

Media Report, 8th March 2018

Our National President Mr. Randy Stowell was in contact, with the New Veterans Affairs Minister, Mr. Lawrence MacAulay in first week of taking office.

Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs. Minister MacAulay telephoned our President on Wednesday [five days after being sworn into his new duties]. They spoke for almost 20 minutes.

The Minister introduced himself and spoke of several Veterans Advocates groups that he wanted to touch base with. NVOC is but one of the advocacy groups that he wanted to talk with. Randy raised a number of issues with the Minister:

- He told him a bit about who we are – all veterans – all ranks – all Services. Our priority is long term home care/care for veterans and their families.;
- He told him that we strongly disagree with the Legion position of combining Veterans Affairs and the Dept of National Defence into one Department;
- He told him that his Department has made significant strides over the past number of years in providing increased benefits to Veterans AND to their families. There is more to benefits than just dollars to a veteran. Support to the veterans family is new and is important;
- A cultural shift within VAC has happened that is a benefit to all veterans. Randy mentioned that one of the Ministers senior officials told us two years ago – “We want to say Yes faster”. This caught the Ministers attention and he asked questions about that idea. We also mentioned that the idea of doing professional development for VAC staff at a “Staff College” type facility in Charlottetown has improved service delivery for Veterans in offices across the Nation. This initiative only began three years ago;
- There is more to get done but there has been significant progress made. The Caregiver benefit is an example of recognition that makes a great impact.;

Our President concluded by telling the Minister that a well developed set of new and innovative policy for Veterans is being implemented now . “Care –Compassion –Respect” is in place. Communicating the new benefits needs to be done to reach the tens of thousands of Canadians who have served in the Canadian military and who do not consider themselves to be Veterans. There are tens of thousands of Canadians who did serve and who do not consider themselves to be eligible for veteran benefits. This is a communication challenge and NVOC will play our part. Randy wished the Minister success and told him that NVOC would continue to advocate for all veterans – and their families. He tells me that it was a cordial and pleasant conversation.

Lawrence MacAulay

Member of Parliament for Cardigan, he was first elected to the House of Commons on November 21, 1988, to represent Cardigan in eastern Prince Edward Island, and won his ninth consecutive election in October 2015. Mr. MacAulay's Cabinet appointments have included Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Solicitor General of Canada, Minister of Labour, Secretary of State (Veterans), and Secretary of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). He has served as Critic for Fisheries and Oceans and Seniors. In addition, he was Vice Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. Mr. MacAulay was born on September 9, 1946, in St. Peter's Bay, Prince Edward Island. Mr. MacAulay was previously a farmer and businessman. He and Frances Elaine O'Connell were married in 1972. They have three daughters: Carolyn, Rita and Lynn.

STATUS OF VICE PRESIDENT and DIRECTOR EMERITUS JARROTT HOLTZHAUER

[comments from Randy]

Randy and Ken visited Jarrott at his current residence after the Board of Directors meeting end February [Saint-Vincent Hospital – Ottawa's Only Complex Continuing Care Hospital. [60 Cambridge Street North. Room # 4116](#)]. We did try to buy him a "KFC" three piece meal. Failed. Better luck next visit. This was our first visit and our impressions of the Hospital were very positive – happy and helpful staff . Jarrott has a large private room. Better quarters than he had a RMC! He has space for a pantry of "goodies" - a space for his library of books. Private bathroom. His Legion Red blanket on his "Hospital made up" bed makes a great impression. When we did find him – he and Judith were in the Atrium, as they were eating a special lunch that a couple - RCR (retired) - had brought. A special "picnic" of warm food – salads and desserts – beverages – dishes/cutlery and all the trimmings. A Mess Dinner in the Atrium. Less alcohol. (Gord Jenkins is rumoured to slip a screw top bottle of good Australian white into the room from time to time!). It was a great visit for us all. He was in great spirits.

