

Media Report 23 JULY 2021

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 An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal

Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada

4,701 active 1,391,888 recovered 26,498 deaths

Career Transition Services Contract – Draft Request for Proposal / Contrat relatif aux Services de réorientation professionnelle – version préliminaire de la demande de propositions

Good day,

We are looking for your ideas to help us to improve Career Transition Services.

The current Career Transition Services contract expires in 2022. As the first step of the procurement process for a new contract, Public Services and Procurement Canada on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada, posted a draft request for proposal.

VAC is approaching the procurement process in a collaborative way to improve services for Veterans. Our approach is to seek input from industry and Veteran advisory groups on new ways to provide career transition services before posting a final request for proposal.

The draft request for proposal is posted on Public Service and Procurement Canada's BuyandSell.ca website at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-MCT-018-6019>.

We look forward to your feedback which can be shared via the contact information found in the draft request for proposal.

For further details, please contact Tabitha Stubbs at tabitha.stubbs@veterans.gc.ca.

Thank you.

Bonjour,

Nous aimerions connaître vos idées pour nous aider à améliorer les Services de réorientation professionnelle.

Le contrat actuel relatif aux Services de réorientation professionnelle expirera en 2022. La première étape du processus d'approvisionnement visant la signature d'un nouveau contrat a consisté, pour Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada, à afficher pour le compte d'Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) une version préliminaire de la demande de propositions.

ACC aborde le processus d'approvisionnement de façon collaborative afin d'améliorer les services aux vétérans. Notre approche consiste à solliciter l'avis de partenaires de l'industrie et de groupes consultatifs sur les vétérans sur les nouvelles façons de fournir des services de réorientation professionnelle avant de publier la demande de propositions finale.

La version préliminaire de la demande de propositions est affichée sur le site Web achatsetventes.gc.ca de Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada au <https://achatsetventes.gc.ca/donnees-sur-l-approvisionnement/appels-d-offres/PW-MCT-018-6019>.

Nous serions heureux de recevoir vos commentaires que vous pouvez nous partager en utilisant les coordonnées que vous trouverez dans la version préliminaire de la demande de propositions.

Pour de plus amples détails, veuillez s'il vous plaît communiquer avec Tabitha Stubbs au tabitha.stubbs@veterans.gc.ca.

Merci

[WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday in St. John's with motorcade, well wishes](#)

[WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday in St. John's with motorcade, well wishes](#)

Message from the Acting Chief of the Defence Staff on the Fall of Panjwai

13 July 2021

Many of us have been watching the reports coming out of Afghanistan with dismay. The fall of Panjwai, reported last week, has hit many of us particularly

hard, and as we question our legacy, it serves as a harbinger for all Canadians who served in the country, regardless of when and where.

Panjwai District, with its place names such as Masum Ghar, Nakhonay, Sperwan Ghar, and Mushan, are indelibly etched into the collective psyche of those who served there. The heat, the dust, the grape rows, and the poppy fields all provide a backdrop to what truly troubles us – our investment of effort, of sweat, and most of all of blood.

Our Afghan experience has left none untouched, and many, including families, are scarred physically, mentally, and morally from it. Many of us have been asking, some for years, 'was it worth it?' Answers will be deeply personal, and not all have reached a final conclusion other than 'time will tell'.

We can hold our heads high knowing that we did everything our government asked us to do. Our members served with valour and selflessness, and were there to make a difference. The solution was never going to be a military one, and what we gave the people and the government of Afghanistan was time. The decision with what to do with that time was theirs to make.

While history will be the ultimate judge, the current trajectory of the country leaves us with much pain and doubt. After their wars, our forebears were able to visit many of the countries in which they served, such as in Europe and Korea, and put their sacrifices in context, giving them meaning when they saw hope and prosperity rise out of the rubble and ashes. At this moment in time, it is difficult to envision having similar sentiments for our war.

So where does that leave us? Should we hang our heads in bitterness and remorse; or should we continue to venerate the sacrifices of so many in our ranks and their families, to honour the noble commitment to service and making the world a better place, and endeavour to learn from our experiences, grow, and become better every day? While none of us can speak for them, I have to believe that our Fallen would want us to pursue the latter.

If you are struggling with your experience, I ask you to reach out for help.

For current CAF members and families:

- CAF Members have access to mental health care and a range of support services provided at [Canadian Forces Health Services primary care clinics](#) across Canada. Care is also available for those deployed. Many services are available either with or without an appointment, and there is a choice of in-person or virtual/telephone.
- [Member Assistance Program \(CFMAP\)](#) is a confidential advisory and referral service that is external to the CAF and available to members and their families by phone 24-hours-a-day, seven-days –a-week at 1-800-268-7708.
- Spiritual guidance and support are available through [military chaplains](#).

- Information on these and other medical and mental health care and support services for military members and their families may be found on the [Military Mental Health "You're Not Alone" web page](#).
- Beyond these resources – speak to a friend, family member, your supervisor, or a mental health professional – do not shoulder this burden alone. Pain shared is pain divided.

For Veterans and families:

For Veterans as well as family members or caregivers who are struggling, [VAC Assistance Service](#) is available 24/7. Call 1-800-268-7708 (TDD/TYY: 1-800-567-5803) to talk to a mental health professional.

More information on counselling services, peer support and free online resources for Veterans and families can be found in the [Mental health and wellness section](#) of the Veterans Affairs Canada web site.

Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre
Acting Chief of the Defence Staff

National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrated locally online

.It was 25 years ago that the Government of Canada joined Indigenous organizations in choosing June 21 as the day of celebration as this is the summer solstice. The event brings together people of all cultures to participate in Indigenous teachings, demonstrations and workshops that exhibit Indigenous culture and excellence.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event in Pembroke was held online. Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County live-streamed it on their Facebook Page. The event showcased songs, drumming, shawl dancing, medicine teaching, follow-along painting, tobacco ties, prayers, bead workshops, bannock making and fire keeper teachings.

Though the format was virtual, the fundamental essence of the day remained.

"It is so important that we continue to move ahead regardless of any situation," said Angela Duchene, supervisor for Restorative Practices.

It is the eighth year that the day has been celebrated in Pembroke, and regardless of barriers, it needed to go on.

It is not about the I, but about the we, said Duchene, noting that adjusting one's language can have a rippling effect and help view reconciliation as a collective act.

The livestream is still up on Facebook so people can watch at any time.

It has been a traumatic time for many in the wake of recent discoveries of hundreds of unmarked graves at several of Canada's residential schools. Indigenous people are courageously speaking out about their experiences – and they are being heard.

In a show of solidarity, people are tying orange ribbons on bridges, wearing orange shirts, and children's shoes and stuffed toys are being left on church steps.

"We can't dwell in the past, but we have to recognize the past and we have to have periods of mourning for that," she added. "We have to really understand where people are at. But then I'm hoping that as a nation, we get together and figure out how do we stop that and how do we move forward."

She asked that efforts be made to stop ill-spirited jokes, slurs and comments in their tracks. She admitted it can be difficult to speak up, but it is an empowering and necessary step.

She also wants people to educate themselves about Indigenous people and their true history and culture.

Resources can be found online, in books, and locally, there is also the Renfrew County and District Aboriginal Friendship Centre – Bonnechere Algonquin Community. Knowledge keepers, elders and other members of First Nations are more than happy to share their teachings. The Anishinaabe Cultural Circle also hosts events and discussions through the Waka-ehi Lodge, located at 464 Isabella St. in Pembroke. The lodge name translates to "sitting in a circle".

"It's part of our culture, we share," said Duchene. "We walk with it and it's what we feel we are here for. It's not about the I."

In 1982, the government formally recognized Aboriginal rights, and National Indigenous Day was first celebrated in 1996 – the year the last residential school closed.

To ask questions, visit the local lodge or purchase an orange t-shirt; please email lodge@fcsrenfrew.on.ca for more information.

If you need help:

National Residential School Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419

- The National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former residential school students.

You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour National Crisis hotline.

Understanding Veteran homelessness

Download a [colour poster](#) for display to help Veterans in need find assistance.

Veteran homelessness is unacceptable in Canada. One homeless Veteran is one too many.

To make a difference, our staff across the country continue outreach efforts to engage and support homeless Veterans and those at risk of homelessness.

We know that these efforts are most effective when we collaborate with others. That is why we work in partnership with community organizations, other levels of government, and other federal government departments and agencies to address Veteran homelessness.

Support for homeless Veterans across Canada

A national map of local organizations providing support for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Emergency funds

Quick access to funds for eligible Veterans and their families who are facing an unexpected financial emergency.

Video for first responders

TheBack in stepvideo was created to help first responders identify and address Veteran homelessness.

Research and statistics

Addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility. It requires a whole-of-government approach that also includes non-profit organizations and stakeholders. To properly address Veteran homelessness, it is important to understand the scale of the issue.

Roundtable on homelessness

On June 7, 2018, more than 65 national and regional organizations gathered in Ottawa to attend the Roundtable on Homelessness hosted by the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Outreach and partnerships

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has provided information on its programs and services to approximately 200 community organizations that work with the homeless in more than 50 cities across the country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mental health and wellness

People with serious mental illness are disproportionately affected by homelessness. VAC offers counselling and compensation for the mental health needs of Veterans.

Canada's homelessness strategy

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada.

Life after service

VAC works closely with the Canadian Armed Forces to help ensure that Veterans are prepared for their release and can have a successful transition to civilian life.

Canada's National Housing Strategy

The National Housing Strategy is a 10-year, \$55+ billion plan creating a new generation of housing in Canada to help give more Canadians a place to call home.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THESE CF NEWSPAPERS

Base/Wing — Newspaper	
14 Wing Greenwood — The Aurora	17 Wing Winnipeg — The Voxair
22 Wing North Bay — The Shield	CFB Halifax — The Trident
4 Wing Cold Lake — The Courier	CFB Edmonton — The Western Sentinel
CFB Esquimalt — The Lookout	CFB Valcartier — The Adsum
CFSU Ottawa — The Guard	CFB Kingston — Garrison News
CFB Shilo — The Shilo Stag	CFB St Jean — The Servir
19 Wing Comox — The Totem Times	3 Wing Bagotville — The Vortex
8 Wing Trenton — The Contact	CFB Borden — The Citizen

IN THE NEWS

[Canadian Armed Forces lends a hand to Newfoundland Pony Heritage Park](#)

[Father-son, RCAF Reserve duo serve side-by-side](#)

[Afghanistan : maintien de l'aide du Canada malgré le départ des États-Unis le 31 août](#)

[Move of DND test facility from Alberta to Ottawa delayed because of hangar renovation problems](#)

[Move of DND test facility from Alberta to Ottawa delayed because of hangar renovation problems](#)

[8 Operations support squadron welcomes new commanding officer](#)

[10e anniversaire de la fin de la mission de combat du Canada en Afghanistan](#)

[Local Realtors raising funds to build tiny homes for military veterans](#)

[Steven Bilodeau : un vétéran devenu humoriste](#)

[GE's giant earthworm tunneling robot finds its own way](#)