

Here is the media report for March 28, 2019

Veterans Independence Program (VIP)

This is a program every Veteran with a VAC disability should have a serious look at as they grow older

Could home care services help you remain independent in your own home? The Veterans Independence Program provides annual funding to help cover the cost for these services.

About this program

The Veterans Independence Program provides funding for services such as grounds maintenance, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, and professional health and support services.

This program does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it is intended to work with those programs to help meet your needs.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Veterans Independence Program if you need home care services and you:

- have qualified for a disability benefit, or
- have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance, or
- receive Prisoner of War Compensation, or
- are eligible for, but can't access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed) in a long term care facility.

How to apply

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](#).

Mail or in person

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

Get help with your application

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

Additional information

Find out more

Services covered by VIP funding include:

- Grounds maintenance (can include snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.)
- Housekeeping (can include laundry, meal preparation, errands, etc.)
- Nutrition (e.g. meal delivery services)
- Professional healthcare and support (assessments, diagnostics, etc.)
- Personal care (only available if you are also receiving [Attendance Allowance](#))
- Ambulatory healthcare (assessments, diagnostics, activities and transportation to these services)

- Transportation (transportation to activities or services)
- Long term care (residential, intermediate or chronic care), and
- Home adaptations are a one-time only benefit to your principal residence that allow you to carry out everyday activities. This grant can only be provided a second time if the Veteran changes their principal residence.

See this chart for the [maximum rates payable](#) for these services.

[Healthcare service providers](#) - Learn more about providing VIP services and how to become a registered provider.

Related programs

[Disability Benefit](#): Compensation to recognize that your injury or illness is a result of your military service.

[War Veterans Allowance](#): Monthly payments if you have a low household income.

[Prisoner of War Compensation](#): Monthly compensation if you were taken prisoner or detained by enemy forces.

[Attendance Allowance](#): Monthly payments if your health needs require personal care support.

[Veterans Independence Program for survivors](#): As a surviving spouse, you may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

[Veterans Independence Program for primary caregiver](#): You may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

Frequently asked questions

What is the fastest way to apply for VIP services?

The fastest way to apply is by using [My VAC Account](#).

I am currently living outside of Canada, can I still receive my VIP benefits?

Unfortunately, Veterans Independence Program payments can only be provided to you when you are residing in Canada.

Can I choose any provider of services?

You may obtain services from the provider of your choice.

How is my housekeeping/grounds maintenance grant calculated?

The housekeeping and grounds maintenance grants are calculated based on your level of need and the going rate for these services in your area, up to [allowable maximum amount](#).

These rates are determined by a review of costs for these services across the country, including the labour market index. This national rate table shows the [going rates payable by geographic area](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Read the [Veterans Independence Program policies](#).

Date modified: 2019-02-08

Survivors and Surviving Dependent Children Eligible for the Pension for Life

- **Are survivors and surviving dependent children eligible for the Pension for Life?**

Yes, survivors and surviving dependent children are eligible for two of the Pension for Life benefits, which are: the Pain and Suffering Compensation; and the Income Replacement Benefit.

- **Is Veterans Affairs Canada taking anything away from survivors through the Pension for Life?**

No, the Department is committed to supporting members, Veterans and their survivors. Through the Pension for Life, Veterans Affairs Canada is increasing survivors' eligibility for financial benefits through the Income Replacement Benefit and is increasing the amount that is payable to them from 50 to 70% (for details see next question).

- **What can survivors and surviving dependent children receive under the Income Replacement Benefit?**

Eligibility for survivors and surviving dependent children to benefits has increased through the Income Replacement Benefit, and the amount they will be paid has also increased.

For example, if a Veteran in receipt of the Income Replacement Benefit dies before age 65 of non-service related causes, the survivor and surviving dependent children will be eligible for a lump-sum payment equal to 24 months times the amount the Veteran received in the month before he or she died.