MacAulay says he wants to speed up missing pay for shortchanged veterans

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/macaulay-veterans-payments-1.5039856>

The cost differential between three regimes of Veterans Benefits

This is a very good read on the explanation of the new pension for life benefits and examples

https://pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2019/Veterans%20Benefits/Veterans_Benefits_EN.pdf

Nearly 40,000 veterans waiting for disability benefits as backlog keeps growing

<https://ottawasun.com/news/national/nearly-40000-veterans-waiting-for-disability-benefits-as-backlog-keeps-growing/wcm/8eda4f6c-e627-4bce-9bc3-bd0dcb1b4d2d>

Navy SEAL Sues Roche over Malaria Drug, Claiming it Left Him Permanently Disabled

This mefloquine story wont go away. Cdn Forces used it despite a caution from Health Canada. Became evident during Gulf War but Mefloquine used by Cdn Military from UNEF 1 to Afghanistan.

IF repeat IF as dagerous as alleged – tie in with suicides and even PTSD then veterans have another Agent Orange issue – denied first by government then gradually acknowledged by Cdn Govt

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/12/12/navy-seal-sues-roche-over-malaria-drug-claiming-it-left-him-permanently-disabled.html/amp>

Gen. Vance announces new appointments of colonels and RCN captains

<https://ottawasun.com/news/national/defence-watch/gen-vance-announces-new-appointments-of-colonels-and-rcn-captains/wcm/2cb415c7-a8a0-4e51-a22b-855d82c9aeb8>

Up Date on Vice-Admiral Mark Norman case

https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/mark-norman-one-of-only-three-people-dnd-refused-to-give-help-with-legal-bills-in-past-two-years?video_autoplay=true

Federal government to again under spend by around \$2B on new military equipment, threatening NATO target

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/feds-to-again-underspend-on-new-military-kit-threatening-nato-target>

The changes you need to know about when filing your taxes this year

https://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/taxes/the-changes-you-need-to-know-about-when-filing-your-taxes-this-year?video_autoplay=true#comments-area

No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people will need medical care at some point. Group health insurance can help cover many of the costs related to that care.

About this program

You and your family may need basic or additional healthcare coverage. VAC's Health Benefits Program offers access to group health insurance through the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP). Participants are responsible for paying monthly premiums. The amount of your premium depends on the type and level of coverage you choose.

The Public Service Health Care Plan provides coverage for a wide variety of health-related products and services. Participation is voluntary and can be in addition to other medical coverage you may have, such as treatment benefits or rehabilitation services from VAC, private insurance, etc.

The plan reimburses 80 percent of the cost for most eligible expenses. Eligible expenses include prescription medicines, vision care, medical practitioners, dental treatments as a result of accidental injury, other services and supplies, out-of-province referrals or expenses, and hospital accommodation charges depending on the coverage you selected.

This plan offers two kinds of coverage:

Supplementary Coverage:

- For those living in Canada, an added coverage on top of the health insurance plan in your home province or territory.

Comprehensive Coverage:

- For those living outside of Canada and not covered by a provincial or territorial health insurance plan.
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Do you qualify?

You can apply for group health insurance through VAC if you are:

- a former CAF member who released on or after April 1, 2006 and you have been approved for the SISIP Long Term Disability program, or
 - a former CAF member who is eligible for VAC rehabilitation services, or
 - the survivor of a CAF member or Veteran who died after April 1, 2006 as a result of a service-related injury or illness, and you are not already receiving the Public Service Health Care Plan through the Department of National Defence.
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How to apply

There is no application form for this program.

The staff at any [VAC office](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Additional information

Find out more

Dental coverage is not available as part of the PSHCP. For additional terms and conditions of coverage, as well as detailed information regarding the benefits provided, please call Sun Life at 1-888-757-7427 or visit [their Website](#) or the [Public Service Health Care Plan](#) site.

Related programs

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

[SISIP Long Term Disability program](#): Provides replacement income protection when you are released for medical reasons.

Frequently asked questions

If I apply for the benefit and get declined, can I appeal?

Yes, please call us at 1-866-522-2122 or email vac.information.acc@canada.ca

I have a concern with my coverage, who do I contact?

If you are not satisfied with your coverage you can [submit an appeal](#) directly to the PSHCP.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read the policies for the [Health Benefits program](#).

[View more FAQs](#) about the Public Service Health Care Plan.

Tax credits and deductions are available for persons with disabilities, their supporting family members, and their caregivers.

[What's new](#)

I want information on:

- [Disability tax credit](#)
- [Medical expenses](#)
- [Disability supports deduction](#)
- [Child disability benefit](#)
- [Registered disability savings plan](#)

Find out how you can benefit

Meet the people who may be eligible for the disability tax credit or other government programs for persons with disabilities.

