

Media Report 20 September 2019, 1 of 1

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are asking such direction on identifying those individuals who are required to pay a monthly Accommodation and Meals (A&M) Contribution. and local Media Articles. I am pleased to inform you all that our National Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Kenneth Richardson has been awarded the [Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers](#) in recognition of his contributions to his community.

Accommodation and Meals Contribution

Purpose

This policy provides direction on identifying those individuals who are required to pay a monthly [Accommodation and Meals Contribution](#) once approved to receive financial support from Veterans Affairs Canada toward the cost of [intermediate care](#) or [chronic care](#). It also provides information regarding how the Accommodation and Meals Contribution is calculated and paid.

Policy

General

1. For the purpose of this policy, the term "Veteran" is interpreted to include all individuals who are required to pay a monthly Accommodation and Meals (A&M) Contribution.
2. Individuals who are eligible to receive a financial contribution toward the cost of intermediate care or chronic care from Veterans Affairs Canada are required to pay a monthly A&M Contribution toward the cost of that care, except those individuals described in paragraph 3.
3. Individuals not required to pay a monthly A&M Contribution are those in receipt of care for a [pensioned condition](#), [Veteran pensioners](#) and [civilian pensioners](#) who are [seriously disabled](#), and former members or [reserve force members](#) who are in receipt of the care for an illness or injury for which they are [entitled to a disability award](#) or pain and suffering compensation.
4. The maximum monthly amount that can be charged to an eligible Veteran while receiving intermediate or chronic care is referred to as the [A&M Rate](#). This rate is calculated annually by the Department based on either the lowest provincial monthly charge for accommodation and meals permitted under the [Canada Health Act](#), or the percentage of increase in the [Consumer Price Index](#), whichever is less. The [A&M Contribution](#) is the amount, if any, of the [A&M Rate](#) that the Veteran is required to pay monthly. This contribution may range from \$0 up to the maximum A&M Rate depending on the individual's financial ability to pay.

5. Veterans may pay more than the maximum A&M Rate in cases where they are receiving care, by choice, in a private or semi-private room, or a non-provincially subsidized bed, or if they are purchasing extra services (e.g. newspapers, cable television).

6. The maximum [A&M Rate](#) is calculated annually on October 1 in accordance with paragraph 4. Once calculated, it remains in effect until September 30 of the following year.

7. The Veteran's [A&M Contribution](#) is also calculated and comes into effect October 1 each year (except upon initial admission to care). Once calculated, a Veteran's contribution remains the same until September 30 of the next year, unless their circumstances change (see paragraph 19).

Calculation of Accommodation and Meals Contribution and Income Exemptions

8. For Veterans who are not exempt from paying an A&M Contribution, an income analysis is conducted annually to determine how much, if any, of the A&M Rate the individual is required to pay. The maximum amount a Veteran must contribute monthly is either one of the following, whichever is less:

1. the maximum Accommodation and Meals Rate calculated by the Department for October 1 of each year; or,
2. the amount, if any, remaining to the Veteran after deducting applicable exemption amounts (i.e. personal, spousal, dependent child, blind) from the individual's assessable income.

9. A Veteran's [income](#) encompasses "income" as defined in section 7 of the [War Veterans Allowance Act](#) (i.e. gross income less applicable deductions permitted under the Income Tax Act), current monthly benefits as defined in paragraph 4.(3)(c) of that Act, and any War Veterans Allowance benefit being paid to the Veteran. Refer to the policy entitled [Income Assessment – War Veterans Allowance Program](#) for additional information.

10. The income information needed to calculate a Veteran's A&M Contribution is obtained, with the consent of the Veteran and, if applicable, the Veteran's spouse or common-law partner, via a data match with the Canada Revenue Agency.

11. A Veteran or, if applicable, the Veteran's spouse or common-law partner, who refuses to provide consent to obtain the information needed to calculate the amount of his/her A&M Contribution must pay the maximum A&M Rate, unless that individual is exempt from making an A&M Contribution.

12. If the consent to obtain income information has been requested but has not been received, the individual must pay the maximum A&M Rate for the relevant period, unless he/she is exempt from making an A&M Contribution. If the required consent is subsequently provided, and it results in the Veteran paying a lower A&M Contribution, an adjustment

may be made to the individual's A&M Contribution back to the start of the relevant contribution period.