Currently, the survivor and/or surviving dependent children do not have access to benefits if the Veteran was in receipt of short-term Earnings Loss, and survivors are only eligible for the Supplementary Retirement Benefit if the Veteran was in receipt of long-term Earnings Loss.

If a Veteran dies after age 65 of non-service related causes, survivors and surviving dependent children will be eligible for 70% of the Veteran's post-65 Income Replacement Benefit. Currently, survivors are only eligible for 50% of the Veteran's post-65 Retirement Income Security Benefit and surviving dependent children are not eligible for the Retirement Income Security Benefit.

If a member or Veteran dies before age 65 of service-related causes, the survivor and/or dependent children will be eligible for the same Income Replacement Benefit that the Veteran would have been eligible for until age 65. After age 65, the survivor and/or dependent children will receive 70% of the benefit the Veteran would have been eligible to receive which is payable for life (this is an increase from the current 50%).

If a Veteran dies after age 65 of service-related causes, the survivor and/or surviving dependent children will receive 70% of the Veteran's post 65 Income Replacement Benefit (70%) which is an increase from the current 50%.

Division of the Benefit

If an Income Replacement Benefit is payable to a survivor and/or surviving dependent children, the following rules apply to the division of the benefit:

If there is a survivor but no surviving dependent children, the survivor will receive 100% of the Income Replacement Benefit.

If there is a survivor and one or more surviving dependent children, the survivor is entitled to 50% of the Income Replacement Benefit and the surviving dependent children, as a group, are entitled to 50% of the Income Replacement benefit divided equally between them.

If there are one or more surviving dependent children but no survivor, each of the surviving dependent children is entitled to the amount obtained by dividing the Income Replacement Benefit by the number of surviving dependent children.

- **What can survivors and surviving dependent children receive under the Pain and Suffering Compensation?**

Survivors and surviving dependent children have the same eligibility that they have now with the Disability Award.

For example, if a member or Veteran in receipt of a monthly Pain and Suffering

Compensation payment dies, the survivor and dependent children would receive the remaining balance as a lump sum.

In addition, the survivor and/or surviving dependent children can apply for any Pain and Suffering Compensation that the member or Veteran did not apply for when alive. This compensation will be paid to survivors and dependent children as a lump sum amount.

- **What can survivors and surviving dependent children receive under the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation?**

Survivors and surviving dependent children are not currently eligible for the Career Impact Allowance. This eligibility will not change when the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation comes into effect. Therefore, survivors and surviving dependent children will not be entitled to the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation.

- **If a member or Veteran dies before April 1, 2019, what will survivors and surviving dependent children be eligible for?**

If a member or Veteran dies before April 1, 2019, survivors and surviving dependent children will be eligible to existing benefits currently in place. This could include: Career Transition Services, Rehabilitation, Earnings Loss, Supplementary Retirement Benefit, Retirement Income Security Benefit, Detention Benefit (payable to the estate), Disability Award and Death Benefit.

Survivors and surviving dependent children can be reimbursed up to \$500 for fees for financial counselling associated with their Disability, Death or Detention Benefit payments.

- **If a survivor or surviving dependent child is in receipt of financial benefits prior to April 1, 2019, what happens to those benefits?**

Survivors and surviving dependent children entitled to Earnings Loss or the Retirement Income Security Benefit prior to April 1, 2019 will automatically be transitioned to the Income Replacement Benefit, just like Veterans. If the Income Replacement Benefit amount is less than what they were receiving for Earnings Loss or the Retirement Income Security Benefit, they will receive a “protected amount” which will be indexed annually. This means they will not receive less on April 1, 2019. Survivors will also automatically receive any lump-sum Supplementary Retirement Benefit to which they are entitled after the Pension for Life benefits come into effect. Survivors and surviving dependent children who received a Disability Award payment between 2006 and 2019 in relation to a deceased member or Veteran will not receive an additional monthly amount as a result of the introduction of the Pain and Suffering Compensation.

What do you mean by well-being?

