

Media Report for 5 April 2019 collated and edited by Ted Bransfield, Vice-President, NATO Veterans Organization of Canada (NVOC)

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada (NVOC) President Randy Stowell, CD meets with Minister Hon Lawrence MacAulay

These are his observations and are NOT minutes of the meeting.

The DM VAC invited the usual group for “Coffee” on Wed 27 March. The meeting was actually held in the Ministers conference room and lasted two hours. The Minister wanted to meet with the “advocates” after having telephoned and spoken with most of us. Attendees: Hon Lawrence MacAulay, Min VAC (30 minutes); General (Ret'd) Walt Natynczyk, Deputy Minister; Michel Dorion, ADM Operations and Services [ He will be the man on the hot-seat for implementation of Pension for Life [PFL].]. Mr. Dorion is the official who said [two years ago]...We want to say Yes faster.

Attendance from advocates was the usual [Legion; ANAVETS; CAVUMP; CPVA (The

Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association);

War Amps and Gulf war vets]. The Minister spoke of his previous experience with veterans and told us that he will do his very best for all veterans. The PFL is a beginning and can be adjusted and tuned over time. The PFL begins implementation 1 April 2019 . There was much discussion about PFL and policy/appeal concerns. I never mentioned PFL at all – it is happening and continued rehashing about the why's is a waste of effort in my opinion!

- There is much going on within VAC . The Education and Training benefits have far exceeded forecasts [ Expected 400 ( Dept of Finance projection) and have had actual 5600 applications!] Encourages people to have purpose in life and is based on needs – NOT wants.;
- Disability claims have almost doubled [2014-38,000 applications and 2018 – 64,000 applications]. They are staffing over 4500 claims each month – 85% are approved – and approvals are being made quickly by having all key decision makers assess each application early on. Most appeals are for levels of disability assessments and not for the decision [Yes/No].
- Gulf War Syndrome caught the Ministers attention. Canada had almost 4,500 pers deploy to the Gulf and none are getting any disability benefits from this service. The Brits/Americans have assessed this and some of their service members are receiving benefits of some sort.;
- Several advocates are still wanting the “Ministers Advisory Groups” to reconvene and continue. My thought on that is that it was an initiative four Ministers ago

[Minister Hehr] and that there is little chance of more meetings and reports from these people. ;

- Streamlining has helped the adjudications as there is no longer an attempt to determine percentage of incapacity. Data shows that for instance – amputees need a whole package of benefits – they will no longer need to apply for, wheelchairs, walkers, braces etc. as the system uses AI to allocate these items to the applicant. My VAC accounts will reflect one’s whole file with entitlements and the staffing of requests. Up to the recent federal budget there was no funding for the “My VAC” project. It was funded internally. It is now a fully funded VAC Service Delivery Project. As more injuries are adjudicated the associated benefits will be awarded as a package and not require constant applications for additional benefits unless there are unusual requirements.;

Brad White, National Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Legion I will be retiring from the Legion as of 20 May 2019.( He will be picking up stakes and moving to Dieppe NB to be close to his family and grandchildren.).Brad has been a good friend of NVOC over the years. I will be sending him a letter of appreciation on behalf of NVOC. The Minister and Deputy Minister presented Brad a splendid framed recognition and thank you for his support for veterans . NOTE : the replacement for Brad is Steven Clark. Now is the Director Corporate Services, The Royal Canadian Legion and is the Director, Canada's National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

My Points:

1.) ( Myself and Ted Bransfield met with Nathan Svenson, Director of Research for VAC [ 5 March]). He was interested in getting our views on the approach for the 2021 Canadian Census where Canadians will be asked if they have had previous military service – Regular or Reserve in the CF. I spoke about the “Veterans Community” at the “Coffee” gathering. Canada's veteran population is about 670,000. 11% are female veterans; 48,000 WW II and Korean veterans and there are 59,000 survivors. 30% are modern day veterans. 319,000 Regular Force veterans and 282,000 Reserve veterans (I am aware that the numbers do not all add up). The average age of veterans is 60 and only about 12% use VAC services. There are many people that have served with the CF and who do not consider themselves to be part of the veterans community and who do not seek support for conditions that may be attributed to past military service. That is a concern for me.; and

