

Media Report 07 June 2019 Part 1 of 2

Disability benefits (It surprising how many veterans don't know they qualify for VAC benefits, you do not need to have served on Overseas Missions, Out Country Operations or Tours to apply) only 12% use VAC Services from 650,00 veterans.

CANADA'S VETERANS POPULATION

650,000 Veterans

11% Female Veterans

48,000 WWII & Korean War Veterans

59,000 Survivors

30% Modern – Day Veterans

319,000 Regular Forces Veterans

282,000 Reserves Veterans

Average age 60

12% use VAC Services

Do you have an illness or injury from your service? Disability Benefits are financial recognition for the impact this service-related injury or disease can have on your life.

The amount you receive depends on the degree to which your condition is related to your service (entitlement) and the severity of your condition, including its impact on your quality of life (assessment).

A disability benefit is a tax-free, financial payment to support your well-being.

About this program

Do you qualify?

To qualify for a disability benefit you must be one of the following:

- Canadian Armed Forces member or Veteran,
- a current or former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP),
- Second World War or Korean War Veteran (includes Merchant Navy), or
- certain civilians who served in the Second World War.

You should apply for a disability benefit if you:

- 1.have a diagnosed medical condition or disability; and
- 2.are able to show that the condition is related to your service.

If you qualify for a disability benefit, you will receive either a:

- 1.Pain and suffering compensation – a life-time monthly benefit or lump sum benefit – the choice is yours.

View the [pain and suffering compensation rates](#).

- 2.or

- 3.Disability pension - a life-time monthly benefit. If you have any dependents (e.g. spouse, common-law partner and/or children), your monthly amount will be increased.

View the [disability pension rates](#).

*A disability pension is provided if you served with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Second World War or Korean War. For other CAF service, a disability pension is provided in relation to any application prior to April 1, 2006.

How to apply

If you have a pending application for disability award from Veterans Affairs Canada, you do not need to apply for the Pension for Life benefits. Your application for a disability award will be processed under Pain and Suffering Compensation. The eligibility criteria for the Pain and Suffering Compensation is similar to the current eligibility criteria used for disability award.

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](#).

Mail or in person

Download the application form. Then, drop it off at any [VAC office](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [Service Canada office](#). You can also mail your completed form directly to the address listed on the form.

Get help with your application

The staff at any [VAC office](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [Service Canada office](#) can assist you or call us at 1-866-522-2122. Service Officers with [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) or [The War Amps of Canada](#) can also assist you with your application, including helping you get all of the information you need to support your application. Their assistance is free of charge.

Additional information

[The application package](#) – learn more about all of the components that make up an application for a disability benefit.

[How we review a claim for a disability benefit](#) – learn more about how your disability claim is reviewed by the department and particularly, by the adjudicator – a trained decision-maker for disability claims.

Reviews and appeals

If you do not agree with the decision made regarding your application for disability benefits, you may request a Departmental review. Learn more about [reviews and appeals](#).

Reassessment

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens and medical evidence can show this change in your condition, you can request a reassessment. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your disability benefit will be adjusted accordingly – unless you are already receiving the maximum amount of the benefit. To request a reassessment, your first step should be to [call us or visit your local VAC office](#).

Tools for Adjudication

[Eligibility Entitlement Guidelines](#) – These guidelines are current medical and scientific descriptions of known injuries and diseases related to service.

[Table of Disabilities](#) – This table helps the adjudicator assess the level of impairment and the impact that impairment has on your quality of life.

Related programs

[Critical injury benefit](#) - A one-time payment that recognizes the immediate impact of the most severe and traumatic service-related injuries or diseases.

[Rehabilitation services](#) - Services to improve your health and adjust to life after service.

[Clothing allowance](#) - Monthly payments if you need new or special clothing due to your health issues.

[Treatment Benefits](#) – Coverage for medical and health related services.

[Benefits for survivors](#) – Financial support or compensation for the survivors of a disability pensioner or of a member or Veteran who died in service or as a result of a service-related illness or injury.

[Financial advice](#) - If you receive a lump-sum payment more than 5% of the current maximum, we can pay up to \$500 for professional advice to help you manage your money effectively.

[Additional pain and suffering compensation](#) - Monthly payments in recognition of any severe and permanent disability, related to your military service, which creates a barrier to life after service.

Programs related to a disability pension:

[Attendance allowance](#) - Monthly payments for a disability pensioner whose health needs require daily personal care support.

[Exceptional incapacity allowance](#) - Monthly payments if your illness or injury impacts your quality of life.

How VAC reviews a disability benefit claim

A completed application for a disability benefit will show that you have a diagnosed medical condition (or disability) and that your condition is related to your service.

Do we have everything?

A complete [application for a disability benefit](#) (form #PEN923AP) will have all the information needed to determine that you have a diagnosed medical condition related to your service. In this first step, we will review your:

- 1.[Disability benefit application](#) (form #PEN923);
- 2.Medical reports or CAF/RCMP health reports;
- 3.Medical questionnaire(s);
- 4.Your service health records; and if needed one or all of the following,
- 5.Your profile (form #VAC1055) including your proof of identify, third-party consent, and direct deposit form (form #VAC441).

Learn more about how to [complete an application](#) for a disability benefit.

Who reviews the claim?

Once your application package is complete, it is assigned to an adjudicator.

Every application for a disability benefit is reviewed by an adjudicator – who are specially-trained to review and make decisions on claims for a disability benefit. The adjudicator must base their decision on the evidence they receive. To ensure they review your claim accurately and quickly, it is very important to provide only information that clearly shows that you have a diagnosed medical condition. Your service records will confirm if that diagnosed condition is related to your service.

