

# Media Report 23 August 2019, 1 of 1

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.

## **Disability Benefits in Respect of Death for Survivors and Dependent Children**

Effective Date: April 1, 2019

Purpose

To provide 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.

### **Policy**

#### **General**

- 1.If the member or Veteran died prior to the implementation of the [Veterans Well-being Act \(VWA\)](#)(April 1, 2006), any claims related to the member's or Veteran's disability or death must be pursued under the [Pension Act](#).
- 2.Only a survivor and/or dependent child may apply for a death or disability benefit in respect of a member's or Veteran's death.
- 3.A survivor and/or dependent child may receive a survivor pension under the Pension Act and/or a Pain and Suffering Compensation (PSC) under the Veterans Well-being Act up to a maximum percentage of 100% or a Death Benefit.
- 4.The maximum percentage of disability benefits payable to a survivor and/or dependent child is 100% less any disability pension, disability award (DA) and/or PSC previously paid to the member or Veteran.
- 5.In cases where a disability benefit is not provided in respect of the death of the member or Veteran, a survivor and/or dependent child may apply for;
  - 1.a disability benefit with respect to a new condition for which the member or Veteran did not apply prior to his/her death; and/or

2. an additional/increased disability benefit in respect of an entitled condition if they have evidence that the member's or Veteran's condition deteriorated between the last time he/she was assessed and the time of death.
6. In cases where the survivor or dependent child is also a member or Veteran, the survivor/dependent child may receive:
  1. a disability pension and/or a PSC with respect to his/her own disability (up to a total maximum percentage of 100%);
  2. a pension and/or a PSC with respect to the death or disability of the deceased member or Veteran (up to a total maximum percentage of 100%); and/or
  3. a death benefit with respect to the death of the deceased member.
7. Estates are not eligible to apply for a death or disability benefit.

### **Disability Pension**

8. A disability pension for death is payable when a member or Veteran dies as a result of a service-related injury or disease, or a non-service related injury or disease which was aggravated by service.
9. When a member or Veteran dies as a result of an injury or disease for which a disability pension under the Pension Act is being paid, the member or Veteran is deemed to have been assessed at 100% for that disability.
10. Full entitlement is granted for death related to a partially entitled condition.

### **Pain and Suffering Compensation**

11. For information on PSC for survivors and dependent children, see the Pain and Suffering Compensation Policy.

### **Death Benefit**

12. Under the Veterans Well-being Act, a death benefit is payable when a member dies as a result of a service-related injury or disease, or a non-service related injury or disease aggravated by service, and the death occurs within 30 days of the injury occurring or the disease being contracted, or the injury or disease being aggravated by service.
13. A death benefit is paid over and above any disability benefits (e.g. disability pension, DA, PSC) paid or payable under the Pension Act and/or Veterans Well-being Act.
14. If a death benefit is paid in respect of a member's death, a PSC will not be paid for the same condition for which a death benefit has been paid.

15.A death benefit is not payable in cases where a member has died prior to April 1, 2006, or dies of a condition for which a disability pension was paid or is payable under the Pension Act.

16.A survivor and/or dependent child may receive a death benefit in respect of the death of more than one member.

### **Division of a PSC/Death Benefit Amongst Beneficiaries**

17.Cases where a survivor or dependent child come forward after the payment of a PSC or death benefit has been disbursed will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The issue of liability would be dependent on the facts of each case and the reason the beneficiary was missed.

18.In relation to an unborn child of a deceased member or Veteran a PSC or death benefit may be paid to such a child who is subsequently born alive. An unborn child who is subsequently born alive is deemed to have been a dependent child at the time of the member's or Veteran's death.

19.The PSC or death benefit payable will be divided taking into consideration the unborn child. If the child is not subsequently born alive, the child's share will be divided amongst the other beneficiaries, as per section 56.1 and 59 of the Veterans Well-being Act.