2). I noted that the NVOC Board of Directors had received a briefing (on March 25) from Col Kevin Cameron, Director Transition Services and Policy within the new CF Transition Group. The highlights are:

- The Transition Group [ a One Star Command]consists of “Units” across Canada - (CO'S are LCol/Cmdrs). Traditionally focussed on ill/injured members with complex needs – now there is attention for all members – and their families. About 25% are medical released and have priority – BUT all pers are now considered to be transitioning.;

- Transition is different from Release – requires deliberate preparation. The CF is now asking members who seek release questions about why members are leaving the service. More effort will be made to retain members [perhaps a change in Trade? perhaps a family circumstance that needs a geographical relocation?];
- There are statistics about members at risk to adjusting to civilian life. ( see the PowerPoint presentation referred to below).;
- The CF are using the “Domains of Well-Being” that VAC introduced five years ago.;
- As of 1 April 2019 “Transitioning” will be a command implemented process [Retention options? All will receive a "My Transition Guide – there will be a 6 month period to plan/implement a members transition. [Personal comment is that there is some push-back at Unit levels where CO's want to work the member up to the moment he/she turns in their ID card?]. There is a complete enhanced transition training package. I found the idea of a mandatory 30 day calendar window for ALL who are releasing to be interesting ( a protected period – not performing any duties – no TD away! no training!).; and
- The presentation is well worth viewing and can be viewed at: [http://caface-rfaccine.forces.gc.ca/mnet-oesc/web/docs/Outreach\\_Info\\_Session\\_Presentation.pdf](http://caface-rfaccine.forces.gc.ca/mnet-oesc/web/docs/Outreach_Info_Session_Presentation.pdf)

Another good interaction between “advocates” for veterans and VAC senior officials.

Randy

Lower your flags for Vimy Ridge Day

Apr 3, 2019

Join The Royal Canadian Legion, along with federal, provincial and municipal institutions, in lowering the Canadian flag on Tuesday, April 9 in observance of Vimy Ridge Day.

On the morning of April 9, 1917, soldiers from all four divisions of the Canadian Corps stormed the ridge in France for four days of brutal battle against the German forces. The capture of Vimy was a defining moment for Canada, but it came at a great cost. Almost 3,600 Canadian soldiers lost their lives and over seven thousand were wounded.

The Legion asks that all Branches fly the Canadian flag and Legion flags at half-mast from sunrise to sunset to mark the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and to honour those who served and sacrificed.

Join us on April 9 to remember.

## VAC Eligibility Criteria LTC

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/VAC%20Eligability%20LTC.pdf?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=106299&attachment=2&delivery=view>

## Pension For Life – What Changes Are Being Made

[https://scontent.fymy1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/55813676\\_10157219343943980\\_8691267555005825024\\_n.jpg?\\_nc\\_cat=104&\\_nc\\_ht=scontent.fymy1-1.fna&oh=2ce0ed1444121d32ad064e77994e99cb&oe=5D032AF2](https://scontent.fymy1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/55813676_10157219343943980_8691267555005825024_n.jpg?_nc_cat=104&_nc_ht=scontent.fymy1-1.fna&oh=2ce0ed1444121d32ad064e77994e99cb&oe=5D032AF2)

## Wait times on your new Pension For Life Benefits

[Wait times](#) can vary, depending on how many applications we receive and the complexity of your claim.

Please ensure your application is [complete](#) to avoid delays.

To check the progress of your application, visit [My VAC Account](#) 'Track your applications' or [contact us](#).

The average wait time provided here is the same information you would receive from us by phone.

Please note: Updates will be made over the next weeks to change how wait times are reported for benefits impacted by the transition to Pension for Life. Those benefits are: Earnings Loss Benefit, Career Impact Allowance, Career Impact Allowance Supplement, and Retirement Income Security Benefit and Rehabilitation. During the transition phase, wait times shown for these benefits may be incorrect.

Wait time estimates for all other benefits remain up-to-date.

I want to know the wait time for:

Result

## Frequently Asked Questions, On Wait times for your new Pension For Life Benefits

- What is the Wait Time Tool?

The Wait time tool provides the current average wait time for receiving a decision on an application.

