

## **Media Report 28 June 2019, Part 1 of 2**

At our last Board of Directors meeting our National President Mr Randy Stowell said NVOC needs to continue to focus upon the Veteran and his or her Long Term Care – Long Term Care at Home? Long Term Care in a Provincial facility – Long Term Care for the Veteran and their Family.

At the meeting our National President was very passionate about the “Care Giver Benefit” and its eligibility and criteria.

\* This program is only available to recipients of a disability award compensation of 1% or more, . ? ? ?

(A Veteran is a Veteran !!!)

This weeks media report will focus on the “Care Giver Benefit”. In the following weeks I will focus on Long Term Care – Long Term Care at Home? Long Term Care in a Provincial facility – Long Term Care for the Veteran and their Family.

## **Caregiver Recognition Benefit**

Do you need assistance with daily activities? When you have a serious disability you may need help with activities of daily living such as eating, walking, dressing, etc.

### **About this program**

Having a disability sometimes means you need ongoing care to remain in your home. The Caregiver Recognition Benefit recognizes the important role a caregiver delivers on a day-to-day basis by providing them \$1000 per month, tax free.

To receive this benefit your case manager will conduct or arrange an assessment to confirm that you require the assistance of a caregiver.

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### **Do you qualify?**

You should apply for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit if:

- are a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces,
- have a Disability Award,
- you are not a permanent resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility,
- require ongoing assistance with activities of daily living related to your awarded condition, and
- your ongoing care (expected to last at least 12 months) should be to the extent that:

- you need daily physical assistance of another person for at least four of your activities of daily living (See: [What are activities of daily living?](#) ), and
- your informal caregiver is:
  - not paid to provide or co-ordinate your care; and
  - 18 years of age or older

\* This program is only available to recipients of a disability award. If you have a disability pension or POW compensation of 1% or more, you can apply for a similar benefit—the [Attendance allowance](#).

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## **How to apply**

### **Before you apply**

As part of your application, your caregiver will be asked to provide proof of identity, for example a driver's licence. We need this from any person applying to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) for the first time.

Fill out the application form with your caregiver. Both of you must sign the form.

You can expect a decision within eight weeks of submitting your application. Your caregiver will begin to receive the benefit within nine weeks.

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### **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](#).

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **Additional information**

### **Find out more**

See the [current rates](#).

Over time, to ensure your health and well-being, we may perform a review or re-assessment of your situation once you're in the program.

Please let us know if your caregiver changes. You will need to submit a new application any time your caregiver changes.

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

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### **Related programs**

[Caregiver Zone](#) - Online support and resources for those who care for Veterans.

[Disability Benefit](#) - Compensation for your service-related injury or illness.

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

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### **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](#).

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#### **If the benefit is paid to my caregiver, why do I need to apply?**

Since it is your health needs that require the services of a caregiver, you must apply for the benefit. However, your caregiver is required to complete and sign a section of the application. If you have granted power of attorney to someone, that person may apply on your behalf.

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#### **Is there a time limit to apply for this benefit?**

You can apply for this benefit at any time.

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### **Q1. What is the Caregiver Recognition Benefit?**

It is a new tax-free benefit of \$1,000 a month, paid directly to your informal caregiver.

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### **Q2. Will eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit be the same as for the Family Caregiver Relief Benefit?**

Yes. Eligibility criteria for the new benefit are the same as those for the old benefit. The main difference is that the new benefit is a monthly, tax-free amount paid directly to your caregiver.

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### **Q3. If I currently receive the Family Caregiver Relief Benefit, will my caregiver receive the new benefit automatically or do I need to apply again?**

Earlier this year, we sent all current FCRB recipients information in the mail on the new program and how the changes will impact you. Because the benefit has a new name, payment structure and is payable to your caregiver, you will need to apply for the benefit again. As the new benefit provides direct payment to your caregiver both you and your caregiver must fill-out and sign your application.

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### **Q4. Will I continue to receive the Family Caregiver Relief Benefit up until I apply for the new benefit, or will payments stop as of April 1, 2018?**

The FCRB was a yearly payment, therefore whenever you received your last payment prior to April 1, 2018, that will be your last annual payment. The new Caregiver Recognition Benefit has a monthly payment structure. You will need to reapply for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit to ensure that your caregiver begins to receive payments under the new benefit. The application process is expected to take eight weeks and you can expect payment within 9 weeks.