### **Critical Injury Benefit**

20.Survivors and surviving dependent children are not eligible to apply for and/or be paid the Critical Injury benefit of behalf of a deceased member or Veteran.

### **References**

[Pension Act](#), paragraphs 21(1)(b), 21(2)(b)

[Veterans Well-being Act](#), sections 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 59

[Consequential Disability](#)

[Pain and Suffering Compensation Policy](#)

[Disability Benefits in Respect of Peacetime Military Service – The Compensation Principle](#)

[Disability Benefits in Respect of Wartime and Special Duty Service – The Insurance Principle](#)

[Disability Resulting From a Non-Service Related Injury or Disease](#)

[Payments: A Person Dies Before Receiving Payment](#)

### **VETERANS SERVICE CARD (VSC)**

Find below the current information on the rollout of the Veteran's Service Card (VSC):

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is implementing production and distribution of the VSC in three stages:

Stage one – cards produced and issued to all eligible CAF members who released as of September 2018, and going forward.

Stage two – cards produced and issued to all eligible former CAF members / Veterans released between February 2016 and September 2018, who request the card. Stage two began in December, 2018.

Stage three – cards produced and issued to all eligible former CAF members / Veterans released prior to February 2016, who request the card. Stage three distribution will begin during the summer of 2019.

There are approximately 26,000 CAF Veterans who are now eligible to apply for the new VSC as part of the stage-two distribution. However, as per the information at the link below, only applications from Veterans released between February 2016 and September 2018 (stage two) are being accepted for processing at this time.

The application and distribution process for approximately 450,000 eligible CAF Veterans who released prior to February 2016 will begin before the end of summer, 2019. However the application process for stage-three VSC requests is being changed and, as yet, a firm date for rollout during the summer of 2019 has not been set. Requests by stage-three VSC applicants received before the stage-three application process is ready and the rollout begins during the summer of 2019, will not be processed while the stage-two distribution is in progress.

An e-application portal is currently being designed that meets federal privacy and security standards, so when the VSC stage-three application process begins during the summer of 2019 applicants will be able to request their VSCs online. There will be a provision to upload photos, documents to verify military service and proof of identity, etc. The mail-in VSC application process will be continued as well.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/benefits-military/transition/service-card.html>

A firm date for the stage-three rollout of the VSC during the summer of 2019 is yet to be confirmed. A public announcement is intended when the stage-three VSC distribution begins, and detailed information for stage-three applicants will be posted on the VSC website at the above link.

VSC Team/Équipe de CSAC

[www.canada.ca/veterans-service-card](http://www.canada.ca/veterans-service-card)

[www.canada.ca/carte-service-anciens-combattants](http://www.canada.ca/carte-service-anciens-combattants)

**New British Prime Minister Announces First Ever Office of Veterans' Affairs**

<https://m.warhistoryonline.com/news/boris-johnson.html>

## **Fwd: Unmarked Veterans' graves in Edson, AB receive military markers | Des sépultures non-marquées à Edson, AB reçoivent des marqueurs militaires**

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/fixing-a-long-uncorrected-mistake-unmarked-veterans-graves-get-headstones-1.4553159>

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## **Rosary lost at Dieppe restored to city man 35 years later**

The Sarnia Journal

Seventy-seven years ago, 4,963 courageous Canadians probed Hitler's "Fortress of Europe" in a raid that presaged the massive assault on Normandy to come in 1944. It happened on Aug. 19, 1942 and was known as the Dieppe Raid. Among the Canadians troops that sailed from Sussex, England to France on the previous evening's tide was a 20-year-old Sarnia sapper with the 11th Field Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers. His name was Al Brown, and in his pocket was a rosary in a little black pouch. [READ MORE](#)

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## **Energy improvement work continues at 14 Wing**

Aurora Newspaper

Progress on building energy efficiency upgrades is being made each day at 14 Wing Greenwood. Work will reduce 14 Wing's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as part of the Department of National Defence's "Strong, Secure, Engaged" defence policy, aiming to green defence infrastructure and tackle climate change. Editor's note: Please scroll to page 10 in the newspaper to read the full article. [READ MORE](#)

