

Media Report 07 February 2020

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as direction respecting entitlement of survivors and dependent children to a death and/or disability benefit following the death of a member or Veteran from a service related injury or disease, Current information on the rollout of the Veteran's Service Card. and local Media Articles.

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<https://a.msn.com/r/2/BBZwqUv?m=en-ca&referrerID=InAppShare>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/cf-honours-policy-manual.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2020>

[/01/new-canadian-forces-honours-policy-manual.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2020/01/new-canadian-forces-honours-policy-manual.html)

Special discounts and benefits to active Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans, as well as their spouses.

[https://dealhack.ca/blog/canadian-military-discounts?](https://dealhack.ca/blog/canadian-military-discounts?fbclid=IwAR0I6RXIcIsNQyqz3RoFd_803SRiNysK8PaLhr82STb3RTCA6u2S0CZH3wY)

[fbclid=IwAR0I6RXIcIsNQyqz3RoFd_803SRiNysK8PaLhr82STb3RTCA6u2S0CZH3wY](https://dealhack.ca/blog/canadian-military-discounts?fbclid=IwAR0I6RXIcIsNQyqz3RoFd_803SRiNysK8PaLhr82STb3RTCA6u2S0CZH3wY)

The Dealhack Canadian Military and Veteran Discounts List is the result of our quarterly survey of brands that offer discounts to all members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Every 3 months, our team independently verifies each and every discount on this list. We also add more brands to the list regularly when we come across them.

The online version of this guide can be viewed at: <https://dealhack.ca/blog/canadian-military>

The list currently includes more than 80 brands conveniently broken down into 10 categories. You can also save or print the list to use as a handy reference.

EXAMPLES:

- Canadian Forces (CF) Appreciation Program: The CF Appreciation Program offers discounts to all military personnel and their families. It

New Canadian Forces Honours Policy Manual

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/cf-honours-policy-manual.html>

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- Canadian Forces (CF) Appreciation Program: The CF Appreciation Program offers discounts to all military personnel and their families. It includes a variety of discounts from major brands and businesses. Deals are being added regularly so keep yourself updated by visiting the website. Sign up for a free CF One card to be eligible for these discounts
- Black Diamond Pro: CAF members can apply for Black Diamond's Pro Purchase Program to receive special store discounts (source). Gerber Gear: Veterans of the CAF can sign up for the Gerber Gear Program to exclusively receive discounts and free shipping. Restrictions apply (source).
- Law Enforcement & Armed Forces (LEAF): The LEAF purchase program grants discounts to CAF members who purchase at DS Tactical (source) and Triggertech (source).
- Leatherman Pro: Active duty members of the Canadian military can get special discounts when they apply to Leatherman's Pro Program (source).
- Lockhart Tactical: Lockhart Tactical offers a 10% discount to members of the Canadian military when they sign up for the Honor Program. Registration is free and valid ID is required (source).
- Medex Supply: Medex Supply offers a discount program to active

and retired Canada Armed Forces members who can verify their eligibility online (source). Oakley Forces: Oakley Forces offers its products at a direct rate for military personnel. You must first register online with your valid military ID to be approved for the program (source). Outdoor Research VIP: Outdoor Research VIP offers discounts on outdoor equipment and gear. Complete an online application to sign up for their discounts (source). Tandy Leather: Tandy Leather's Military Appreciation Program offers special discounts and benefits to active Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans, as well as their spouses (source). Location-specific discounts and deals for tickets can be found at CAF Connection (use the drop-down in the top left-hand corner to select your community). List of insurers who can offer discounted car insurance rates to military personnel in Canada can be found using

How to do a Review and Appeal Ref your Veterans Claim

If you do not agree with the Departmental decision made regarding your application for disability benefits, you may request a Departmental review or appeal the decision to the [Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#) (VRAB).

The Veterans Review and Appeal Board is the independent tribunal that offers an avenue of appeal for Departmental decisions on disability benefits. In order to ensure a fair appeal process, the Board is an entirely separate and independent organization from Veterans Affairs Canada (the Department).

If you are dissatisfied with your Departmental decision, you can contact the [Bureau of Pensions Advocates](#) (BPA) which provides free legal assistance. The BPA has offices across Canada staffed by experienced lawyers who have the responsibility to represent applicants before the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.

Veterans' organizations such as the [Royal Canadian Legion](#) also provide assistance, free of charge, in preparing your review or appeal.

Options for review or appeal include:

- A Departmental Review

This option gives you the opportunity to provide any important new evidence in support of your application and have your claim reviewed again by VAC.

Veterans Review and Appeal Board

- Review Hearing

The Review Hearing is the only time in the process when you may appear before decision-makers and testify regarding the facts of your case.

During the hearing, Board members listen to your testimony and to the arguments made by your representative, and ask questions to clarify all the details of your application. Review Hearings are normally conducted by two Board members, and take place at approximately 23 locations across Canada (your travel expenses will be covered by Veterans Affairs Canada). The Board also offers Review Hearings by teleconference and video conference.