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### **Q5. Who is eligible for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit?**

You may qualify for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit if you have a Disability Award and

- as a result of the condition for which you have received the Disability Award you require ongoing care to the extent that:
  - you need a level of care and supervision that is consistent with admission to an institution or nursing home,

- you need daily physical assistance of another person for at least four of your activities of daily living [See [Q8: What are activities of daily living?](#) ],
  - you need ongoing direction and supervision during the performance of at least four of your activities of daily living, or
  - you need daily supervision and are only considered safe when you are left alone for short periods of time
- you have an informal (unpaid) caregiver who provides or co-ordinates your care;
  - your need for care is ongoing (expected to last at least 12 months)
  - your informal caregiver is 18 years of age or older and is not paid for providing or coordinating your care; and
  - you are not a permanent resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility.
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#### **Q6. I am covered under the Pension Act, am I eligible for CRB?**

No. This program is available to recipients of a Disability Award. If you are covered under the Pension Act, you are not eligible for CRB. However, if you have a disability pension or prisoner-of-war compensation of one percent or more, you can apply for Attendance Allowance. Similar to the Caregiver Recognition Benefit, the [Attendance Allowance](#) is a benefit available when you need help with daily living tasks and are considered totally disabled.

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#### **Q7. Can serving Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members receive CRB?**

No. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are serving are not eligible for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

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#### **Q8. What are activities of daily living?**

Activities of daily living are a set of activities necessary for self-care. They include:

- Feeding – eating prepared foods and drinking (e.g., cutting-up food, buttering bread)
- Washing – washing face, trunk, extremities and hair
- Dressing – putting on and taking off all pieces of indoor and outdoor clothing
- Grooming/foot care/personal care – brushing hair and teeth; shaving and applying make-up; skin and nail care; cleansing and personal care associated with toileting
- Toileting – continence of bowel and bladder; using toilet facilities

- Taking medication – preparing and self-administering medication
  - Mobility
    - Transfers – changing body position independently (e.g., positioning the body from lying to sitting, sitting to standing, lying on the back to lying on the side)
    - Ambulation – moving the body from one point in space to another (e.g., climbing stairs, walking)
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**Q9. Can a caregiver that is being paid to provide care receive a payment under the Caregiver Recognition Benefit?**

No. Paid caregivers do not qualify to receive the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

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**Q10. Is there a time limit to apply for this benefit?**

No. You can apply for this benefit at any time.

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**Q11. How do I apply for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit?**

All applications must be signed by both you and your caregiver. Because of this you will need to download the [application](#) and fill it out with your caregiver.

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can access the application for Caregiver Recognition Benefit online. If you aren't registered you can [register now](#).

You can drop it off – or get help filling it out – at a VAC Area Office.

You can also download the application form and then send it to us directly through the mail.

Veterans Affairs Canada  
PO Box 6000  
Matane, QC G4W 0E4

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**Q12. If the benefit is paid to my caregiver, why can't my caregiver apply?**

Since it is your health needs that require the services of a caregiver, you must apply for the benefit. If you have granted power of attorney to someone, that person may apply on your behalf. However, your caregiver is required to complete and sign a section of the application.

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**Q13. Is the Caregiver Recognition Benefit intended to provide employment income in lieu of the caregiver having other employment?**

No. The Caregiver Recognition Benefit is not intended as income for work. A Veteran's caregiver may be employed and still receive this benefit if they provide or co-ordinate the Veteran's care in the home. The benefit is meant to recognize caregivers for the daily support they provide to ill and/or injured Veterans.

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**Q14. Why did you make this change?**

Veterans Affairs Canada made this change to better recognize the contribution that informal caregivers make to the health and well-being of Veterans. Veterans and their representatives also made requests for this type of recognition.

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**Q15. Will access to this benefit be easier, compared to the existing Family Caregiver Relief Benefit?**

Yes. For the Family Caregiver Relief Benefit, you had to complete an initial application and then a renewal form each year after that.

With the Caregiver Recognition Benefit, you will need to make an initial application only. While there is no need for you to complete a renewal form, Veterans Affairs Canada will carry out reviews and assessments to make sure you continue to meet program criteria and your health and well-being is not at risk. Where possible, Veterans Affairs Canada will verify information collected from assessments conducted for other benefits and services to determine your continued eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

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**Q16. Who is considered a caregiver?**

A caregiver is a person 18 years of age or older who plays an essential role in the provision or coordination of ongoing care to you in your home for which the caregiver receives no payment.

The informal caregiver is not required to live with you. At the time of application, the caregiver will attest to the fact that he or she is:

- 18 years of age or older,
  - Plays an essential role in providing or coordinating your ongoing care in your home, and
  - Is not paid for providing or coordinating this care.
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**Q17. Why does someone have to be 18 years of age to be considered a caregiver?**

Canadian law requires that Veterans' informal caregivers must be 18 years of age or older. The age of 18 years was determined to be appropriate given the nature and degree of the Veteran's care needs as well as the degree and intensity of the required caregiving/care co-ordination responsibilities.