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## **Aider les vétérans à se lancer en affaires**

Radio-Canada

Les membres des Forces armées canadiennes (FAC) qui se préparent à réintégrer la vie civile peuvent suivre une formation à l'Université de Regina, l'Opération Entrepreneur du prince de Galles, pour les aider à faire la transition et à lancer leur propre entreprise. La formation d'une semaine offre aux vétérans et aux membres en transition des FAC un cours accéléré sur les éléments essentiels du monde des affaires. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## **CFS Alert: Wolf pups!**

The Contact Newspaper; Article by Lieutenant S. Mills

CFS Alert recently had the pleasure of a visit from some new and special guests! The local wolf pack has recently had pups, and the mother brought them around to the Station for the first time since they've been born. It is a unique opportunity to see wolves in their natural habitat. This pack of wolves has been living in the vicinity of the Station for many years. Nonetheless, the personnel at Alert are well informed of the dangers that these animals pose, and respect their space at all times [READ MORE](#)

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## **DCD holds successful route clearance demonstration**

Defence Web

DCD Protected Mobility held a route clearance demonstration day at Gerotek outside Pretoria, where it put its Husky and Springbuck vehicles through their paces against simulated landmines and

improvised explosive devices (IEDs). [READ MORE](#)

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## Cérémonie de réinauguration du cénotaphe de Kandahar au Q.G. de la Défense à Ottawa

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45e Nord

Les Forces armées canadiennes ont rendu hommage aux militaires canadiens tombés au combat en Afghanistan lors d'une cérémonie de réinauguration du cénotaphe de Kandahar dans la Salle commémorative de l'Afghanistan, au Quartier général de la Défense nationale (Carling), à Ottawa. La cérémonie a donné l'occasion aux familles et aux amis des militaires canadiens tombés au combat de souligner l'engagement et les sacrifices de ces derniers. [LIRE PLUS](#)

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## Duck! The military effort to find unexploded bombs in Manitoba

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CBC Archives

It was called Operation Mallard, but it had very little to do with ducks. In 1983, the Canadian Armed Forces was engaged in an operation to find and remove unexploded bombs from a marsh and the surrounding area near Stonewall, Man. "He's from the Canadian Armed Forces, and the bombs he's looking for are left over from the Second World War," said CBC reporter Karen Webb, as the camera showed the servicemen at work. The site, Oak Hammock Marsh, was usually a quiet stretch of water, grass and trees frequented by waterfowl. [READ MORE](#)

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## Sleep quality may be linked with success during military basic training

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National Post

Soldiers who experience sleep problems during basic combat training may be more likely to struggle with psychological distress, attention difficulties, and anger issues during their entry into the military, a recent study suggests. "These results show that it would probably be useful to check in with new soldiers over time because sleep problems can be a signal that a soldier is encountering difficulties," said Amanda Adrian, lead author of the study and a research psychologist at the Center for Military Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, MD. [READ MORE](#)

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## 40 Sappers killed in Italian battle

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CMEA

Seventy-five years ago on Aug. 25, 1944, Allied Forces in Italy launched their biggest attack in that theatre against Halter's last line of defence. It would take a month to break the Gothic Line at a cost 4500 soldiers killed, wounded and missing. It did not end the fighting in Italy, but it broke the back of the German's last line of defence on the Italian peninsula. For the Royal Canadian Engineers, the cost was high — over 40 killed and more wounded. Their gallantry through the month-long ordeal was two Military Crosses and five Military Medals.

To mark the mark the 75th anniversary of the assault of the Gothic Line, the CMEA has published a four-part series on the background and stages of the battle and the role played by the Royal Canadian Engineers. With the help of Gary Silliker, we have been able to include the stories of their bravery and present tributes to those officers and men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the largest operation of Italian Campaign. [READ MORE](#)