- **Appeal Hearing**

If you are dissatisfied with your VRAB Review decision, you can request an Appeal hearing. An Appeal hearing is a further opportunity for your representative to make oral and/or written arguments in support of your case. The legislation does not permit oral testimony at this level.

Three Board Members who were not involved in the Review Hearing conduct the Appeal Hearing. Appeal Hearings are usually held at the Board's Head Office in Charlottetown as well as by teleconference.

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Frequently Asked Questions by Veterans

- 1. If I receive a payment from a class action settlement, is this payment reduced from any Disability Benefits I receive from Veterans Affairs Canada?

If you report a payment from a class action settlement, we review all relevant information to decide whether the settlement should be reduced from the Disability Benefit.

If you apply for a Disability Benefit, it is your responsibility to tell us that you received or are pursuing third-party compensation for the same medical condition(s). Third-party compensation includes Workers' Compensation and class action lawsuit settlements. You need to provide this information in Section F on the Disability Benefits Application (PEN923) form. When you report third-party compensation, you must also complete the form entitled Consent for Veterans Affairs Canada to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties (VAC928). If it is a payment from a class action, we review the terms of the settlement.

If necessary, we offset any third-party compensation as outlined in the Veterans Well-being Regulations.

2. Would you call someone to find out if they are receiving compensation from a class action settlement or another third party?

We make contact with any disability applicant whose application is incomplete, including an incomplete section related to third party compensation. When a member applies for a Disability Pension, the application asks if they are applying for compensation for the same disability from another source, such as Workers' Compensation. If this question is not answered, the application is incomplete and it is standard procedure for us to follow-up.

3. How is the amount of a disability benefit determined?

The amount of a disability benefit you receive will be determined by:

- the degree to which that disability is related to your service (entitlement); and
- the extent of the disability (assessment).

Once it is established that your disability is related to your service, the next step is to determine the extent or severity of your disability so that we can assign an assessment level.

To learn more, see the [How Benefits Are Determined](#) section.

4. What are Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines?

[Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) are policy statements used to guide the decision-making process and help in determining the relationship between your medical condition or disability and your service. The guidelines are based on credible medical evidence and research. Similar guidelines from across the country as well as the United States and Australia were reviewed during the development process. Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines help to ensure our decisions are consistent and fair.

5. What is the Table of Disabilities (TOD)?

The [TOD](#) is a legislated/statutory instrument used to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. The table considers the relative importance of a certain body part/system in assessing the level of impairment and the impact of on an individual's lifestyle. The disability assessment is established based on the medical impairment rating, in conjunction with quality of life indicators.

6. What are medical questionnaires?

[Medical questionnaires](#) are forms we have developed for your healthcare provider to complete with all of the details of your disability. These standardized forms provide guidance for your health care provider to

ensure he or she provides all of the necessary and relevant information we need to make a decision on your application for disability benefits. The medical questionnaires are used, along with other submitted medical information, to confirm your medical diagnosis and determine the impairment rating of your disability.

When you give your health care provider the [medical questionnaire](#), please be sure to also provide your completed and signed [Consent for Veterans Affairs Canada to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties](#) form which gives him or her the authority to release your personal medical information to us. If your health care provider does not wish to fill out the questionnaire, they can provide a "narrative report" as an alternative. This report must include the same basic information as the questionnaire. Please do not have a medical questionnaire completed until you have been provided with specific instructions from us regarding the questionnaire(s) required. .

7. When can I expect to receive a decision?

We are committed to getting you a decision as soon as possible. In most cases, a decision will be made within 16 weeks of the Department receiving all the information required from you to support of your application.

8. What happens if my disability gets worse?

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens, you can request a reassessment if there is medical evidence to show that there has been a change in the severity of your disability. If a new condition develops that you think is related to your service, you can submit an application for that condition. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your benefit will be adjusted accordingly-unless you are already receiving the maximum assessment as set out in the [Table of Disabilities](#). If that is the case, no additional amount can be provided.

9. I do not agree with the Department's decision on my application? What can I do?

If you do not agree with the decision you have received regarding your application for disability benefits, you have the right to appeal the decision or request a Departmental Review if you have new evidence. The [Bureau of Pensions Advocates \(BPA\)](#) and [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) both provide free assistance with reviews and appeals.

10. I'm having difficulty preparing my application for Disability Benefits. Can anyone help?

Yes, VAC staff are always happy to help you with your application or any other questions you may have. In addition, Service Officers with The Royal Canadian Legion or The War Amps of Canada also provide assistance with applications free of charge. You can find out more in the "[Who Can Help?](#)" section.

11. I am no longer living in Canada. Can I still get benefits?

In some circumstances, we can provide benefits to you while you are living or vacationing outside of Canada.