13. A daily A&M Contribution that can be used for a stay of less than one month (e.g. the month of admission or discharge) can be calculated by dividing the Veteran's maximum monthly A&M Contribution amount by 30, regardless of the number of days in the month.

14. Where a Veteran receives care at more than one facility during a month, the total amount payable by the individual for that month should not exceed the maximum monthly A&M Contribution.

Personal and Family Exemptions

15. The Veterans Health Care Regulations authorize specific exemptions be deducted from the Veteran's assessable income when calculating the A&M Contribution (i.e. personal, spousal, dependent child, blind). The exemption amounts are updated October 1 each year. They are available in the Veterans Services Tool Box under the Rates tab.

Veteran Couples

16. The term "Veteran In Own Right" is used to describe situations involving married couples or recognized common-law relationships, wherein each partner is individually recognized as a [Veteran](#). Whenever partners to a marriage or a recognized common-law relationship are considered "Veterans In Own Right", and one or both is eligible to receive financial support towards intermediate or chronic care costs, different income determination rules are applied in recognition of the unique status held by such couples. This involves:

1. assessing only half the income available to each Veteran when determining ability to pay the A&M Contribution (e.g. if the combined assessable income of the Veteran and spouse or common-law partner is \$3,000 per month, only \$1,500 is used in the calculation to determine the amount of the A&M Contribution);
2. applying the exemption for spousal support equal to the War Veterans Allowance married rate (plus the exemptions for dependent children and blind status, if applicable) to each Veteran's portion of the assessable incomes;
3. applying the exemption for personal comforts to both Veterans.

17. War service [civilians](#) who are eligible to receive financial support towards intermediate or chronic care at Veterans Affairs Canada's expense may also be recognized within the scope of this policy. Hence, if such a civilian is married to, or living in a recognized common-law relationship with another recognized Civilian or Veteran, the same principles apply for the purpose of calculating the A&M Contribution.

18. Recognition as a "Veteran In Own Right" may be granted to any war service Veteran or Civilian who is eligible for and receiving intermediate or chronic care, only if that Veteran or Civilian's spouse or recognized

common-law partner satisfies the definition of Veteran or Civilian contained in the Veterans Health Care Regulations.

Adjustment to the Accommodation and Meals Contribution

19. The maximum A&M Rate, and a Veteran's A&M Contribution are calculated and come into effect October 1 each year. Once calculated, the A&M Contribution normally remains the same until September 30 of the next year. However, an adjustment may be made to a Veteran's A&M Contribution, if such an adjustment will result in a decreased A&M Contribution amount. Examples:

1. a Veteran marries or acquires a dependent during the period;
2. a Veteran is awarded an additional pension assessment or additional pensioned condition(s) which results in the Veteran qualifying as [Seriously Disabled](#) and, thus, exempt from paying an A&M Contribution; or
3. an administrative error resulted in the Veteran paying a greater A&M Contribution than required.

20. A change in circumstances resulting in an increased A&M Contribution will only take effect on the following October 1 (for example: death of a spouse or an increase in income).

Temporary Absences

21. Veterans must continue to pay their A&M Contribution during periods of temporary absence from care, unless otherwise agreed to by the facility.

Accommodation and Meals Payments

22. Veterans receiving intermediate or chronic care shall pay their A&M Contribution to either:

1. the health care facility (the method of payment and collection to be determined by both parties); or
2. Veterans Affairs Canada if the A&M Contribution has been paid to the health care facility by Veterans Affairs Canada.

Veterans with Exceptional Health Needs

23. Veterans in receipt of intermediate care by virtue of having [exceptional health needs](#) (refer the policy entitled [Exceptional Health Needs \[Veterans Independence Program\]](#)) are assured a monthly income equal to the applicable War Veterans Allowance income factor. Any income in excess of that amount must be contributed toward the cost of their care. They are also required to pay up to the maximum A&M Rate.

24.Paragraph 23 applies only to [Veteran pensioners](#), [overseas service Veterans](#), [overseas service civilians](#) and individuals who satisfy the service and age requirements of a [Canada Service Veteran](#).

Veterans with Insufficient Income

25.Those Veterans in receipt of chronic care by virtue of having insufficient income, as described in section 22.1 of the Veterans Health Care Regulations are assured a monthly income equal to the applicable War Veterans Allowance income factor. Any income in excess of that amount must be contributed toward the cost of their care. They are also required to pay up to the maximum A&M Rate.