- **What do you mean by well-being?**

We define well-being as a satisfied and fulfilled Veteran with purpose, who is financially secure, safely housed, in good health physically and mentally, highly resilient in the face of change, well-integrated in the community, proud and cognizant of his or her legacy; and being valued and celebrated.

Our research on well-being—and its role in setting Veterans up for a successful post-service life—has been the driving force behind these changes.

“Well-being” is a broadly accepted goal of public policy, and there are many different

ways of defining the concept. VAC's Research and Policy Directorates reviewed expert literature, considered findings from Veterans' population studies and held multidisciplinary consultations. The outcome was a composite well-being construct designed for Canadian Veterans and their families. Strategic outcomes were identified to support transition services, policies and programming.

Learn more about the [seven domains of well-being](#).

- **Does the Department think that being financially secure is a major step to well-being?**

Research shows that financial stability is among the first steps to overall well-being. VAC wants to ensure that Veterans who are ill and injured have the opportunity to focus on their rehabilitation and making informed choices about their life after service. The Income Replacement Benefit will provide a stable and predictable income while Veterans are focusing on the rest of their well-being and preparing themselves and their families for their chosen next step.

Long-term care Homes provide 24-hour personal and nursing care. We can provide monthly payments to qualifying Veterans for the cost of this care.

About this program

Canada's commitment to care for injured, disabled and aging Veterans is a long-standing commitment, dating back to the First World War.

Financial support for long-term care is provided in two long-term care settings:

1. Community beds are in community facilities with beds that provide nursing home care to Veterans as well as other provincial residents.
2. Contract beds are in community facilities that have beds designated for priority access for eligible Veterans.

Some nursing homes and other residential or long-term care facilities provide care to Veterans in "contract" as well as "community" beds within the same facility.

Do you qualify?

Veterans Affairs Canada provides financial assistance to eligible Veterans for long-term care.

Factors that are taken into consideration when determining your eligibility include:

- health care need
- service-related disability
- income
- military service

How does it work?

The delivery of long-term care is a provincial/territorial responsibility. All provincial health systems in Canada provide some level of residential care support in provincially licensed or regulated facilities.

The assessment and placement process to access most long-term care facilities is managed

by provincial/regional/local health authorities.

If a Veteran needs long-term care, Veterans Affairs Canada can contribute to the cost of care if the Veteran meets certain criteria, for example, military service, income eligibility, and/or whether their need for long-term care is due to a service related disability.

Outreach and visitation initiative

Through a service contract with the Royal Canadian Legion, volunteers visit Veterans staying in long-term care facilities who receive financial assistance from the Department. This visit provides the Veterans an opportunity to have a conversation and a social visit with a volunteer.

How to apply

The placement and admission process for long-term care is largely controlled by provincial, regional, or local health authorities. To determine if you need long-term care you should first contact the agency responsible for long-term care in your province.

Provincial/Territorial long-term care websites

- [Alberta](#)
- [British Columbia](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Nunavut](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Quebec](#) (French only)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Yukon](#)

How to apply for financial assistance

To apply for financial assistance for long term care, please complete and sign the [Application Package for Long Term Care Support](#) (VAC1503APe).

If you need assistance, please [contact us](#).

Note to legal representatives: Include a copy (originals cannot be returned) of the document that shows you to be the legal representative (e.g. Power of Attorney). If you have previously provided this, you do not need to send it again.

Find where Canadian war dead are buried

Canadian Virtual War Memorial help

Thanks to the generosity of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, you can now search the [Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#) to find where Canadian war dead are buried. This site is a registry of the graves and memorials of more than 118,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served valiantly and gave their lives for their country.