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**Q18. Can a caregiver receive the benefit on behalf of multiple Veterans?**

Yes. It is possible for more than one Veteran to designate the same caregiver. The caregiver must be fulfilling their role of providing support to be entitled to receive multiple payments.

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**Q19. Can I change my caregiver?**

Yes. If you want to change your caregiver, please call us to let us know as soon as possible. You will need to submit a new application if you are changing caregivers, so to ensure payments to your new caregiver are processed as quickly as possible, contact us as soon as you know you will be changing caregivers. Please keep in mind that application processing takes eight weeks and you can expect payment within 9 weeks.

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**Q20. Can the benefit be paid to my caregiver if we live outside Canada?**

Yes. The benefit can be paid to your caregiver if you both live outside Canada.

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**Q21. What if my Disability Award is for a mental health condition and not a physical condition? Can I still apply for the new benefit?**

Yes. If you have a mental health condition, you may still be approved for the benefit, as long as you meet the criteria of needing assistance with the activities of daily living, or if you require ongoing care or daily supervision.

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**Q22. If my application is denied, can I appeal the decision?**

You can request a review of a decision by contacting Veterans Affairs Canada in writing within 60 days of the date you receive the decision. You are not required to provide additional information for a review, but you may do so if you believe it may help explain why you feel the decision was incorrect.

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**Q23. For Veterans who currently collect the Family Caregiver Relief Benefit, how will the transition to the new Caregiver Recognition Benefit occur? Will current recipients be notified of the new benefit?**

Current recipients of the FCRB will need to apply for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit as there are some changes to the information that is collected, including the requirement for the caregiver to provide their information and sign the application. The Veteran will not be required to provide any supporting documentation at the time of application. VAC will verify information that is already on file and will contact the Veteran if any additional information is needed.

All existing FCRB clients were sent a bulletin in February 2018 with information notifying them of the new benefit and how this will impact them. During the first week of April, a copy of the new application will be mailed out to all existing FCRB clients to complete and send back to VAC.

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**Q24. Are payments to the caregiver retroactive to the date of application if there is a delay in processing?**

The Caregiver Recognition Benefit is payable from the 1st day of the month in which the completed application is received. There are no pro-rated payments. VAC's goal is to make a decision and have the first payment for caregivers of eligible clients sent out within nine weeks.

## Rates

Effective from: April 1, 2019

### Attendance Allowance

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	\$1,890.32
2	\$1,701.37
3	\$1,134.23
4	\$756.21
5	\$302.55

[Read More about the Attendance Allowance...](#)

## Caregiver Recognition Benefit

A monthly payment increased annually by the Consumer Price Index. The current payment is \$1,024 per month.

[Read more about the Caregiver Recognition Benefit...](#)

## Veterans Independence Program

This [PDF chart](#) shows the maximum VIP amounts.

[Read more about the Veterans Independence Program...](#)

## Clothing Allowance

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	\$214.21
2	\$171.32
3	\$128.54
4	\$85.65
5	\$76.10
6	\$61.86
7	\$57.10
8	\$47.56
9	\$38.10
10	\$23.75

The Clothing Allowance is provided if you are receiving a disability benefit for a condition that causes wear and tear on your clothing or requires you to wear specially-made clothing.

## Pain and Suffering Compensation

<b>Extent of disability (%)</b>	<b>Monthly benefit</b>	<b>Lump sum amount</b>
5	57.50	18,708.48
20	230.00	74,833.92
40	460.00	149,667.84
60	690.00	224,501.76
80	920.00	299,335.68
100	1150.00	374,169.60

View the complete [Pain and suffering compensation rate table](#).

Read more about [Disability benefits...](#)

### **Income Replacement Benefit**

This income replacement provides 90% of your gross pre-release military salary while you are participating in Rehabilitation services. This ensures a pre-tax income of at least \$48,600 per year.

[Read more about the Income Replacement Benefit...](#)

### **Canadian Forces Income Support**

<b>Maximum per month</b>			
<b>Veteran or Survivor</b>	<b>Veteran with Spouse/Partner</b>	<b>Additional amount for each dependent child</b>	<b>Orphan</b>
\$1,621.23	\$2,416.06	\$359.46	\$770.50

[Read more about the Canadian Forces Income Support...](#)

### **War Veterans Allowance**

Veteran or Survivor	Veteran or Survivor (blind)	Maximum per month			Orphan
		Veteran with Spouse/Partner	Veteran with Spouse/Partner (both blind)	Additional amount for each dependent child	
\$1,621.23	\$1,681.42	\$2,416.05	\$2,476.04	\$257.13	\$770.50

Important note to Veterans and qualified civilians:

If you had wartime service and your income is higher than the maximum level because you or your spouse/common-law partner receive OAS benefits, in certain cases, you may qualify for [treatment benefits](#).

