

Media Report 27 March 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. **Support you need, when you need it. THE VETERANS EMERGENCY FUND, When the unexpected happens you can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses. Benefits to Support you need, when you need it. Rehabilitation services and local Media Articles**

Thousands of injured Canadian military veterans who served under especially arduous conditions are entitled to higher disability payments after a judge ruled Tuesday in favour of a former special operations soldier who challenged how the support is calculated.

The lead plaintiff in the class-action lawsuit against the federal government is Simon Logan, who served in Afghanistan and was a warrant officer when he received an involuntary medical release from the Canadian Forces in 2016 following a 28-year career.

The military calculates long-term disability at 75 per cent of a member's monthly pay, but the Department of National Defence had only used Logan's base salary to determine his payments, and did not include an allowance he earned as a "special operations assaulter." It meant Logan received only \$5,100 per month in disability payments, instead of nearly \$8,000.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/judge-rules-against-ottawa-in-class-action-over-disability-payments-1.5509815>

Over 60? Here are the 30 Worst Coronavirus Mistakes

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/health/wellness/over-60-here-are-the-30-worst-coronavirus-mistakes/ss-BB11wnPM?li=AAggNb9#image=5>

What COVID-19 symptoms look like, day by day

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/video/news/what-covid-19-symptoms-look-like-day-by-day/vi-BB11sWWw>

COVID-19 – Information for Veterans

Due to the ongoing declared pandemic of COVID-19, client and visitor access to our area offices is suspended until further notice. We encourage you to stay home and follow the directions of local health authorities. Our staff is available, working remotely and prioritizing getting benefits to Veterans in greatest need.

The best way to reach us is through My VAC Account secure messaging, or by calling us at 1-866-522-2122. If your inquiry is not urgent, we ask that you consider contacting us at a later time, so we can focus on the most urgent needs.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these times. For more information, please visit our [Information for Veterans page](#).

Update from Veterans Affairs Canada / Mise à jour d'Anciens Combattants Canada

Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members;

As the situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve, our immediate focus is on providing essential services and continuing critical work. The safety and well-being of Veterans, their families and employees is our first priority. Consequently, engagement activities with stakeholders will reflect the Government of Canada public health guidelines to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Veterans Affairs Canada is continuing to serve Veterans and their families, by:

- Proactively reaching out to vulnerable Veterans who may need extra support. This is done through case managers and Veteran service agents, who are encouraged to work from home.
- Encouraging Veterans and their families to reach out to us through My VAC Account online secure message, or by telephone.
- Frequently updating our external website and social media channels with the latest information.

For more information on COVID-19, we invite you to visit the Canada.ca/coronavirus website, as well as the Veterans Affairs Canada website regarding [information for Veterans](#).

With heartfelt appreciation for your work in supporting Canada's Veterans and their families.

The Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach team

Veterans Affairs Canada

vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

Chers intervenants et membres des groupes consultatifs;

Alors que la situation entourant la COVID-19 continue d'évoluer, notre objectif immédiat est d'assurer le maintien des services et du travail essentiels. La sécurité et le bien-être des vétérans, de leurs familles et des employés sont nos priorités. Par conséquent, les activités de mobilisation avec les intervenants s'aligneront sur les lignes directrices du gouvernement du Canada en matière de santé publique afin d'assurer une approche coordonnée et cohérente de la gestion de la COVID-19.

Anciens Combattants Canada continue de servir les vétérans et leurs familles en :

- Communiquant avec les vétérans vulnérables qui pourraient avoir besoin de soutien additionnel, par l'intermédiaire de nos gestionnaires de cas et de nos agents des services aux vétérans qui travaillent à domicile.
- Encourageant les vétérans et leurs familles à nous contacter par le biais de la messagerie sécurisée de Mon dossier ACC ou par téléphone.
- Mettant à jour régulièrement l'information disponible sur notre site web et nos médias sociaux.

Pour plus d'informations sur la COVID-19, nous vous invitons à visiter le site Canada.ca/coronavirus ainsi que le site d'Anciens Combattants Canada au sujet de [l'information pour les vétérans](#).

Veillez agréer nos sincères sentiments de reconnaissance et d'appréciation pour votre soutien aux vétérans du Canada et à leurs familles.

L'équipe de mobilisation et de sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

Veterans Emergency Fund

Support you need, when you need it. When the unexpected happens we can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses.

About this program

The Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) provides financial support to Veterans, their families or their survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

What is an emergency?

Every situation will be different and unique, which is why applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The emergency fund covers essentials, such as:

- Food
- Clothing
- Rent, mortgage
- Medical care/expenses
- Expenses required to maintain safety and shelter.

As this is only temporary financial relief, we will also work with you to identify your long-term needs. Together, we will look for solutions to improve your financial stability.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for this program if you have an urgent financial need, and are:

- a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- the spouse/common-law partner of the former member;
- a survivor of a deceased CAF member or Veteran; or
- an orphan of a deceased CAF member or Veteran (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

You must be a Canadian resident to receive this grant.

How to apply

Before you apply

We will need as much information as possible about the financial emergency. You can provide such things as: invoices, quotes, notices, or statements to explain the situation.

If this is your first time applying to a Veterans Affairs Canada program we will need [proof of identity](#), for example a drivers licence.

You can expect a decision within one or two business days of submitting your application. If we approve your application, you will receive payment within that time as well.

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](#).

Although you can apply through My VAC Account, we will contact you personally before a decision is made. The application process will not be conducted exclusively online.

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 application directly to the address listed on the form.

Get help with your application

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

Additional information

Find out more

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Veterans Emergency Fund.

Find information about [trust and emergency funds](#) to support Veterans in need.