Related links

- [What can persons with disabilities claim as a deduction or credit?](#)
- [GST/HST Information](#) – Goods and services that are exempt supplies or zero-rated for the GST/HST
- [Excise gasoline tax refund](#)
- [Free tax clinics](#)
- [Authorize or cancel a representative](#)
- [Services for persons with disabilities](#)
- [Disability benefits](#)

[EPS welcomes 25 new constables: Combat Engineer starts second career with Edmonton Police Force](#)

CTV News

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) recently welcomed 25 new constables into its ranks. The new recruits have a diverse background — they are from all around the world, and for many, it is their second career. This year's class, EPS's 144th, includes a tactical pilot, and international peacekeeper and combat engineer, Victoria Specht. "This is where I got posted for the military and I absolutely love this city; it's a very welcoming and diverse city," Specht said. [READ MORE](#)

[Soldier found dead on N.B. base remembered as 'a good dad'](#)

CTV News

A Canadian soldier found dead on a base in New Brunswick earlier this week is being remembered as a loving father who served overseas four times. Warrant Officer Mark Boychuck, 41, died at New Brunswick's Gagetown base. Officials have not released his cause of death but say it was not the result of a training accident. Over a 20-year career in the military as a combat engineer, Boychuck served three times in Afghanistan and once in Bosnia. He was born in Montreal. Friend Fabian Henry described Boychuck as "a good friend, a good soldier, a good dad. So when something like this happens to a young man like that, that shocked the hell out of me," Henry told CTV Atlantic. [READ MORE](#)

[L'adjudant Mark Boychuck retrouvé mort à la Base Gagetown](#)

45e Nord

L'adjudant-maître Mark Boychuck, âgé de 41 ans, a été retrouvé mort à la Base des Forces canadiennes Gagetown, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Dans un courriel envoyé à 45eNord.ca, la porte-parole du ministère de la Défense Stéphanie Duchesne a déclaré que le décès n'était pas lié à une activité d'entraînement, sans toutefois préciser à cette étape-ci la cause du décès. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Canadian Forces looking at recruiting elite, special-forces soldiers right off the street

Global News

The Canadian Forces are considering whether to recruit elite special-forces soldiers straight off the street rather than forcing them to follow the traditional route of first spending several years in the military. The idea, which is still being debated, comes as Canada's special forces — and the military as a whole — look at radical new ways to attract and retain people with the skills and experience needed to fight tomorrow's wars. [READ MORE](#)

Canadian special forces from Petawawa wrap up African exercise

London Free Press

Canadian special forces were in Africa taking part in the annual U.S.-led Exercise Flintlock. Canada's participation in Flintlock 2019 started in Burkina Faso on Feb. 18 and went until March 1. Elements of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) from Petawawa participated in the exercise, which is part of Canada's commitment to counter-terrorism and capacity-building in the Sahel region. [READ MORE](#)

Armed Forces to conduct training in Happy Valley-Goose Bay area

The Telegram

A large number of military personnel will be training in the Lake Melville region over the next nine days. Exercise Northern Sojourn 2019 will run from March 1-9, bringing approximately 400 soldiers and Canadian Rangers to the area to conduct winter warfare training. During the annual exercise soldiers will conduct specialized training that is specific to Northern operations using the challenging sub-arctic climate of Labrador. [READ MORE](#)

Défense: le fédéral dépensera des milliards de moins que prévu

Le Huffington Post

Le gouvernement fédéral consacrera des milliards de dollars de moins au nouveau matériel militaire que ce qui avait été promis cette année, suscitant des inquiétudes quant à l'état de préparation des Forces canadiennes et à la possibilité que le Canada n'atteigne pas un autre objectif de dépenses de l'OTAN. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Drop-in support centre for veterans opens its doors in Dartmouth

Global News

VETS Canada has opened its third drop-in support centre across the country in Dartmouth. Last year, the organization opened a centre in Ottawa and one in Edmonton. The organization was created nine years ago in Halifax with a focus on preventing homelessness among veterans. "Everything that we've

done in the past has been through volunteers where volunteers would go out and meet the veterans where they're at," said Debbie Lowther, who co-founded VETS Canada with her husband Jim Lowther. [READ MORE](#)