- How are wait times calculated?

We measure wait times from the day we receive a complete application package—that means when we receive all necessary information—to the day a decision is provided.

The average wait time is calculated based on how long it took us to process all complete applications in the past 90 days. Since the wait time shown is an average, there are some applications that will take more time and some that will take less time. The data is updated weekly.

- What is considered a “complete application package” and why is this important to the estimated wait time?

To determine the actual processing time, we start counting from the day we receive a complete application. This means we have received all required supporting documents (e.g. proof of identity, physician letters, X-ray reports, etc.).

Note: a complete Disability Benefit application does not require you to have provided your Service Health Record; we will get this on your behalf.

- What does “updated weekly” mean?

Every week we recalculate the average time it took to process applications for each program over the last 90 days.

- What programs are included in the tool?

Currently, average wait times are available for the following programs and services:

- Disability Benefit
- Attendance Allowance
- Career Impact Allowance
- Career Impact Allowance Supplement
- Caregiver Recognition Benefit
- Clothing Allowance
- Critical Injury Benefit

- Death Benefit
- Earnings Loss Benefit
- Exceptional Incapacity Allowance
- Rehabilitation
- Retirement Income Security Benefit
- Veterans Independence Program
- War Veterans Allowance

We are working on adding wait times for more VAC programs and services in the near future.

- The wait time estimates provided by VAC staff over the phone for Disability Benefits were previously a range (e.g. 17-38 weeks). This tool only shows a single number. Why is this?

This range included complex claims and claims for multiple conditions. We are now able to provide a specific estimate for single condition applications and a different estimate for claims with multiple conditions.

- Why do some submissions take longer to process than others?

Wait times vary depending on the type of claim; and the volume and complexity of applications being processed at that time. Also, if a claim is more complex (e.g. a disability benefit application with more than one condition) or additional information is required from third parties, it can take longer.

- Why are the wait times for some programs not meeting VAC's service standards?

Service standards help measure the level of service we provide. Over the past few years, VAC has not been able to meet some of our service standards. There are a number of factors that affect this such as: a significant increase in the number of applications received, the complexity of those applications, and the timeliness of receiving supporting information (health records, doctor's notes, etc.) for applications. We remain committed to addressing these issues.

To keep up with the rise in demand and to ensure that Veterans get services and benefits when they need them, the Government has committed to spending \$42.8 million over two years, starting in 2018–19, to increase service delivery capacity at Veterans Affairs Canada.

- Why is VAC investing in a Wait time tool instead of services and benefits for Veterans?

The Wait time tool was created because Veterans and their families asked for realistic estimates of when decisions can be expected as one way to improve communication around the delivery of benefits and services to them.

- I would like an update on the status of my personal application. How do I get that?

Currently, you can track the status of most applications through My VAC Account. [My VAC Account](#) shows you where your application is in the process. We are continually enhancing this status tracking feature to provide as much detail to applicants as possible.

- Will I receive more detailed information on application wait times if I contact VAC by phone?

No. Whether you call us or use this tool online, the information we provide you on the current wait time for processing applications will be the same.

- Will the new Pension for Life benefits be included in this tool?

Yes. Wait time estimates for [Pension for Life](#) benefits will be included in the Wait time tool (Pain and Suffering Compensation, Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation, and Income Replacement Benefit) after April 1, 2019.

## Changes under Pension for Life

Changes under Pension for Life are now in effect

If your benefits were impacted by these changes, here's what you can expect this month:

Your payment information should be updated. You can find this information on the "Current benefits and payment history" page.

You will receive a letter with your new calculations and an explanation of the changes. We will send you separate letters for each benefit.

More information and details about these changes will be shared in My VAC Account and on our [website](#).

An overview of Pension for Life

In December 2017, we announced changes to the financial benefits we provide Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and Veterans who are living with a disability due to a service-related injury and/or illness. These changes, which fall

under Pension for Life, are significant improvements to the disability benefits, income support and rehabilitation services that are available to Veterans.

#### Here are a few changes under Pension for Life:

You now have the option to receive compensation for a service-related injury or illness as a monthly payment, for life.

If you need income support while you focus on your recovery, you only have to apply for one benefit: the Income Replacement Benefit. Instead of offering multiple different benefits, we have replaced them with a single benefit.