Related links

- [Visit the Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Digital collections](#)

Tips for searching

- Only use information that you are sure about.
- Searches are not case sensitive. Search criteria may be entered in upper, lower or mixed case.
- A Surname or part of a Surname is required to successfully complete an inquiry.
- A maximum of 500 responses will be provided for each search.
- Providing a Given Name or an Initial will help narrow down the number of search responses.
- You can search by full Given Name or part of the Given Name.
- Separate multiple Given Names by a space. Do not use commas or periods.
- At least one Initial should be used. Separate multiple Initials with a space. Do not use commas or periods.
- Multiple Given Names or Initials in the wrong order will cause an inquiry to miss the required record.
- If the surname contains spaces (e.g. Le Blanc), it may appear in the database with or without the space (Le Blanc or LeBlanc).
- If the surname contains a period as in St. Pierre, it will appear in the database as St(space)Pierre.
- Try using **Wild Cards**.
 - A Wild card is a term used to describe a search technique which enables a range of names to be matched from a fragment of a name. "%" can be used to replace a string of text within your search. This technique ensures that the widest range of records are searched in an attempt to find the correct one.
 - Example: Entering a Surname as **%donald%** will return the following search responses:
 - DONALD
 - DONALDSON
 - MACDONALD
 - MCDONALD

Listed below are additional search resources that are available on the Internet.

Additional search resources

- [Library and Archives Canada](#)
Information relating to Military Personnel Records.
- [Canadian Merchant Navy War Dead Registry](#)
A registry of the merchant seamen who died in the First or Second World War and their ships.
- [Canadian Post War Military and Dependent Graves](#)
Burial locations of service members and their dependents who died outside of Canada and the USA but were not returned to Canada.
- [National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials](#)
In keeping with our proud military heritage, Canadians erected cenotaphs in municipal centres, raised monuments in parks, cemeteries and public areas.

How to appeal your VAC Decision

Free legal help for people who are not satisfied with decisions about their claims for disability benefits.

[Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#)

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/veterans-rights/how-to-appeal/bureau-pensions-advocates>

<http://www.vrab-tacra.gc.ca/Plans/2017-18-Annual-Report-Rapport-Annuel-eng.pdf>

Pension for Life

Through Pension for Life (PFL), the Government of Canada is introducing a modernized suite of programs and benefits to assist Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members, Veterans and their families with the transition to post-service life, and to compensate for pain and suffering resulting from service-related injuries. Some PFL benefits can be appealed to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board. Ask your representative about how the implementation of PFL on April 1, 2019 may affect your case. [Learn more here](#).

Exclusively hears and determines all applications for review and appeal made to the Board. Independent assistance if you are not satisfied with a decision made by the Department.

Public interest in Mark Norman case is growing

<https://ottawasun.com/opinion/columnists/furey-public-interest-in-mark-norman-case-is-growing/wcm/e8fb493f-74e3-4f10-8b61-5fa85107d445>

The drug, called mefloquine or Lariam, has been associated with psychiatric and physical side-effects

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/malaria-drug-for-canadian-troops-called-dangerous-1.1156684>

War museum unveils display of Hill 70 VC medals

<https://ottawasun.com/news/local-news/display-of-hill-70-victoria-cross-medals-unveiled-at-war-museum/wcm/21819e71-1fc3-42a9-a615-ed2b73a9b1cb>

'I won't take it.' Wolf Solkin, a 96-year-old WWII veteran, is suing two governments. And he's not one to retreat

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/i-wont-take-it-wolf-solkin-a-96-year-old-wwii-veteran-is-suing-two-governments-and-hes-not-one-to-retreat/ar-BBVkSij?li=AAgNb9>

Veterans' groups fear their priorities will be lost in the

constant shuffle of ministers

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/2019/03/01/veterans-groups-fear-their-priorities-will-be-lost-in-the-constant-shuffle-of-ministers.html>

Exercise ROGUISH BUOY 2019: Combat Divers celebrate 40 years of international partnership

The Maple Leaf

This past February, Combat Divers from all four Canadian Combat Dive Teams deployed to Cultus Lake, B.C., where they met with divers from Germany, Holland, the U.K., and the U.S. to participate in a training event that has been running since 1979. Exercise ROGUISH BUOY is an annual exercise conducted by the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering's (CFSME) Army Dive Centre to progressively train and prepare Army Combat Divers, and participating allied forces, for the rigorous challenges they can face in our evolving security environment. [READ MORE](#)

