of a deceased CAF member or Veteran (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

You must be a Canadian resident to receive this grant.

How to apply

Before you apply

We will need as much information as possible about the financial emergency. You can provide such things as: invoices, quotes, notices, or statements to explain the situation.

If this is your first time applying to a Veterans Affairs Canada program we will need [proof of identity](#), for example a drivers licence.

You can expect a decision within one or two business days of submitting your application. If we approve your application, you will receive payment within that time as well.

Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

Although you can apply through My VAC Account, we will contact you personally before a decision is made. The application process will not be conducted exclusively online.

Order of St. George Contributes \$15,000 to the Legion National Foundation to Assist Veterans During COVID-19 Pandemic

Ottawa, ON – The Order of St. George has donated \$15,000 to the Legion National Foundation from a fundraising campaign they launched this past spring. The funds will assist veterans struggling with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Order of St. George is a contemporary chivalrous organization that supports Canadian military and their families, veterans and cadets, in particular, those who demonstrate need as a result of stressful duties performed at home or abroad.

“We heard about many of the Legion National Foundation’s initiatives to help veterans, many of whom were suffering greatly and financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we mobilized our first-ever national call to our membership to raise funds in support of veterans,” says Robert Hamilton, Order of St. George Past President & Fundraising Project Lead. “Both our organizations have similar missions and values and our ideals of chivalry in the pursuit of positivity, integrity, honour, courage, compassion and service align well in support of our veterans.”

The Order, through its Foundation, contributes funding in support of wounded or fallen military personnel and their immediate families through such agencies as the Military Families Fund and the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, as well as to a number of Service Dog Providers. The Order also offers its support to programs of Royal Canadian Sea, Army and Air Cadet Corps, and the Junior Rangers, as well as to other charitable organizations.

“We would like to thank our Chevaliers of the Order of St. George for their generosity and open hearts who were honoured to make this gift in support of veterans’ wellness,” says Ian

Poulter, Chair of the Order of St. George Foundation.

"We would like to express our sincere and deep appreciation to the Order of St. George for their contribution and support and this gift will no doubt go far in serving the needs of our veterans," says Legion National Foundation Board Member, Larry Murray.

About the Legion National Foundation: The Legion National Foundation was created to remember, honour, and assist those who have served or continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, through financial support of both programs and charities that carry on the tradition of Remembrance; and to support the education of CAF and RCMP families.

IN THE NEWS

Chief of the Defense Staff announced ammendments to 2020 senior appointments

Wartime allies pay tribute to VJ-Day veterans on 75th anniversary

Hommage à plus d'un million de soldats

Invictus Games The Hague 2020 announce new date

Military says still 'minor' problems in some Ontario long-term care homes

Ammunition depot in Halifax steps up fire prevention measures

Le 17 août 1990, l'armée canadienne remplace la Sûreté du Québec à Kanesatake

Police sappers working around the clock to neutralize balloon terror

Fake news is wreaking havoc on the battlefield. Here's what the military's doing about it

GRSE launches portable assault bridge

L'Académie canadienne de la Défense accueille un nouveau commandant