#### Here are a few things that have changed in My VAC Account because of Pension for Life:

We added new guided web forms in My VAC Account for benefits and services that fall under Pension for Life. These guided web forms are often more convenient and easier to complete than traditional paper forms.

We've updated the 'Track your applications' tool based on user feedback. As a first step, we have updated the user interface. You may notice that the tool is much easier to read now. Our next step is to add more information under each step of the process so you are well aware of what's going on behind-the-scenes.

## Medals and Decorations

In 1949, the Government of Canada awarded campaign stars and medals which were sent to the last known address on the individual's service records at the time. Many medals were returned undelivered. To try to reach as many Veterans as possible, application cards were given out at post offices across the country and Veterans had to apply for their medals.

Veterans Affairs Canada is responsible for first issue or replacement medals for those who served in the Second World War, Merchant Navy and the Korean War. Please visit our [medals contact](#) page for more information.

#### Helpful Tips When Applying for Medals:

- If you are a Veteran looking for your own medals, please contact us at 1-866-522-2122.
- If you served after the Korea War, you must call National Defence at 1-877-741-8332 for medals such as: Canadian Forces Decorations, United Nations Medal for Emergency Force, Egypt, Peace Keeping Medal, or the Special Service Medal, etc.

Where can I apply for the new Peacekeeping Medal?

The Peacekeeping Medal is issued by National Defence and applications may be submitted by calling this toll free number: 1-877-741-8332.

Can I wear my relative's medals?

Medals may only be worn by the veteran. This is considered of such high importance that it is a criminal offense to wear military medals that someone else has earned.

In what order should medals be mounted?

Information can be found in the section on [mounting and wearing of campaign stars and medals](#).

How much does it cost to replace lost medals?

There is no charge for replacement medals for the Veteran or widow/widower. However, for eligible next of kin, if the medals have never been issued, the first set is free. If they have already been issued, there will be a charge. The price for each medal varies.

I need new ribbons. Where can I obtain new ones?

Veterans Affairs Canada provides veterans and their families with new ribbons at no cost. We will require the name of each medal in order to identify which ribbons are needed. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

I need a new mounting bar. Where can I obtain one?

Veterans Affairs Canada can provide new mounting bars at no cost. We have one to five medal bars available. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

Why are medals from the Second World War not engraved with the soldier's information?

The eight campaign stars and two general service medals awarded for service in the Second World War were issued unnamed by England and Canada after the criteria for the medals were finalized in 1948. In accordance with the criteria, the medals were not engraved with the details of military personnel. This criterion is still followed today.

How do I apply for the Radar Mechanics Certificate?

If you served in the RCAF and were a Radar Mechanic attached to the RAF during the Second World War, a certificate of appreciation from the British Air Ministry of Defence is available. Please [contact us](#) for more information. Family members of a deceased veteran can also apply. Please note that only one certificate per Radar Mechanic can be issued.

I served in the Second World War and I lost my discharge button. Can I get another one?

Yes. Please [contact us](#) and a replacement discharge button and certificate will be sent after a review of your service documents.

Where can I get a replacement of my Operational Wings?

Operational Wings are available from National Defence. Please note that DND may only replace lost or stolen wings that were already approved prior to or by 31 March 1946. If approval for the operational wings is not in the serviceman's file, the wings cannot be issued.

Where can I purchase a replacement cap, hat or air gunner badges, etc.?

Badges and insignias are available from a military outfitter.

I want to have my medals mounted and cleaned. Is there such a service available?

Veterans Affairs Canada does not provide this service. Please contact a military outfitter in your area.

I understand that a new medal to commemorate the Battle of Normandy is available. Where can I obtain this medal?

The French Government issued a commemorative medal in 1994 on the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy. Unfortunately, the medal was only available in a limited issue and we have been informed that it is no longer available.

What is the new Bomber Command Bar?

The Bomber Command Bar is awarded to Canadian Veterans who earned the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command during the Second World War.

How can I apply?

Bomber Command Bar applications can be submitted [online](#) or by submitting a paper application to the Honours and Awards Section of Veterans Affairs Canada:  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
Honours and Awards Section  
Ottawa ON K1A 0P4

More information on the Bomber Command Bar can be found [here](#).

