

Media Report 05 June 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 No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people will need medical care at some point. Group health insurance can help cover many of the costs related to that care.

Group Health Insurance.

About this program

You and your family may need basic or additional healthcare coverage. VAC's Health Benefits Program offers access to group health insurance through the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP). Participants are responsible for paying monthly premiums. The amount of your premium depends on the type and level of coverage you choose.

The Public Service Health Care Plan provides coverage for a wide variety of health-related products and services. Participation is voluntary and can be in addition to other medical coverage you may have, such as treatment benefits or rehabilitation services from VAC, private insurance, etc.

The plan reimburses 80 percent of the cost for most eligible expenses. Eligible expenses include prescription medicines, vision care, medical practitioners, dental treatments as a result of accidental injury, other services and supplies, out-of-province referrals or expenses, and hospital accommodation charges depending on the coverage you selected.

This plan offers two kinds of coverage:

Supplementary Coverage:

- For those living in Canada, an added coverage on top of the health insurance plan in your home province or territory.

Comprehensive Coverage:

- For those living outside of Canada and not covered by a provincial or territorial health insurance plan.

Do you qualify?

You can apply for group health insurance through VAC if you are:

- a former CAF member who released on or after April 1, 2006 and you have been approved for the SISIP Long Term Disability program, or
- a former CAF member who is eligible for VAC rehabilitation services, or
- the survivor of a CAF member or Veteran who died after April 1, 2006 as a result of a service-related injury or illness, and you are not already receiving the Public Service Health Care Plan through the Department of National Defence.

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 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 CAF Transition Centre](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Additional information

Find out more

Dental coverage is not available as part of the PSHCP. For additional terms and conditions of coverage, as well as detailed information regarding the benefits provided, please call Sun Life at 1-888-757-7427 or visit [their Website](#) or the [Public Service Health Care Plan](#) site.

Related programs

[Rehabilitation Program](#): Services to improve your health and adjust to life after service.

[SISIP Long Term Disability program](#): Provides replacement income protection when you are released for medical reasons.

Frequently asked questions

If I apply for the benefit and get declined, can I appeal?

Yes, please call us at 1-866-522-2122 or email vac.information.acc@canada.ca

I have a concern with my coverage, who do I contact?

If you are not satisfied with your coverage you can [submit an appeal](#) directly to the PSHCP.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read the policies for the [Health Benefits program](#).

[View more FAQs](#) about the Public Service Health Care Plan.

Passing of Carole Bellamy

On behalf of NATO Vets, our sorrow of the passing of Carole Bellamy. My wife Jan and Carole knew each other – actually we both knew Carole and Cal as good friends -visited them often at their home and Jan and Carole always sat together at NATO Vet functions such as Christmas Dinner.

Tom was kind enough to let me know on LinkedIn- so now I will pass on to NATO Vets formally.

Understand there will be no funeral due to the Virus situation – but when you hold a celebration at the appropriate time, let me know.

My sincerest sympathy

Gord J.

Legion joins chorus of anger over conditions in long-term care

Calls for improvements largely ignored by governments for years

https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/NR_Long-term-care_May%202020.pdf?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=109534&attachment=2&delivery=view

Here's all the financial relief the government is offering seniors and what might be on tap

Seniors hit hard financially by the pandemic are getting some additional support with the potential for more later

<https://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/taxes/what-the-government-is-offering-seniors-what-might-be-on-tap>

30-day limit on prescriptions in Ontario expected to end by July 1

<https://www.healthing.ca/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus/30-day-limit-on-prescriptions-in-ontario-expected-to-end-by-july-1>

Critical need for federal government financial support to help Legion Branches

On June 3, Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President Thomas D. Irvine, CD, sent a follow up letter to the Prime Minister pressing for immediate access to emergency financial relief for Legion Branches. Current federal relief programs for non profits do not help Branches with operational costs incurred as a result of the pandemic. And Legion Branches do not qualify for the relief programs available to businesses.

In the letter, Irvine states, "I am angered to see that businesses whose sole purpose is to provide entertainment are getting relief, while our Legion Branches – which are literally helping to save lives and improve communities – are struggling with the fear of closure, with no government help in sight."

Without immediate financial relief, the Legion may soon be unable to continue to provide essential services and supports to Veterans and communities across Canada.

[Read the letter](#)

National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan continues to progress

Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members;

Despite these extraordinary times, work towards the creation of a National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan continues to progress. Thank you to all who took part in our consultations about design considerations for the Monument earlier this year!

Through our combined outreach efforts, we received a lot of input during our online consultation—more than 3,800 questionnaires were completed. I am pleased to report that the majority of respondents (72%) had a connection to Canada's military and/or the mission in Afghanistan. The feedback has helped inform the Monument design guidelines, which will ultimately guide future design teams in developing their concepts.

You can read the full report on consultation findings on our website at veterans.gc.ca.

As the project moves forward, we will be looking for your support again to promote participation. In the next steps, we expect to know the design team finalists in the near future. Public consultations on the final design concepts will take place before the winning Monument design is selected and announced. For more information about the National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan visit veterans.gc.ca.

Thank you.

Lawrence MacAulay

Minister of Veterans Affairs and

Associate Minister of National Defence

Chers intervenants et membres des groupes de consultation,

Malgré la situation exceptionnelle que nous vivons actuellement, les travaux en vue de la création d'un monument commémoratif national de la mission du Canada en Afghanistan se poursuivent. J'aimerais d'ailleurs remercier tous ceux qui ont pris part à la consultation sur les considérations relatives au concept du monument plus tôt cette année.

