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Caregiver Recognition Benefit, Policies and regulations

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Care has been taken to ensure these policies accurately reflect the acts and regulations. Should any inconsistencies be found, the acts and regulations will prevail.

Purpose

This policy provides guidance on administering the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

Policy

Definitions

1. For the purpose of administering this policy, the following definitions apply:

Activities of daily living – a set of activities necessary for self-care. The following Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) are considered for the purpose of determining if a Veteran meets the criteria set out in subparagraphs 65.2(a)(ii) [i.e. daily physical assistance of another person for most activities of daily living] or 65.2(a)(iii) [i.e. ongoing direction and supervision during the performance of most activities of daily living] of the [Veterans Well-being Regulations](#) (see paragraph 2).

Mobility (considered 1 ADL):

- Transfers – changing the position of the body independently (e.g. positioning the body from lying to sitting, sitting to standing, lying on the back to lying on the side, etc.); and
- Ambulation – moving the body from one point in space to another (e.g. climbing stairs, walking, etc.).

Self-care (6 ADLs):

- Feeding – eating and drinking of prepared foods (e.g. cutting up food, buttering bread, etc.).
- Washing – washing of face, trunk, extremities and hair.
- Dressing – putting on and taking off all pieces of indoor and outdoor clothing.

- Grooming/Foot Care/Personal Care – brushing of hair and teeth, shaving and make-up application, 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.

Care – in relation to ongoing care, means the provision or coordination of any activity that is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance and protection of an individual who is in need of support due to a physical, mental and/or cognitive condition.

Home – means the dwelling, other than a health care facility, in which the Veteran normally resides.

Informal Caregiver – a person 18 years of age or older who plays an essential role in the provision or coordination of ongoing care to the Veteran in the Veteran’s home, for which the person receives no remuneration.

Instrumental activities of daily living – daily activities that individuals normally do, unassisted, to live independently. Instrumental Activities of Daily Living cannot be used for the purpose of determining if a Veteran meets the criteria set out in subparagraphs 65.2(a)(ii) or 65.2(a)(iii) of the [Veterans Well-being Regulations](#). However, the following Instrumental Activities of Daily Living are considered for the purpose of determining if the informal caregiver plays an essential role in the provision or coordination of ongoing care to the Veteran in the Veteran’s home (see paragraph 4):

- Preparing food,
- Managing money (e.g. banking, paying bills),
- Driving or accessing public transportation,
- Using the telephone,
- Running errands,
- Shopping,
- Housekeeping,
- Grounds maintenance.

Eligibility

2.A Veteran is eligible for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit under section 65.1 of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) :

- 1.the Veteran has had an application for a disability award or pain and suffering compensation approved under section 45 of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) :
- 2.the Veteran requires ongoing care as a result of the health condition(s) for which the disability award application was approved;
- 3.the Veteran has not been awarded a pension or compensation under the [Pension Act](#);

4. an informal caregiver who is 18 years of age or older plays an essential role in the provision or coordination of the ongoing care to the Veteran in the Veteran's home for which the informal caregiver receives no remuneration (see paragraph 4); and

5. the Veteran requires at least one of the following:

1. a level of care and supervision consistent with admission to an institution such as a long term care facility;
2. daily physical assistance of another person for most activities of daily living;
3. ongoing direction and supervision during the performance of most activities of daily living; or
4. daily supervision and is not considered to be safe when left alone (i.e. Veteran poses a risk to him/herself or others if not supervised on a daily basis).

3. A Veteran is considered to need ongoing care, if his/her health condition(s):

1. are continuous, and unlikely to substantially improve; or
2. the duration cannot be determined, but are not expected to substantially improve for at least 12 months.

4. An informal caregiver plays an essential role in the provision or coordination of the ongoing care to a Veteran in the Veteran's home if there is evidence that:

1. the Veteran relies on the informal caregiver to provide or coordinate:

1. daily supervision;
2. direction and/or physical assistance with most activities of daily living; or
3. assistance with completion of instrumental activities of daily living; and

2. the Veteran's health and well-being would be placed at risk and the provision or coordination of the Veteran's ongoing care would be compromised without the informal caregiver.

5. The phrase "most activities of daily living" is interpreted to mean a minimum of four (4) activities out of seven (7). Mobility is considered to be one activity of daily living.

6. In some situations, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to separate the impact of a health condition for which a disability award or pain and suffering compensation has been granted from other non-entitled health conditions. In circumstances where there is a reasonable doubt or uncertainty as to whether the need for ongoing care is a result of the condition(s) for which the disability award or pain and suffering compensation is approved, then the reasonable doubt or uncertainty should be resolved in the Veteran's favour.

Excluded Groups

7. A still-serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces is not eligible for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

8. A Veteran who resides in a health care facility wherein the level of care provided eliminates the need for an informal caregiver is not eligible for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

Application for Benefit

9. Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) staff will guide the Veteran through the Caregiver Recognition Benefit application process in an effort to eliminate unnecessary administrative burden. Given the eligibility requirements for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit and its relationship to the Veteran's disability award or pain and suffering compensation, VAC may already have much of the necessary information including medical, nursing and/or other assessments/records. VAC will use this information to confirm the Veteran's health condition. If required the Veteran will be asked to provide additional information or to undergo further assessment to support the application.