Are Canadian Veterans eligible to apply for the United Kingdom Bomber Command Clasp?

The British Government recently unveiled its own unique military honour for Bomber Command Veterans. The UK Bomber Command Clasp, worn on the 1939-45 Star, is available to aircrew who served a minimum of 60 days in the air.

Commonwealth Veterans are eligible to wear the clasp, provided that they are not eligible for a similar award from their country of citizenship.

Canadian Honours and Awards policy indicates that “awards are made on the understanding that individuals do not receive a similar award from their own or any other Allied government.”

As the Bomber Command Bar is being issued by the Government of Canada, Canadian Veterans are not eligible to receive the UK Bomber Command Clasp to the 1939-45 Star, as this would be a direct duplication of a Canadian honour.

Arctic Star – How can I apply?

The Government of Canada has announced that eligible Canadian Veterans now have authority to wear the [Arctic Star](#). This new medal was unveiled in 2012 by the British Government and is available to all Commonwealth Forces, including Canada. It is intended to commemorate and recognize the particular severity of the conditions experienced by those who served in the Arctic during the Second World War.

Eligible Veterans and next-of-kin can now apply for the Arctic Star.

For your application, you will need to provide information such as:

- service number
- branch of service
- theatre of service
- full name
- date of birth
- your current name and address

Please [contact us](#) or download, print and complete the appropriate form below and mail it to the Honours and Awards directorate at the address indicated on the form.

- [Veteran](#) of the Second World War
- [Family member](#) of a deceased Veteran of the Second World War

## VETERANS ARE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES APPLYING FOR POSITIONS IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Ottawa, March 22, 2019 -

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (the Committee) is conducting a study on hiring veterans for federal public service positions and is looking for input from veterans. The Committee is aiming to table a report with recommendations to the federal government in the House of Commons in 2019.

Veterans are invited to participate in the Committee's study in the following ways:

–REQUESTS TO APPEAR: Requests to appear may be sent to the Committee by email ([OGGO@parl.gc.ca](mailto:OGGO@parl.gc.ca)) or by using the "Request to Appear" button on the Committee's website. Please note that the Clerk of the Committee will contact only those who are selected by the Committee to appear. Requests to appear must be submitted to the Committee no later than Thursday, April 18, 2019. The Committee will accommodate, to the best of its abilities, veterans who prefer to participate anonymously.

–WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: The Committee also encourages veterans and other interested Canadians who want to share their views to send written submissions by using the "Submit a Brief" button on the Committee's website. Please note that written submission can be sent anonymously.

"I am very proud that the Committee will be examining ways to improve the hiring of veterans in the federal public service," said Tom Lukiwski, Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates. "On behalf of the Committee, I would like to invite veterans to share their experiences as well as their suggestions on how to facilitate their hiring in the federal public service," Mr. Lukiwski added.

Canadians who wish to follow the Committee's work may do so by visiting its website:<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/OGGO>.

Esprit de Corps April 2019 edition,

In the latest edition (Vol 26 Issue 3 [April 2019]) Les Peate – a Korean War veteran writes his column and mentions us. (NVOC)

QUOTE:I would put in a word for the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada (NVOC). I am a member of a number of veterans organizations and NVOC is one of the best. Eligibility is extended to all members of the Canadian Forces who served after 1949, which means there is a pool of potential members who will be able to carry on looking after the interests of all vets when those of my

generation are “past it”. NVOC is an important bargaining group and keep members well informed of veterans matters; much of my column input comes from NVOC bulletins. For twenty bucks its worth it. UNQUOTE

QUOTE” What do you think? A proposal seems to be around to amalgamate DND and VAC. Apparently the Legion is for it. NVOC isn't. I'd appreciate your views.” UNQUOTE.

Battle of Vimy Ridge Ceremony / Cérémonie de la bataille de la Crête de Vimy

- Veterans Affairs Canada will mark the 102nd Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge with a public ceremony at the National War Memorial.

**The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 at 11 am.**

You are welcome to attend. If you wish, you may bring a wreath to lay after the official ceremony.