[Read more about the War Veterans Allowance...](#)

## Disability Pension

Class	Monthly Rate		Additional Monthly Amounts		
	Single	Spouse	One Child	Second Child	Each Other Child
1	\$2,856.76	\$714.19	\$371.38	\$271.39	\$214.26
5	\$2,285.41	\$571.35	\$297.10	\$217.12	\$171.41
10	\$1,571.22	\$392.81	\$204.26	\$149.26	\$117.84
15	\$857.03	\$214.26	\$111.41	\$81.42	\$64.28
20	\$142.84	\$35.71	\$18.57	\$13.57	\$10.71

[Read more about the Disability Pension...](#)

[View the complete Disability Pension rate tables](#)

## Exceptional Incapacity Allowance

Grade	Amount
1	\$1,512.29
2	\$1,260.21
3	\$1,008.17

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4	\$756.21
5	\$504.11

[Read more about the Exceptional Incapacity Allowance...](#)

### **Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Monthly amount</b>
1	\$1,500.00
2	\$1,000.00
3	\$500.00

[Read more about the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation...](#)

### **Critical Injury Benefit**

The Critical Injury Benefit is a \$74,659.06 tax-free lump-sum award to address the immediate impacts of the most severe and traumatic service-related injuries or diseases sustained by Canadian Armed Forces members.

[Read more about the Critical Injury Benefit...](#)

### **Death Benefit**

The death benefit is a one-time, tax-free amount of \$ 374,169.60 paid to a spouse or common-law partner and any dependent children if a CAF member dies while in service.

[Read more about this assistance...](#)

### **Education Training Benefit**

This program offers funding for college, university, technical education or short-term programs.

<b>Years of Service (authorized paid days)</b>	<b>Maximum Amount</b>
6 years	\$40,960
12 years	\$81,920

You can use \$5,120 of this benefit to participate in one-time courses aimed at certification, professional designations, or professional development.

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

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## [LCol Rob Horton, RCE, with the Royal Bermuda Regiment](#)

Bernews

Bermuda's soldiers are playing a vital behind-the-scenes role in a major disaster relief and security exercise in the Caribbean. Royal Bermuda Regiment troops are a major component of the land forces for Exercise Tradewinds in St Vincent & the Grenadines — but senior officers are heavily involved as planners and coordinators of the multi-national military force. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Près de 1000 milliards \\$ en Défense pour les pays membres de l'OTAN](#)

45e Nord

L'OTAN vient de sortir ses plus récentes estimations concernant les dépenses militaires de ses pays membres et une nouvelle fois elles sont en hausses. Les plus récentes données de l'OTAN font état que les dépenses de défense des pays de l'Alliance ont augmenté de 54 milliards de dollars US entre 2018 et 2019 (en \$ constants de 2015). Les dépenses de défense des pays de l'OTAN se sont donc accrues de 3,9 %. Elles sont désormais de 984 milliards \$ US, contre 930 milliards l'an dernier. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## [2RCHA struggling with the loss of Bombardier Patrick Labrie](#)

Renfrew Today

The 2nd Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (2RCHA) is mourning the death of Bombardier Patrick Labrie. Labrie was killed during a recent training exercise in Bulgaria. 2RCHA Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Matheson, says Labrie died as a result of injuries sustained during a parachute drop in the middle of the night. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Afghan war memorial to be rededicated — this time with soldiers' families present](#)

CBC News

A battlefield cenotaph that became a focus of hurt and outrage for families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan will be rededicated in a public ceremony this summer, CBC News has learned. The rebuilt memorial, which stood outside the Canadian headquarters in Kandahar throughout the war, was

unveiled initially in a private service west of downtown Ottawa — one that was attended only by federal officials and senior brass. [READ MORE](#)

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## **Iraqi Kurds invite Canada to help train, equip peshmerga after being frozen out**

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Nanaimo News Now

Canada is being invited to once again provide training to Iraq's Kurdish security forces, who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Canadian soldiers in the war against the Islamic State group before being frozen out in 2017. Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Iraqi Kurdistan's top diplomat in Washington, insisted her people don't harbour any ill will toward Canada for suspending and later ending years of military assistance to the Kurdish military, called the peshmerga. [READ MORE](#)