

## Media Report 29 March 2024

This week's 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'

### **Data transfer issue affecting preference and mobility entitlements/Enjeu de transfert de données touchant les droits de préférence et de mobilité**

As you will know, in 2015 the *Veterans Hiring Act* amended the *Public Service Employment Act* to provide increased access to hiring opportunities in the public service for eligible Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members through three mechanisms: priority, preference and mobility.

Veterans with at least three years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces who are honourably released are provided with a mobility entitlement, meaning they can apply to jobs open only to public servants. As well, for jobs that are open to the public, eligible Veterans who meet all the essential qualifications are given a preference for hiring ahead of Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Both entitlements last for a period of five years after the date of honourable release or once employed in the public service for an indeterminate period.

To support the preference and mobility entitlements, the Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC) receives a list from the Department of National Defence of eligible Veterans and serving Canadian Armed Forces members so that eligible candidates are identified.

I am writing you today to let you know that PSC has discovered a technical issue with the data transfer process from November 13, 2020, to January 19, 2024, which had two impacts:

A number of Veterans who applied to one or more jobs open to the public may not have been properly identified for preference entitlements; and

- A number of Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members who had a [jobs.gc.ca](https://jobs.gc.ca) account during that period may not have been identified for mobility entitlements.

All Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members who may have been affected were notified of this issue in writing. The data issue has been corrected for current processes. Also, it has been confirmed that this technical issue had no impact on priority entitlements of Veterans who were released for medical reasons, as these entitlements are captured through a different system.

The PSC will offer information sessions to provide more details and next steps.

If you or any Veterans you are in contact with have any questions or concerns, PSC has established a portal at [cfp.dotation.ancienscombattants-veterans.staffing.psc@cfp-psc.gc.ca](mailto:cfp.dotation.ancienscombattants-veterans.staffing.psc@cfp-psc.gc.ca).

The PSC is committed to implementing solutions for any who may have been impacted during this period in a transparent and timely fashion and is in the process of analyzing the accounts of anyone

who may have been affected by this issue. Direct and regular communication will be maintained by PSC through this process.

I know each of you are dedicated and focused on serving Veterans and their families. We share the same goal of ensuring Veterans and families have access to the support and services they need.

For more information and awareness of these increased access mechanisms please visit the [Canadian Armed Forces members and Veterans](#) page.

Thank you for your dedication and interest in the important work we do to help support and recognize those who have served our country.

Sincerely,

Paul Ledwell

Deputy Minister, Veterans Affairs Canada

Chers partenaires,

Comme vous le savez, en 2015, la *Loi sur l'embauche des anciens combattants* a modifié la *Loi sur l'emploi dans la fonction publique* afin d'offrir des possibilités d'embauche dans la fonction publique aux vétérans et vétéranes ainsi qu'aux membres des Forces armées canadiennes admissibles au moyen de trois mécanismes : le droit de priorité, le droit de préférence et le droit de mobilité.

Les vétérans et vétéranes qui cumulent au moins trois années de service dans les Forces armées canadiennes et qui sont libérés honorablement bénéficient d'un droit de mobilité, ce qui leur permet de postuler à des emplois réservés aux fonctionnaires. De plus, en ce qui concerne les emplois ouverts au public, les vétérans admissibles qui possèdent toutes les qualifications essentielles bénéficient d'un droit de préférence. Ce droit leur permet d'être nommés avant les citoyens canadiens et les résidents permanents. Ces droits restent en vigueur pendant les cinq années qui suivent la date de libération honorable, ou jusqu'à ce que la personne soit employée par la fonction publique pour une période indéterminée.

Pour appuyer les droits de préférence et de mobilité, la Commission de la fonction publique du Canada (CFP) reçoit du ministère de la Défense nationale la liste des vétérans et des membres actifs des Forces armées canadiennes qui sont admissibles afin que les candidats et les candidates admissibles soient identifiés.

Je vous écris aujourd'hui pour vous informer que la CFP a constaté un enjeu technique en ce qui concerne le processus de transfert de données pour la période du 13 novembre 2020 au 19 janvier 2024. Les deux éléments suivants ont été relevés :

- le droit de préférence d'un certain nombre de vétérans ayant postulé à un ou plusieurs emplois ouverts au public pourrait ne pas avoir été correctement consigné;
- le droit de mobilité d'un certain nombre de vétérans et de membres des Forces armées canadiennes qui avaient un compte Emplois GC pendant cette période pourrait ne pas avoir été indiqué.