Anciens Combattants Canada commémorera le 102e anniversaire de la Bataille de la crête de Vimy.

**La cérémonie publique aura lieu au Monument commémoratif de guerre du Canada le mardi 9 avril, 2019, à 11 h.**

Vous êtes bienvenue à la cérémonie. Si vous le souhaitez, vous pouvez amener une couronne et la déposer après la cérémonie officielle.

Wayne Mac Culloch, CD

Immediate Past National President / président national sortant

Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP) /

L'Association canadienne des Vétérans des Forces de Paix des Nations-Unies (ACVFPNU)

[wrmac50@rogers.com](mailto:wrmac50@rogers.com)  
613-834-8274

You are invited by the Friends of the Canadian War Museum to a Friends Forum:

Canadian-Polish Relations in Wartime 1914-1945  
Presented by Edward Poznanski Thursday, April 18, 2019  
Atelier "C" and "D"  
Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa

Presentation: 1:30 pm  
Refreshments: 2:30 pm

Price: Donations will be accepted at the door in cash or by cheque. Receipts will be issued.

RSVP: By Thursday, April 11, 2019

If you wish to attend, please telephone the Friends Office at 819.776.8618 or email [fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org](mailto:fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org)

This event will also be live-streamed on the FCWM Facebook page.

For more information, please consult the attached.

1 Place Vimy Place, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8  
tel/tél: 819-776-8618  
email/courriel: [fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org](mailto:fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org)  
[www.friends-amis.org](http://www.friends-amis.org)

Vous êtes invité par les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre au Forum des Amis :

Les relations canado-polonaises en temps de guerre 1914-1945  
Présenté par Edward Poznanski

Le jeudi 18 avril 2019  
Atelier « C » et « D »  
Le Musée canadien de la guerre, 1, Place Vimy, Ottawa

Présentation à 13 h 30  
Rafraîchissements à 14 h 30

Prix : Les dons en argent comptant ou par chèque seront recueillis à la porte. Des reçus seront remis.

RSVP : Avant le jeudi 11 avril 2019

Si vous souhaitez participer au Forum, veuillez communiquer avec les Amis par téléphone au 819-776-8618 ou par courriel à [fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org](mailto:fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org)

Cet événement sera également diffusé en direct sur la page Facebook d'AMCG.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter la fiche d'information jointe.

1 Place Vimy Place, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8  
tel/tél: 819-776-8618  
email/courriel: [fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org](mailto:fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org)  
[www.friends-amis.org](http://www.friends-amis.org)

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO), APRIL 4, 2019

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/NEWS%20RELEASE-70TH%20ANNIVERSARY%20OF%20NATO%2C%20APRIL%204%2C%202019.pdf?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=106337&attachment=2&delivery=view>

## The spectre of political interference linking SNC-Lavalin to the Norman trial

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/politics/the-spectre-of-political-interference-linking-snc-lavalin-to-the-norman-trial/ar-BBVpJHI?li=AAggXBV> ;

### [Combat boots begin cross-country journey to honour 75th anniversary of D-Day](#)

CBC News

A pair of combat boots has been loaded on a train in Vancouver to begin a cross-country journey symbolizing those who travelled to Halifax during the Second World War before they embarked for Europe. Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence McAuley addressed active and retired members of the Canadian Forces who gathered at the VIA Rail Canada terminal for a ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. [READ MORE](#)

### [Canadian Sailor named International Military Athlete of the Year](#)

Frontline Defence

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) announced that Able Seaman (AB) Yvette Yong of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has been named International Military Female Athlete of the Year by the International Military Sports Council / Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM). Established in 1948, CISM is the second largest multi-sport discipline organization after the International Olympic Committee, holding more than 20 competitions annually for the armed forces of

134 member countries. [READ MORE](#)

## [Quand les militaires canadiens débarquent dans l'Arctique](#)

Radio-Canada

Plus de 350 militaires sont déployés dans le Grand Nord canadien depuis deux semaines pour l'opération annuelle Nunavut qui sert d'entraînement aux troupes dans un Arctique en plein changement. La plupart sont à Resolute Bay au Nunavut où les conditions sont extrêmes, la température est froide et les infrastructures sont limitées. [LIRE PLUS](#)