10. A Veteran is required to designate the person who is acting as the Veteran's informal caregiver on the application.

11. A Veteran may designate only one informal caregiver on the application.

12. The informal caregiver designated by a Veteran is required to provide information on and sign the Veteran's application for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

13. A Veteran is required to submit a new application for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit if the Veteran's designated informal caregiver changes.

Ongoing Eligibility

14. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit is paid on an ongoing basis to a Veteran's designated informal caregiver provided the Veteran continues to meet the eligibility requirements.

15. VAC may require:

- 1.a Veteran and the Veteran's designated informal caregiver to provide information or documentation, and
- 2.a Veteran to undergo an assessment

to allow VAC to assess the Veteran's continued eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

Payment of Benefit

16. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit is paid directly to the informal caregiver designated by the Veteran.

17. The amount of a Caregiver Recognition Benefit is set out in Schedule 2 of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) (see column 2 of item 5). The amount will be indexed annually on January 1st based on the Consumer Price Index.

18. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit is not subject to income tax.

19. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit is not payable unless a duly completed and signed application (i.e. application form plus any other pertinent information) has been made by or on behalf of the Veteran, the Veteran's designated informal caregiver has completed and signed his or her portion of the Veteran's application, and payment of the benefit has been approved by the appropriate decision maker.

20. Only one designated informal caregiver may be paid the Caregiver Recognition Benefit regardless of the number of informal caregivers involved in providing or coordinating the ongoing care to the Veteran in the Veteran's home.

Date Payable – Application for Benefit

21. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit begins to be payable on the first day of the month in which the application for the benefit is made.

Application Made

22. An application is considered to be made on the earlier of:

1. the date stamped on the application when it is received by the Department; or
2. the date the application is received at the Digital Images Scanning Centre in Matane, QC.

Date Payable – Application to Replace Informal Caregiver

23. If a Veteran replaces his or her designated informal caregiver with a new designated informal caregiver, the Caregiver Recognition Benefit begins to be payable to the new designated informal caregiver on the later of:

1. the first day of the month in which the new application is made, and
2. the day on which the benefit ceases to be payable to the previous designated informal caregiver.

Payment Ceases

24. A Caregiver Recognition Benefit ceases to be payable to a designated informal caregiver on the earliest of:

1. the first day of the month after the month in which any of the eligibility requirements set out in paragraph 2(a) to (e) are no longer met,

- 2.the first day of the month after the month in which the Veteran makes a new application to replace the designated informal caregiver with a new designated informal caregiver, or
- 3.the first day of the month after the month in which the Veteran or the designated informal caregiver dies.

Requirement to Notify

- 25.A Veteran is required to advise VAC if there is any change in circumstances which would affect the Veteran's eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit or if the Veteran's designated informal caregiver dies.
- 26.A designated informal caregiver is required to advise VAC if he or she is no longer playing an essential role in providing or coordinating the ongoing care to the Veteran in the Veteran's home, if he or she begins to receive remuneration for providing or coordinating the care, or if the Veteran dies.

Suspension and Cancellation of Benefit

- 27.The payment of a Caregiver Recognition Benefit may be suspended if:
- 1.the Veteran or the Veteran's designated informal caregiver does not provide the information or documentation requested to allow VAC to assess the Veteran's continued eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit, or
 - 2.the Veteran fails to undergo an assessment as required under section 65.3 of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#).
- 28.VAC will notify the Veteran and the Veteran's designated informal caregiver in writing of the reasons for and effective date of the suspension before suspending the payment of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.
- 29.A Caregiver Recognition Benefit may be cancelled if:
- 1.the suspension of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit continues for at least 6 months, or
 - 2.the Veteran's eligibility for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit was based on a misrepresentation or the concealment of a material fact.
- 30.On the cancellation of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit, VAC will notify the Veteran and the Veteran's designated informal caregiver in writing of the reasons for the cancellation, the effective date of the cancellation and the Veteran's rights of review.

Termination of Benefit

- 31.A Caregiver Recognition Benefit is no longer payable if:
- 1.the Veteran no longer requires ongoing care,
 - 2.the Veteran permanently relocates to a health care facility,
 - 3.the Veteran is awarded a pension or compensation under the [Pension Act](#),

- 4.the Veteran dies,
- 5.the designated informal caregiver no longer plays an essential role in providing or coordinating the ongoing care to the Veteran,
- 6.the designated informal caregiver receives remuneration for providing or coordinating the ongoing care to the Veteran, or
- 7.the designated informal caregiver dies.

Benefit Awarded in Error

32.An overpayment occurs when a designated informal caregiver receives payment of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit when the caregiver was not entitled to receive the payment.

33.Any overpayment, regardless of the cause, is considered a Crown Debt and must be addressed by recovery, remission or write-off in accordance with VAC's [Overpayments – Caregiver Recognition Benefit](#) policy.