Related programs

[Assistance Fund](#): if you receive the War Veterans Allowance, you may qualify for this cash grant to help in an emergency.

[Canadian Forces Income Support](#): a tax-free monthly benefit to help low-income Veterans, survivors, and dependent children.

Frequently asked questions

Can I apply for emergency funding if I do not already receive benefits from VAC?

Yes. However, we will need [verify your identity](#) to confirm your service history.

If I can't prove my identity because the documents were destroyed as a result of my emergency, can I still apply for and receive funding?

Yes. Our first priority is making sure you have the emergency financial help you need, when you need it. We will find a way to prove your identity and verify your service, if needed.

If my emergency happens outside of VAC office hours, who should I reach out to?

Depending on the nature of your emergency, we may be able to help connect you with emergency services near you. If you require immediate emergency support, please contact a provincial or territorial [emergency management organizations](#) (EMOs) near you. The EMO websites contain contact information for government and community organizations that are ready to provide emergency support.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Veteran Emergency Fund policies](#).

View all [Veterans Emergency Fund FAQs](#).

[Chief of the Defence Staff thanks the CAF Community](#)

Canadian Military Family Magazine

Chief of the Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance shared a letter on Twitter addressed to the Canadian Armed Forces Community. Shared on social media, the letter begins by thanking the community for their quick response. [READ MORE](#)

[COVID-19: le général Vance fait le point dans une nouvelle lettre aux militaires](#)

45e Nord

Dans une nouvelle lettre aux membres de la communauté des Forces armées canadiennes, le chef d'état-major de la Défense, le général Jonathan Vance, fait le point de la première semaine de la pause opérationnelle d'au moins trois semaines et des mesures pour faire face à la pandémie de la COVID-19. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Commentary: Canadian Armed Forces prep coronavirus response plan, but no request for help yet](#)

Global News

Plans are being developed by Gen. Jon Vance and his Strategic Joint Staff so that, if asked by Ottawa, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) would be in a position to quickly render a wide range of assistance to civil authorities directing what has become a war against the lethal coronavirus pandemic. Among the options: sending troops to help isolated northern Indigenous communities, to protect critical infrastructure in the High Arctic and elsewhere, to build field hospitals or to act as backup to police forces and Corrections Canada if police or prison guards fall ill from COVID-19. [READ MORE](#)

[COVID-19 crisis leaves 200 Canadian troops stationed in Ukraine in limbo](#)

National Post

The COVID-19 crisis has left 200 Canadian soldiers in Ukraine — and their families back home — in limbo as commanders weigh whether they should be replaced with new troops, kept in place for the time being or pulled out entirely until the pandemic subsides. Canada has had military trainers in the eastern European country since the summer of 2015, during which time they have instructed around 17,000 Ukrainian troops in the basics of soldiering as well as some advanced skills such as first aid and explosives disposal. [READ MORE](#)

[Payments for thousands of injured veterans possible following](#)

Federal Court ruling

Global News

Thousands of injured veterans could be in line for payments from the federal government after a Federal Court ruled in favour of a former special-forces soldier whose class-action lawsuit alleged he was shortchanged on his long-term disability payments. Retired warrant officer Simon Logan was medically discharged from the Canadian Armed Forces in February 2016, at which point he expected to begin receiving monthly payments equalling 75 per cent of his pre-release salary of \$10,665. [READ MORE](#)

Non, l'armée canadienne ne prévoit pas d'intervention à Montréal

Journal Métro

Un long convoi de véhicules militaire a circulé sur une voie ferrée à proximité de Montréal dimanche. Or, au contraire de plusieurs hypothèses qui ont circulé sur les réseaux sociaux, l'armée canadienne ne prépare pas d'intervention militaire dans la métropole. La vidéo en question a circulé dimanche pendant la journée. On y voit une longue file de véhicules blindés militaires, montés sur un train. Il n'en fallait pas plus pour que les réactions explosent: «Les chars d'assaut et les camions de l'armée canadienne se dirigent vers Montréal», écrit notamment un usager sur Twitter. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Canadian Forces leadership to decide whether to cancel movement of thousands of military personnel to new jobs

Ottawa Citizen

As efforts continue to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Canadian Forces leadership is expected to soon decide whether to cancel the annual movement of thousands of military personnel and their families to new jobs across the country. Much of the movement takes place in the summer. [READ MORE](#)

Defence chief orders a 'stop' to classes at military colleges over COVID-19 crisis

CBC News

Training courses at Canadian Armed Forces bases and classes at the country's principal military colleges will largely cease and students will be sent home — to be with their families where possible — the chief of the defence staff said. Training and instruction were still being carried out despite the overwhelming number of cancellations, closures and public health warnings in the civilian world related to the COVID-19 pandemic. [READ MORE](#)

COVID 19: les Forces canadiennes ont activé la phase 3 de l'opération LASER 20-01

45e Nord

Le chef d'état-major de la Défense, le général Jonathan Vance, a maintenant activé la phase 3 de l'opération LASER 20-01, la réponse des Forces armées canadiennes à une situation de pandémie mondiale. L'opération LASER 20-01 est l'activation du plan d'urgence (CONPLAN) LASER en réponse à une maladie pandémique de type grippal et pour être prêt à soutenir les autres ministères et la

population. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Veteran reveals what it was like to be a Combat Engineer on D-Day

National Interest

Nineteen-year-old Jay Rencher blinked the salt spray from his eyes, filled his lungs, and again plunged beneath the cold, roiling waves. Minutes earlier, his three-man team had slipped stealthily from a pitching landing craft into the frigid waters of the English Channel, each man burdened with a full pack, rifle, extra clips of ammunition, blasting caps, and 60 pounds of explosives. [READ MORE](#)