## [Why a long, long bridge \(or tunnel\) from Vancouver to Victoria won't work](#)

Vancouver is Awesome

Here's why a bridge linking Vancouver Island to the mainland is a non-starter:

- Why would we build a bridge? We just made our last payment on the moat.
- Moving to an island and complaining about the lack of a bridge is like moving next to a farm and moaning about the smell of manure.
- The engineers say it won't work — not that we'll believe them if we don't want to, as is so often the case when it come to answers we don't like. We prefer what Stephen Colbert calls truthiness, the truth as we would like it to be. [READ MORE](#)

## [Steel Spirit — Annapolis Royal art exhibit to consist of works by soldiers, first responders](#)

Truro Daily News

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." That's what people say. Those soldiers, firefighters, cops, and paramedics are the new knights. The first defense. The first responders. They've seen a lot. And though sometimes what they see makes fire-breathing dragons seem tame, they soldier on. Seemingly unscathed. Barbara Brown knows the truth of it. The Barrie, ON, woman's husband was a war crimes investigator and she came up with the idea of "The Steel Spirit" while he was deployed for a year. [READ MORE](#)

## [L'officier le plus âgé des Forces canadiennes, un Montréalais, meurt à l'âge de 101 ans](#)

TVA Nouvelles

L'officier des Forces canadiennes le plus âgé et comptant le plus grand nombre d'années de service, un Montréalais du nom de David Hart, est décédé à l'âge de 101 ans. La Défense nationale et les Forces armées canadiennes ont publié un communiqué dimanche afin de souligner son apport et sa «vie hors du commun au service du Canada». [LIRE PLUS](#)

## [Kosovo resumes bid to clear country of land mines](#)

Washington Post

Kosovo's Defense Ministry says military personnel have resumed the annual process of clearing the country of land mines. Mines have killed more than 100 people and wounded several hundred others in Kosovo over the past two decades. Serbia's army planted hundreds of thousands of land mines and other explosive devices during the Kosovo war in 1998-1999, and there is also a threat from unexploded bombs dropped from NATO jets during its air campaign that halted a Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanian independence fighters. Kosovo's 2008 independence hasn't been recognized by Serbia. [READ MORE](#)

### [Clearing land mines may cause lasting environmental damage, study says](#)

The Weather Channel

While land mines remain a lingering danger to those living in war-torn nations, new research shows that detonating them in the field could cause long-term environmental damage. Rahel Hamad, a professor of petroleum geosciences at Soran University in Erbil, Iraq, and two colleagues studied the levels of heavy metals in the soil in a small section of northern Iraq's Halgurd-Sakran National Park, where land mines had been purposely detonated as part of clearing efforts. [READ MORE](#)

### [Hommage aux soldats canadiens à Ottawa](#)

La Presse

Le Canada a rendu hommage dimanche à ses troupes qui ont servi en Afghanistan, dont les 151 soldats et sept civils qui y ont perdu la vie, alors que le mois de mars marque le cinquième anniversaire de la fin de la mission canadienne en Afghanistan. Le dernier contingent canadien était rentré au pays en mars 2014, mettant ainsi un terme à implication militaire de 12 ans. [LIRE PLUS](#)

### [Sappers: Syrian army destroyed over 100 tonnes of ammunition in Eastern Ghouta in 1 year](#)

Urdu Point

The Syrian army in a year destroyed more than 100 tonnes of ammunition left by militants when they were fleeing Eastern Ghouta, the commander of the sapper unit, Brig. Gen. Mayas Mahmoud Issa, said. "We are responsible for demining towns and settlements in this area... In a year, we detonated in overall more than 100 tonnes [of ammunition]," Issa told reporters. He said the destroyed weapons included improvised anti-tank mines and tank shells. [READ MORE](#)

### [Bailey bridge parts arriving](#)

Otago Daily Times

The piers for the Waiho (Waiiau) bridge at Franz Josef Glacier have come through the flood well, and the first trucks with replacement parts are in town. New Zealand Transport Agency manager Pete Connors said it had scoured the country for Bailey bridge components. At least 16 truckloads of material started heading to Franz

Josef via the Haast Pass yesterday, though they were not travelling in  
convoy. [READ MORE](#)