26.Paragraph 25 applies only to [Veteran pensioners](#), [overseas service Veterans](#), [civilians](#) and individuals who satisfy the service and age requirements of a [Canada Service Veteran](#).

References

[War Veterans Allowance Act](#)

[Civilian War-related Benefits Act](#)

[Canada Health Act](#)

[Veterans Health Care Regulations](#)

[Income Assessment – War Veterans Allowance Program](#)

[Exceptional Health Needs \(Veterans Independence Program\)](#)

The passing of Colonel John Gardam

We regret to advise the passing of Colonel John Gardam. He was a former Commandant of the CF Officer Candidate School at CFB Chilliwack. Many will have read of the several books he wrote...Seventy Years After 1914-1984, The Commissionaires: An organization with a proud history, Fifty Years After; Ordinary Heroes, Korea Volunteer, Canadians In War And Peacekeeping. [READ MORE](#)

Colonel John Gardam.

With great sadness the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada shares with fellow veterans the death of Colonel John Gardam. Fort Garry Horse , the Royal Military College (Director of Cadets), Commandant of the Canadian Forces Officer Candidate School in Chilliwack. A soldier.

Randy Stowell,CD

National President

NATO Veterans Organization of Canada

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!!!!!!!!!

To Kenneth Richardson our National Treasurer and member on the Board of Directors of NATO VETERANS ORGANIZATION of CANADA (NVOC)

I am pleased to inform you all that our National Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Kenneth Richardson has been awarded the [Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers](#) in recognition of his contributions to his community. Administered by the Office of the Governor General, this medal is part of the Canadian Honours System and celebrates exceptional volunteer achievements in a wide range of fields.

A short paragraph, that we call a citation, reflects the reasons for his medal.

Here is Kenneth citation:

Kenneth Richardson has been a valuable volunteer with Scouts Canada. He has helped youth learn about the outdoors by serving in positions such as Troop Scout Leader, Cub Pack Leader, Camp Chief, and Area Commissioner. He has also assisted veterans through volunteering with the Royal Canadian Legion and the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada.

Schools can now borrow Second World War artifacts through Canadian War Museum program

<https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/schools-can-now-borrow-second-world-war-artifacts-through-canadian-war-museum-program-1701271>

Order your free 2019 Veterans' Week Learning resources!

Dear educators,

A new school year is upon us and Veterans Affairs Canada is back with free, bilingual resources to help young people learn more about remembrance and our country's military history.

Our Veterans' Week learning materials – revised for 2019 with a special emphasis on the 75th anniversary of the Italian Campaign – are now available for order. Get your free class packs of the Take Time to Remember activity booklet (ages 5-7), as well as youth newspapers Tales of Animals in War (ages 5-11) and the Canada Remembers Times (ages 12-18). Our popular Postcards for Peace, bookmarks and posters are also back, as is the on-line Veterans' Week teacher's guide. Check them out today at:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/get-involved/remembrance-day/learning-resources

In support of Veterans' Week, members of the Canadian Armed Forces are available to give presentations at schools and community organizations across Canada as part of the Department of National Defence's National Veterans' Week Speakers Program. To invite a CAF member to your event or ceremony, visit their website at:

www.Canada.ca/caf-veterans-week-speakers

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Second World War's Battle of the Scheldt. Canadian soldiers played a leading role in liberating the banks of the Scheldt River in Belgium and the Netherlands in the fall of 1944 and opening the port of Antwerp to Allied shipping. Explore our new web feature for historical information, multimedia resources and lesson plans about this hard-fought campaign.

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/second-world-war/battle-of-the-scheldt

Have a great school year!

The Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Team

U.S. Marines conduct first concrete 3-D printing operation

3-D Printing Industry

Teams from the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), have conducted the first 3-D concrete printing operation at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) in Champaign, Illinois. In doing so, the teams, which also includes the 7th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), tested a new continuous mixer and a three-inch print nozzle to additively manufacture multiple structures, such as barracks and a bridge. [READ MORE](#)

Military Family Appreciation Day pays tribute to silent sacrifices of those behind the uniform

INQUINTE.CA

For the first time in Canada's history, the unknown and often forgotten daily sacrifices of Canadian military families are going to be officially recognized on Sept. 20. Canada's inaugural Military Family Appreciation Day (MFAD) will provide an opportunity for the public to honour and thank the incredibly important families who keep life on the home front together as the Canadian Armed Forces pursue their professional and often dangerous missions both domestically and abroad. [READ MORE](#)