Tous les vétérans et les membres des Forces armées canadiennes qui pourraient être concernés ont été avisés de cet enjeu par écrit. Le problème de données a été résolu pour les processus en cours. De plus, étant donné que les droits de priorité sont saisis dans un autre système, il a été confirmé que cet enjeu technique n'avait eu aucune répercussion sur le droit de priorité des vétérans libérés pour des raisons médicales.

La CFP organisera des séances d'information afin de fournir de plus amples renseignements et d'indiquer les prochaines étapes.

Si vous ou n'importe quel vétéran que vous connaissez avez des questions ou des préoccupations, veuillez envoyer un courriel au portail que la CFP a établi à l'adresse [cfp.dotation.ancienscombattants-veterans.staffing.psc@cfp-psc.gc.ca](mailto:cfp.dotation.ancienscombattants-veterans.staffing.psc@cfp-psc.gc.ca).

La CFP s'engage à mettre en œuvre des solutions à l'intention de toute personne qui pourrait avoir été touchée pendant la période indiquée dans les meilleurs délais et en toute transparence. La CFP analyse toujours les comptes de toute personne qui pourrait avoir été touchée. En outre, la CFP assurera des communications directes et périodiques tout au long de ce processus.

Je sais que vous êtes tous dévoués et engagés envers notre mission de servir les vétérans et vétéranes ainsi que leur famille et nous partageons le même objectif d'assurer qu'ils ont accès au soutien et aux services dont ils ont besoin.

Pour en savoir plus sur ces mécanismes d'accès aux emplois dans la fonction publique, consultez la page [Anciens combattants et militaires](#).

Je vous remercie de votre dévouement et de votre soutien à l'égard de notre importante mission de soutenir les personnes qui ont servi notre pays et de leur rendre hommage.

Je vous prie d'agréer, chers partenaires, mes salutations distinguées.

Paul Ledwell,  
Sous-ministre, Anciens Combattants Canada

## **The application form**

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.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

[Canadian military base taps Ameresco for energy efficiency upgrades](#)

Smart Energy International

Cleantech integrator Ameresco has announced a contract to design, engineer and implement energy upgrades across 124 buildings covering 4.6 million square feet at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) in Edmonton, Canada. The energy conservation measures include the installation of LED lighting, boiler plant and heating system upgrades, converting fuel sources from natural gas to electric heat pump systems, upgrading electrical distribution systems and installing a geothermal ground source heat pump system. [Read More](#)

## **Canada showcases ability to defend Arctic amid global tensions**

CBC

While speaking to a group of military personnel gathered in the mess hall of the Resolute Bay, Nunavut training facility, Chief Warrant Officer Terence Wolaniuk described the situation facing the Canadian Arctic bluntly. "The threats are below the ice, on the ice, above the ice and in space," Wolaniuk said. The speech took place during a tour of the military training facility located in the high Arctic as part of Operation Nanook-Nunavut. [Read More](#)

## **Renforcer l'autonomie par l'excellence militaire au combat**

Gouvernement du Canada

On ne saurait trop insister sur l'importance d'appuyer l'entraînement au combat corps à corps dans le paysage dynamique des opérations militaires, puisque la capacité d'adaptation y est essentielle. Cet ensemble de compétences spécialisées renforce les capacités des militaires et leur permet d'être bien préparés et préparées à faire face à des situations diversifiées et imprévisibles. [Lire Plus](#)

## **Canadian soldiers show how they train Ukrainian defenders**

Ukrinform

The Armed Forces of Canada have shown how the country's military personnel teach Ukrainian defenders to overcome various obstacles. [Read More](#)

## **Canadian Forces wants to expand offensive cyber capabilities, briefing says**



Ottawa Citizen

The Canadian Forces wants to expand its ability to launch cyber attacks and plans to conduct a series of related tests this year, military documents show. The military has developed its Cyber Force Vision 2035, a strategy involving its own personnel working closely with the electronic spies at the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) in Ottawa, a 2023 briefing said. [Read More](#)

### ['Cyber Fire': How the Canadian Armed Forces is approaching 'cyber warfare'](#)

Global News

The Canadian Armed Forces needs to be ready to "fight for its freedom of action in cyberspace" amidst a "transformational" change in information technology, a newly released internal document reads. [Read More](#)

### **Base/Wing — Newspaper**

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)

22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)

4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)

CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)

CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)

CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)

19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)

8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)

CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa Post](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)

CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)

CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)

CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)

CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)

CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)

3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)

CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)

Base Gagetown — [Gagetown Gazette](#)