

## Media Report 10 JULY 2020

**This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic, callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. If you have received a disability benefit, you may also qualify for the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation—a tax-free, monthly benefit — payable for life.**

# Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation

An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. If you have received a disability benefit, you may also qualify for the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation—a tax-free, monthly benefit — payable for life.

## About this program

The Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation is a tax-free, monthly benefit. It provides recognition and compensation for any severe and permanent disability, related to your service, which creates a barrier to your life after service.

Every applicant for this benefit receives an individual assessment. If a barrier is identified, the assessment will assign a grade-level which is based on the extent and severity of your impairment.

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## Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation if you have a service-related injury or illness, for which you have a received a VAC disability benefit, that is:

- permanent and severe, and
- creating a barrier to your successful re-establishment in civilian life.

Note: If you already receive the [Exceptional Incapacity Allowance](#), you are not eligible for this benefit.

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### **How to apply**

Note: If you are currently in receipt of the Career Impact Allowance we will automatically move you over to the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation. You will move over at the same Grade Level (1, 2 or 3) and will be paid the corresponding, non-taxable Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation monthly amount.

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### **Apply online**

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

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### **Mail or in person**

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

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### **Get help with your application**

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

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### **Additional information**

#### **Find out more**

#### **Assessment**

Through an individual assessment, we will assign you one of three grade-levels based on the extent and seriousness of your impairment. Grade one refers to the most serious conditions.

The assessment examines how independent you are by looking at such things as your mobility, your need for assistance with activities of daily living (such as bathing and dressing), and other factors affecting your daily life.

See the [current rates](#).

If you receive this benefit, it will be paid for the duration of your life. This would only change if your health improved to an extent where you no longer had any barriers caused by your impairment(s).

The Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation cannot be paid to the survivor or other dependents of the Veteran.

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## **Related programs**

[Disability Benefits](#): Financial payments for Veterans who have a service-related disability or injury.

[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.

[Caregiver Recognition Benefit](#): Monthly payments for an informal caregiver who provides you with daily personal care support.

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## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What is the monthly Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation based on?**

The benefit recognizes that severe and permanent impairments may create barriers to establishing themselves in post-service life. The monthly amount payable is based on the extent of the Veteran's permanent and severe impairment. It takes into consideration such things as a Veterans' mobility, requirements for supervision and the need for assistance with activities of daily living (such as bathing and dressing).

It will be payable at three grade levels with \$1500/month being the highest and \$500/month the lowest.

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### **What is the difference between CIA and APSC?**

**Taxability:** The Career Impact Allowance (CIA) is taxable because it compensates for lost employment potential and career progression opportunities. The

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation (APSC), on the other hand, will be non-taxable because it compensates for the extent to which permanent and severe impairments cause barriers to re-establishment.

Eligibility: The eligibility for the two programs is similar in many ways:

- they are only payable to Veterans;
- the Veteran must have a disability benefit; and
- the Veteran must have a permanent and severe impairment.

The key eligibility difference between the two benefits is that under CIA, a Veteran must have an approved rehabilitation plan in order to receive the CIA. Under APSC, a Veteran must only have a barrier to re-establishment to qualify, they do not have to have an approved rehabilitation plan.

Grade Levels: Both benefits have three grade levels. The key difference on which grade is paid is that the CIA considers medical impairment as well as earnings capacity. APSC will only consider medical impairment. The APSC has no equivalent to the CIA Supplement.

[View all](#) Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation FAQs

[This email is being bcc'd to PEC and Staff. Zone Commanders please forward to your respective branches and Zone Council.](#)

You are probably aware of the class action lawsuit that branches of The Royal Canadian Legion have commenced against Aviva Canada Insurance company over the denial of loss of business income coverage resulting from branch closures because of the COVID-19 outbreak. You can read about it at <https://london.ctvnews.ca/625-legions-sue-insurer-for-20m-contending-they-have-been-left-in-dire-straits-1.5000047>

Lawyer Kevin Ross, of Lerner Lawyers of London, prepared an FAQ for the 625 impacted branches across the country (note none are in BC). This FAQ will be circulated next week through an all-branch email and a copy is attached for your advance information. Should any branches reach out to you with queries, please direct all to Kevin Ross; his contact details are on the FAQ.

The Statement of Claim can be viewed at <https://www.lerners.ca/cases/canadian-legion-class-action/>

It is important that the provincial and dominion levels of the organization remain neutral in this action: information sharing is permitted, however, please do not provide direction to your branches or discuss the merits of the case. Such guidance is best addressed by Lerner's.

In comradeship,

Steven

Steven Clark

National Executive Director / Directeur exécutif national

**The Royal Canadian Legion – National Headquarters**

**Le siège de La Légion royale canadienne**

86 Aird Place, Ottawa, K2L 0A1

T: 613-591-3335 ext 245

C: 613-292-2475 Toll free: 1-888-556-6222

**[legion.ca](http://legion.ca)**

The Royal Canadian Legion is taking the advice of Canada’s medical experts in tackling the threat of COVID-19. Staff at our National Headquarters office in Ottawa will be working remotely in most instances, and our actual building will be closed from Tuesday March 17 to Tuesday, August 4. We will reply to your specific inquiry as soon as possible.

Please note: Local questions should be directed to [local branches](#) or [provincial commands](#). We thank you for your understanding and ask you to visit [Legion.ca](#) for updates related to this situation.

For general inquiries please phone:

1-613-591-3335

Toll-free: 1-888-556-6222

Please direct any public relations or media inquiries to:

[publicrelations@legion.ca](mailto:publicrelations@legion.ca) or call 613-591-3335 ext. 241.

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La Légion royale canadienne suit les conseils des experts médicaux canadiens pour faire face à la menace COVID-19. Le personnel de notre Siège national à Ottawa travaillera la plupart du temps à distance et, à compter de mardi 17 mars, et ce, jusqu'au mardi 4 août, nos bureaux seront fermés. Nous répondrons à votre demande spécifique dès que possible.

Remarque : Tout enjeu local doit être adressé par la filiale locale ou la direction provinciale. Nous vous remercions de votre compréhension et vous demandons de consulter le site Web Legion.ca pour les mises à jour relatives à cette situation.

Pour toute question générale, veuillez composer le numéro de téléphone suivant :

1-613-591-3335

No sans frais : 1-888-556-6222

Prière d'adresser toute demande en lien avec les relations publiques ou les médias à :

[publicrelations@legion.ca](mailto:publicrelations@legion.ca) ou au no de tél : 613-591-3335 poste 241.

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