Canada's first residence for homeless vets in Ottawa named in honour of hero pilot

The Chronicle Herald

For sailors and airmen lost at sea, the sound of a Consolidated PB5Y-5A Canso aircraft overhead meant help was on the way. The lumbering twin-engined "flying boats" could land on water to rescue the helpless from their peril. The symbolism couldn't be missed when a restored Canso roared low overhead recently as the ceremonial cornerstone was laid for the Andy Carswell Building, a 40-unit residence for homeless veterans that will be the first of its kind in Canada when it opens in November

2020. [READ MORE](#)

[Équipe Canada en compétition en Estonie](#)

Valcartier

Cette compétition internationale a eu lieu du 6 au 8 août à Tallinn en Estonie. Elle comportait les cinq épreuves suivantes: le tir au pistolet, le tir à la carabine, un parcours de franchissement de vingt obstacles terrestres, un parcours de franchissement d'obstacles (PFO) en piscine sur une distance de cinquante mètres et une course d'orientering (navigation) dans la rude forêt estonienne. Ce défi s'adressait aux membres de la Force de réserve des pays de l'OTAN. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Experts: Atlantic Canada's power grids, shore defences need major changes](#)

Global News

In an era when the intensity of hurricanes is expected to increase across Atlantic Canada, experts say major changes are needed to utility grids, shoreline defences and even the types of trees being planted. Work continued recently to reconnect customers after post-tropical storm Dorian knocked out power to 80 per cent of homes and businesses in Nova Scotia. [READ MORE](#)

[Military take part in National Repair and Recovery Competition](#)

The Morinville News

Exercice Arte Et Marte (by skill and by fighting) took place at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton and the area around the town of Gibbons from Sept. 10 to 13. The exercise was a National Recovery and Repair Competition that brought teams from Gagetown, Valcartier, Petawawa and Edmonton. Each team consisted of seven to nine members. [READ MORE](#)

[Carleton creating a 'cloak of invisibility' for Canadian military](#)

The Charlatan

A research team led by Carleton is getting \$1.5 million from the Department of National Defence to create the first electronic camouflage. "What we want to do is to create a technology where we can make the detection of those [objects] difficult or not possible," said Shulabh Gupta, a Carleton electronics professor who's leading the team with other faculty and students from the University of Ottawa and Polytechnique Montréal. "We want to find new ways to make detection difficult," he said. [READ MORE](#)

[Une journaliste a sauté en parachute avec les SkyHawks](#)

Journal Saint-François

Un spectacle aérien devait se dérouler lors du 150e anniversaire du 4e Bataillon du Royal 22e Régiment, à Beauharnois, le samedi 7 septembre. L'épais couvert de nuages n'a pas permis aux soldats de faire leurs prouesses dans les airs. Le Soleil de Châteauguay a été invité à vivre l'expérience le vendredi 6 septembre, à Parachute Montréal, situé à Farnham, les militaires y faisaient un saut de pratique. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Mitigating security risks from emerging technologies](#)

Army Technology

Over the last few years, the push towards achieving "digital transformation" within the defence sector has been something akin to the opening of Pandora's box. Seemingly overnight, organisations within the sector have implemented new technologies from AI-driven office solutions to military drones. Many

forward-thinking contractors are using new technologies to leverage greater efficiency, service and profitability. But are these contractors exposing themselves — and consequently our armed forces — to new cyber threats? [READ MORE](#)

Quebec military museum welcomes famous lost-and-found backpack to its collection

CBC News

Recently, the Royal 22nd Regiment Museum in Quebec City added an unassuming new item to its permanent collection: a Canadian soldier's WW II backpack that was lost during the Italian campaign. What makes the backpack so special is the story behind its resurfacing. It was found by a collector in Italy who reached out to CBC Montreal for help finding its true owner. CBC got to work, contacting half a dozen government agencies and military historians. [READ MORE](#)

Canadians who fought in Battle of Britain commemorated at Shearwater ceremony

Global News

The Royal Canadian Air Force base in Shearwater hosted an annual ceremony commemorating the Canadians who fought and perished in a battle often referred to as the “turning point” of the Second World War. Dozens of military personnel stood shoulder to shoulder with cadets. The steady drizzle of rain didn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by Royal Canadian Air Force members seven decades ago. [READ MORE](#)