You can contact us toll-free, from:

- United States – Call 1-888-996-2242 (toll free)
- United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Belgium – Call 00-800-996-22421 (toll free)
- Any other country – 613-996-2242 (collect)

12. When will benefits start?

If you receive a favourable decision letter, it will indicate a start date.

13. [How do I get my service health records?](#)

14. [How do I calculate my Disability Award payment?](#)

15. Why can I only get a Disability Award and not a monthly pension?

The monthly disability pension has been replaced with a combination of financial benefits that have been designed to meet your individual needs.

Our [Earnings Loss program](#), for example, provides you with a monthly income of 90 % of your pre-release salary while you are participating in our [rehabilitation program](#) or until age 65 if you are not able to work. The Disability Award is paid as a one time award to help you overcome any immediate financial concerns and as an opportunity for you to generate income. It is not taxable. There are flexible Disability Award payment options from which to choose: a lump-sum payment, annual payments over the number of years of your choosing, or a combination of these two payment options.

16. If I receive a significant compensation through the Disability Award, can I get advice to help me manage it?

Yes. In fact, we encourage you to get a financial expert's [advice](#) to help you manage this compensation. Veterans Affairs Canada will cover the cost of that advice up to \$500.

Les provinces atlantiques doivent se préparer à des tempêtes plus fortes

Radio-Canada

Le blizzard qui a récemment paralysé l'est de Terre-Neuve démontre que les autorités doivent se préparer à des précipitations extrêmes et aux ondes de marée, même si un lien direct n'a pas encore été parfaitement établi entre les tempêtes individuelles et les changements climatiques, disent des climatologues. Le 17 janvier, plus de 76 centimètres de neige sont tombées sur Saint-Jean et ses environs au milieu de rafales atteignant plus de 150 kilomètres à l'heure. La capitale provinciale a lancé un état d'urgence qui est demeuré en vigueur pendant huit jours afin de permettre aux équipes de déneigement de dégager les rues. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Defence Department: More than 100 military procurements facing delays

CFJC Today

The Department of National Defence has identified delays in more than 100 planned military purchases and facility upgrades, most of which have flown under the radar as attention has focused on the government's problems buying new fighter jets and warships. While some of the schedule setbacks revealed by the Defence Department are relatively minor, others are significant, with the delivery dates for new or upgraded equipment — some of which is needed urgently — pushed several years into the future. [READ MORE](#)

Gaza balloon units threaten to use tear gas balloons in coming days

The Jerusalem Post

The units that launch explosive and incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip have warned that they will start launching balloons carrying tear gas grenades in the coming days, according to Ynet. Video released by the units show a tear gas grenade with a fuse that eventually causes the grenade to release large amounts of the gas. [READ MORE](#)

Une dernière opération hivernale à Saint-Ulric pour les militaires

Mon Matane

Déjà deux des trois opérations hivernales du régiment « Les Fusiliers du St-Laurent » se sont tenues au cours des dernières semaines dans la région. La première a eu lieu du 17 au 19 janvier dernier au manège militaire sur l'avenue Saint-Jérôme. La deuxième opération en forêt a permis aux stagiaires du cours « Guerre en hiver » de poursuivre leur entraînement alors qu'ils ont passer deux jours en mode survie en secteur forestier dans le secteur de Saint-Adelme. [LIRE PLUS](#)

It's a train, on a bridge, that floats. It's complicated

KUOW

By 2023, Sound Transit's link light rail is scheduled to run from Seattle to Mercer Island, then on to

Bellevue and Redmond. But there's one major hurdle — there's a lake in the way. How do you construct a rail line across a floating bridge? The East Link light rail line is slated to cross the I-90 floating bridge over Lake Washington. [READ MORE](#)

200 years of the Bombay Sappers: 'Ever-modernizing engineering forces will remain crucial in future warfare'

Yahoo!

Bombay Engineer Group, also known as the Bombay Sappers, is a regiment of the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army located at Khadki in Pune. The ever-modernizing engineering forces will remain crucial to future warfare, said Commandant of College of Military Engineering Lieutenant General Michael Mathews, at the occasion to mark 200 years of the Bombay Sappers. [READ MORE](#)

Opération LENTUS 20-01: les troupes rentrent après avoir accompli leur mission

45e Nord

Les troupes déployées à Terre-Neuve dans le cadre de l'Opération LENTUS 20-01 ont maintenant été redéployées au Nouveau-Brunswick après avoir supporté la province de Terre-Neuve suite à une tempête de neige sans précédent. La Force opérationnelle interarmées Atlantique a annoncé mardi l'achèvement de l'aide Terre-Neuve. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Video: This high-tech rifle sight pulls the trigger for you

Military Times

The new SmartShooter electronic rifle sight can be installed on most military rifles and takes the guesswork out of shooting moving targets at long distances. SmartShooter is an Israeli company that's teaming with firearms manufacturer Sig Sauer to bring this technology to the U.S. consumer and military markets. [READ MORE](#)