How is my service covered?

If your service records show that you were serving in a Special Duty Area (SDA) or Special Duty Operation (SDO) when you became ill or were injured, any disability from that service is covered by the Insurance Principle, which provides 24-hour coverage.

If you were serving outside an SDA or SDO, you will be covered through the Compensation Principle, which provides coverage for an illness or injury that occurred while you were on duty.

Assessment tools used to review the claim

If the adjudicator determines that there is clear medical evidence of a chronic or permanent disability, they must then determine:

- 1.Your entitlement – is the disability directly or partially-related to service?
and
- 2.Your assessment – what is the severity or extent of the disability and its impact on your quality of life?

To ensure that all decisions are fair and consistent, adjudicators always use the following tools to review your entitlement and assessment:

- [Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) - These policy statements are based on evidence from peer-reviewed medical research and literature both in Canada and abroad. They help to ensure the consistency, equity and quality of decisions made regarding the relationship between your service and your disability.
- [Table of Disabilities](#) - The table is used by an adjudicator to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. Specifically, to assess the level of an impairment and the impact that impairment has on your quality of life.
- [Medical questionnaires](#) - The purpose of a questionnaire is to support your diagnosis and supplement the information found in the Table of Disabilities.

The decision letter

Once the adjudicator reaches a decision on your claim, you will receive a decision letter. The letter will let you know the decision and what evidence the adjudicator used to reach their decision. If they confirmed you have a service-related disability, the letter will also show your entitlement and your assessment.

If you receive an unfavourable decision, the letter will explain the reasons why your claim was not accepted. It will also provide the name and telephone number to call if you wish to discuss this decision further or to identify what evidence your claim requires to be approved. The letter will also explain your appeal rights if you believe the adjudicator has made an error in reviewing your application and supporting evidence.

Additional information

Learn more about how to provide all the components of a [complete application for a disability benefit](#).

How long does it take to be approved for a disability benefit?

We are committed to providing a decision as quickly as possible. To make their decisions, adjudicators must use only the evidence they received. Once adjudicators have received all the information they require – complete and signed form(s), service records, medical reports and questionnaire(s) - they can usually make a decision within 15-41 weeks.

This timeframe will vary depending on several factors such as:

- the complexity of your condition,
- the complexity of the medical reports and questionnaires explaining that condition,
- how long it takes to receive service health records from DND or Library and Archives Canada,
- the level of detail (or lack of detail) in those service health records, and
- any challenges in getting other needed evidence to support your claim.

The [Wait time tool](#) provides current average wait times for receiving a decision on

Minister of Veterans Affairs wraps up visit to Italy and commits \$50,000 to honour Canadians who served during the Second World War's Italian campaign

Cision

From May 31 to June 2, 2019, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, attended ceremonies and events to commemorate the contributions of Canadian soldiers during the Second World War's Italian Campaign. Canadian participation in the Italian Campaign began with the Allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943 — codenamed Operation Husky. Our troops would fight in Italy until February 1945, when they began being transferred to Northwest Europe to be re-united with the First Canadian Army for the eventual liberation of the Netherlands and the final defeat of Germany. [READ MORE](#)

D-Day confidential: How 4 Canadian soldiers made it through their longest day

Globe and Mail

Half an hour after they had set foot on French soil on D-Day, Sapper John Schaupmeyer and his fellow combat engineers remained stranded on the beach, pinned down by German machine guns, mortars and artillery. From the cover of a seawall, they saw an LCI, one of the larger models of landing

craft, touch ground. Soldiers aboard tried to disembark but the rough waves tangled up their gangway. Trapped on the LCI deck, the men came under enemy fire. At that moment, one of the combat engineers, Sapper Walter Coveyduck, left the seawall's protection to go save the men of the LCI. [READ MORE](#)

A soldier's path: How a unique interactive map is bringing D-Day back to life

CBC News

Ethel Pollard had a nightly ritual, one she preserved for over four decades after her son was reported missing in the killing fields of Normandy. Every evening, rain or shine, summer or winter, she would sit in her rocking chair on the front porch of the family home in Cornwall, ON, and pray for his return. It was a tender expression of hope and devotion in the face of a brutal reality. [READ MORE](#)

Le débarquement de Normandie tel que vécu par des soldats canadiens

Radio-Canada

Le 6 juin 1944 a eu lieu le débarquement des troupes alliées sur la côte de la Normandie. Des soldats canadiens y ont participé. Radio-Canada y était aussi pendant cette bataille décisive de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, et s'en est souvenu par la suite. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Op LENTUS 2019 picture gallery

The Maple Leaf

Check out the photos taken at Op LENTUS 2019. [SEE MORE](#)

The D-Day Copper Cross

CMEA

On February 22, 1919, the Royal Army Chaplains' Department will celebrate 100 years from the time King George V bestowed the prefix "Royal" to their name in recognition of its outstanding service and sacrifice during the First World War. His granddaughter, Her Majesty The Queen, will attend a special service of commemoration with the entire Army chaplaincy community, to mark this auspicious anniversary.

During the service, a new Book of Remembrance and Roll of Honour detailing the 315 Army chaplains who have died in the service of others will be blessed. The Book will subsequently be laid up in the Royal Memorial Chapel Sandhurst where its pages will be regularly turned. In keeping with recognizing the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the processional cross used in the service will be the one used by Reverend Sandy Reynolds, Chaplain to the 120th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery during the Second World War. Reynolds landed on D + 1 on Gold Beach and began services as soon as he could in a makeshift chapel built by Royal Canadian Engineers of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. [READ MORE](#)