Grâce à nos efforts de sensibilisation combinés, nous avons enregistré un taux élevé de participation à notre consultation en ligne – plus de 3 800 personnes ont rempli le questionnaire. Je suis également ravi de vous informer que la majorité des répondants (72 %) présentait un lien avec les Forces armées canadiennes et/ou la mission en Afghanistan. L'information recueillie a contribué à l'établissement de lignes directrices pour la conception du monument, lesquelles orienteront les futures équipes de conception dans l'élaboration de leur concept.

Vous pouvez lire le rapport complet sur les constatations tirées de la consultation sur notre site Web, à l'adresse veterans.gc.ca.

À mesure que le projet progressera, nous ferons à nouveau appel à votre soutien afin de promouvoir la participation. Dans le cadre des prochaines étapes, qui se dérouleront dans un avenir rapproché, nous espérons connaître les finalistes de l'équipe de conception. Nous tiendrons des consultations publiques sur les concepts techniques finaux avant la sélection et l'annonce du concept de monument choisi. Pour en savoir plus au sujet du Monument commémoratif national de la mission du Canada en Afghanistan, visitez la page veterans.gc.ca.

Merci,

Lawrence MacAulay

Ministre des Anciens Combattants et

ministre associé de la Défense nationale

THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE DONATIONS APPEAL RAISES \$15,000 FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

I am most pleased and proud that the Knights and Dames of the Order donated

\$15,000 to support the wellbeing of our homeless veterans.

It is equally encouraging that 2020 postulants and friends of the Order also participated in the fundraising drive.

The monies raised were presented to the Legion National Foundation (LNF) to boost its program [Leaving the Streets Behind](#) which supports homeless and near-homeless veterans across Canada.

The donation to the LNF is particularly timely as the COVID-19 pandemic places a heavy burden on our veterans who now face an increasingly difficult struggle.

The additional funding for the LNF will enhance awareness of the Order nationally for its charitable activities as will the agreement to explore an OStG/LNF national partnership.

We are indebted to Chevalier Robert Hamilton, President and COO, and Samantha (Sam) Laprade, LNF Director Development for their initiative.

I would also like to acknowledge the authors of the Donation Appeal: Chevalier Bill Foote, Commander Niagara Commandery; and Dame Nishika Jardine, Commander Toronto Commandery.

To you, the members of the Order, thank you for rising to the challenge to support the wellbeing of our veterans. It will materially alleviate the hardships encountered and accentuated by the coronavirus pandemic.

WE ARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND GOOD WORKS

In the Service and Spirit of St George

Very Respectfully

THANK YOU ALL

Dr. Andrew Nellestyn
OStJ CD KGSStG PhD PEng
Grand Master and CEO

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IN THE MEDIA

Feds, Quebec launch talks on keeping

CKPG Today

Ottawa and Quebec have started talking about the future of military in long-term care homes after the province called for the Canadian Armed Forces to stay in nearly two dozen facilities until September. Quebec Premier Francois Legault has asked the military to remain an additional four months so the province can hire and train thousands more workers to take over when the troops leave.

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Mission accomplie pour un Drummondvillois de retour du Liban

Journal Express

Après sept mois de mission d'entraînement au Liban, l'adjudant-maître au sein des Forces armées canadiennes Olivier Descheneaux est de retour au pays. Le Drummondvillois d'origine s'est envolé au Liban, un pays voisin de la Syrie et d'Israël, en octobre dernier dans le cadre de l'opération IMPACT. Avec sept autres soldats, il a conseillé les membres des Forces armées libanaises sur les standards de formation. L'objectif vise à améliorer leur chaîne d'approvisionnement militaire.

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Deep sea recovery of Canadian military helicopter and crew, ended

Radio Canada International

In a press statement released Wednesday afternoon, the Canadian Armed Forces have indicated the recovery effort of a military helicopter and crew in the Ionian Sea has ended. The team of U.S. Navy, and CAF personnel spent eight days at the site between the coasts of Sicily and Greece where the Cyclone helicopter with six crew crashed as it was returning to its ship, the *HMCS Fredericton*. The aircraft was on a routine training mission as part of a larger NATO exercise.

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New swans in Smiths Falls now have names

Lake 88.1

The Town of Smiths Falls' new mute swans now have new names to go with their new home in Smiths Falls — Colonel and Esther. The names Colonel and Esther have special significance for the Town of Smiths Falls: Colonel refers to Colonel John By, the military engineer who supervised construction of the Rideau Canal, while Esther refers to By's second wife, Esther By (née March).

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Même en ces temps de COVID, le Canada complète une opération interalliée en Islande

45e Nord

Les Forces armées canadiennes ont terminé le déploiement, dans le cadre de l'opération interalliée ILLUMINATION, d'un détachement de l'Aviation royale canadienne et d'un système radar de surveillance aérienne mobile en Islande avec le redéploiement de tout le personnel et du matériel au Canada cette semaine.

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Why the U.S. military is building a tunneling earthworm

Popular Mechanics

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Pentagon's cutting-edge research and

development branch, is funding one of the oddest robotic concepts yet: a robot that mimics an earthworm to dig underground tunnels. It's all part of an effort to demonstrate robotic tunneling technologies that will provide a secure way of resupplying U.S. Army troops in battle zones.

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Military taking biometrics to a new level

EE Times

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks accelerated the growth of U.S. military applications using biometric technologies to identify the enemy and to improve security and surveillance. The adoption of biometrics in recent months has been driven by advances in a variety of technologies, including wireless, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning.

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