Rights of Review

34.Two levels of review are available to a Veteran who is dissatisfied with a decision rendered in respect of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit. See the policy entitled [Review of Part 1, Part 1.1, Part 2 and Part 3.1 Decisions under the Veterans Well-being Act](#) for additional information.

References

[Veterans Well-being Act](#)

[Veterans Well-being Regulations](#)

[Pension Act](#)

[Overpayments – Caregiver Recognition Benefit](#)

[Review of Part 1, Part 1.1, Part 2 and Part 3.1 Decisions under the Veterans Well-being Act](#)

Mark Norman to retire from Canadian Forces, but details of settlement with Liberal government to be kept secret

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/mark-norman-to-retire-from-canadian-forces-but-details-of-settlement-with-liberal-government-to-be-kept-secret/wcm/bcfd26c8-5fc1-4ff3-a60d-9fab85a6ff62>



Very poignant and puts World W1 in perspective!

These have got to be two of the most powerful photographs!

Below is a Battalion of the **Cameron Highlanders** in 1914, prior to being dispatched to the front line.

Below that is the same Battalion upon their return in 1918 after the **Armistice**.

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/AB6437D9DEA74FFC81883CE233F09885.png?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=107022&attachment=2&delivery=view>

Les Kurdes d'Irak demandent l'aide militaire du Canada

Radio-Canada

Une haute représentante du gouvernement de la région autonome du Kurdistan irakien exhorte le Canada à soutenir à nouveau les forces de sécurité kurdes en fournissant de l'équipement et de l'entraînement aux combattants qui ont servi aux côtés des militaires canadiens dans la guerre contre Daech (groupe armé État islamique). **LIRE PLUS**

Canada must prepare to defend itself in an increasingly 'volatile' world, says new military personnel chief

CBC News

The new head of Canadian military's personnel branch delivered a sobering assessment of the international landscape on Thursday, and of how unstable relations among countries have become. "Our splendid isolation that we have enjoyed for so long in Canada is a thing of the past," said Lt.-Gen Wayne Eyre, who has for the last year served as deputy commander of the United Nations Command in Korea. **READ MORE**

Becoming battle ready

Lewiston Tribune

Local members of the Idaho National Guard will soon be returning from a month-long training in realistic warfare. The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team was shipped off to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California on May 29. Capt. Robert Taylor, who handles public affairs for the 116th Cavalry, said the group of 1,800 Idaho soldiers joined 1,200 others from Oregon, Montana and Nevada for "force-on-force" training. **READ MORE**

Le Centre Castor offrira l'hébergement en yourte

Journal Adsum

Le 5 juin, le colonel Stéphane Boucher, commandant du Groupe de soutien de la 2e Division du Canada (GS 2 Div CA), a effectué la première pelletée de terre d'un projet de construction de 10 yourtes locatives, entièrement aménagées, au Centre Castor. **LIRE PLUS**

Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Relief Web

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (about 70), compared with the previous reporting period (30 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded at southerly and south-easterly directions of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 31 kilometres northeast of Mariupol) and at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15 kilometres north of Donetsk). **READ MORE**

Japan's commitment to a landmine-free world

Nippon.com

Funding from Japan and other nations has removed millions of antipersonnel landmines from war-torn areas around the globe. However, countless more remain buried, indiscriminately killing and maiming thousands of innocent victims each year, many of them children. Giles Duley, a British photographer who has spent the better part of two decades documenting the long-term consequences of conflict, has his own term for the weapons: "Landmines are what I call the legacy of war." [READ MORE](#)

Mine clearance aid: Portrayal of the heart-to-heart friendship between China and Cambodia

Khmer Times

Mine is the evil spirit that takes human lives. According to incomplete statistics, there are more than 110 million landmines deployed in more than 70 countries around the world, and every year more than 20,000 people are injured/killed by landmines. Some landmines are remnants of the World War II. Many of the mine sites are not known clearly, which poses an invisible lethal threat. Some people said that it is underground landmines rather than collapsed houses and ruined bridges that constitute the war scars which are hardest to erase. [READ MORE](#)

Ottawa tasks trailblazing female Sapper officer with leading extended training mission in Iraq

CBC News

Canada will stick around an extra year to command the NATO training mission in Iraq — and has appointed a woman who saw combat in Afghanistan to lead it, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan announced recently. Roughly 250 Canadian soldiers provide headquarters, security and transport services for the other alliance nations helping the Iraqi government rebuild its defence institutions and military. The extended command will last until November 2020. Sajjan, speaking at a NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels today, said Brig.-Gen. Jennie Carignan will be promoted to major-general and take over the command this fall. [READ MORE](#)

Team Canada set to compete in Florida at 2019 Warrior Games

Canadian Military Family Magazine

Led by Team Canada's torchbearer, Master Corporal (retired) Trevor Vatour, the women and men of Team Canada recently marched into Tampa's Amalie Arena for the opening ceremonies of the 2019 United States of America Department of Defense Warrior Games. [READ MORE](#)