Changes to be made to CAF Relocation Program

Canadian Military Family Magazine

Sweeping changes are expected to be made to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Relocation Program this posting season with many of the policies reverting back to the old system. Due to critical feedback from military members and their families, one of the major changes this year is the payment of third-party service providers directly by BGRS. [READ MORE](#)

Des soldats canadiens ont évacué des militaires français blessés au Mali

Journal Métro

Les Casques bleus canadiens ont été appelés à évacuer plusieurs soldats français blessés au Mali, plus tôt ce mois-ci, après que leur patrouille eut été prise dans une embuscade alors qu'ils cherchaient des insurgés le long de la frontière avec le Niger. Cet incident, qui n'avait pas été signalé auparavant, est le premier dans lequel les Canadiens sont sollicités pour aider les forces non onusiennes au Mali, où les Français mènent des opérations militaires contre l'insurrection armée depuis 2014. [LIRE PLUS](#)

SNC-Lavalin maintaining Kelowna bridge amidst controversy in Ottawa

Summerland Review

The company at the centre of the scandal currently enveloping the federal government has a strong Kelowna connection. SNC-Lavalin, a multi-national Canadian engineering company, designed, built and now maintains the 11-year-old William Richards Bennett Bridge between Kelowna and West Kelowna, the only crossing of Okanagan Lake and a vital highway transportation link in the Okanagan. The bridge is Canada's only floating bridge, according to the company's website. [READ MORE](#)

Alberta Party names candidates for Fort McMurray ridings; former 1 CER Combat Engineer runs for election

Fort McMurray Today

The Alberta Party has named Marcus Erlandson and Jeff Fafard as its candidates for the Wood Buffalo region, with the pair saying they will campaign on a platform focusing on the economy, and

child and health care issues. Fafard is a realtor in Edmonton and a former combat engineer in the Canadian Armed Forces. He arrived in Alberta from Quebec in 2013, after he was posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment at CFB Edmonton. He is running in Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche. [READ MORE](#)

[Special Operations Forces training complex at Petawawa a significant project](#)

DCC at Work

Defence Construction Canada is doing its part to ensure Special Operations Forces Command personnel at CFB Petawawa have the modern, robust training facilities they need to protect Canadian interests at home and abroad. Work is underway on the new \$319 million complex for the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR). The 10-building complex on the Mattawa Plains replaces existing CSOR facilities currently scattered in some 30 to 40 older buildings across the base (many set for demolition), thereby increasing the organization's collaboration and efficiency. [READ MORE](#)

[Une ancienne combattante fransaskoise se prépare pour une expédition sur l'île de Baffin](#)

Radio-Canada

Natalie Forcier ne recule pas devant un défi. Cette ancienne combattante de Saint-Isidore-de-Bellevue a passé 14 années de sa vie comme technicienne médicale dans les Forces armées canadiennes (FAC). Elle a même effectué deux périodes de service militaire en Afghanistan. Aujourd'hui, elle se prépare pour une expédition à l'île de Baffin dans le but d'aider des anciens combattants comme elle. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Military divers from 5 nations arrive in Tuktoyaktuk](#)

Cabin Radio

Tuktoyaktuk and the Nunavut community of Resolute Bay are welcoming military divers from five nations this month. Divers from Canada, France, Finland, Sweden, and Norway are working to build their ice diving knowledge and test new equipment as part of Operation Nanook-Nunalivut. Matthew Innocent, a sergeant with the Canadian Forces and a combat engineer by trade, specializes in combat diving. He explained what the divers focus on in their training. [READ MORE](#)

[Sydney man, a WWII vet, celebrates 105th birthday](#)

Cape Breton Post

Maurice Bidart has accomplished something few men have ever done — he turned 105 years old recently. "So far so good — I'm looking forward to 110," he said at his Charlotte Street home where family and members of Royal Canadian Legion branch 12 were holding a birthday party for him, complete with a large cake topped with candles that he easily blew out. [READ MORE](#)