

## Media Report 03 Feb 2023

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking 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

Contribute to research on intimate partner violence // Contribuez à la recherche sur la violence entre partenaires intimes

### *Le français suit*

Please share this information among your members and networks.

The [Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families](#) is seeking participants for [a study it is conducting](#), with the [Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health](#), on intimate partner violence among Veterans and their partners.

The Atlas Institute provides access to information, research, tools and expertise on post-traumatic stress disorder and related mental health conditions.

The study will identify ways to improve prevention programs and access to resources.

If you would like to take part, please complete this [online form](#), which has more details about the study.

### **Engagement and Events Team**

Veterans Affairs Canada

[engagement@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:engagement@veterans.gc.ca)

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Prière de partager ce message avec vos membres et dans vos réseaux.

L'[Institut Atlas pour les vétérans et leur famille](#) recherche des participants pour [une étude qu'il mène \(page disponible en anglais seulement\)](#), avec le [Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health \(site Web en anglais seulement\)](#), sur la violence entre partenaires intimes chez les vétérans et leur partenaire.

L'Institut Atlas donne accès à des renseignements, des recherches, des outils et une expertise sur l'état de stress post-traumatique et les troubles mentaux connexes.

L'étude permettra de déterminer des moyens d'améliorer les programmes de prévention et l'accès aux ressources.

Si vous souhaitez participer, veuillez remplir ce [formulaire en ligne](#), qui contient plus de détails sur l'étude.

### **Équipe de mobilisation et des événements**

Anciens Combattants Canada

[engagement@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:engagement@veterans.gc.ca)

## **How VAC reviews a disability benefit claim**

Learn more about how your disability claim is reviewed by the department and particularly, by the

adjudicator – a trained decision-maker for disability claims.

Do we have everything?

A complete application for a disability benefit will have all the information needed to determine that you have a diagnosed medical condition related to your service. In this first step, we will review your:

1. [Disability benefit application](#) (form #PEN923);
2. Medical reports or CAF/RCMP health reports;
3. Medical questionnaire(s);
4. Your service health records; and if needed one or all of the following,
5. Your profile (form #VAC1055) including your proof of identify, third-party consent, and direct deposit form (form #VAC441).

Learn more about how to [complete an application](#) for a disability benefit.

## Who reviews the claim?

Once your application package is complete, it is assigned to an adjudicator.

Every application for a disability benefit is reviewed by an adjudicator – who are specially-trained to review and make decisions on claims for a disability benefit. The adjudicator must base their decision on the evidence they receive. To ensure they review your claim accurately and quickly, it is very important to provide only information that clearly shows that you have a diagnosed medical condition. Your service records will confirm if that diagnosed condition is related to your service.

## How is my service covered?

If your service records show that you were serving in a Special Duty Area (SDA) or Special Duty Operation (SDO) when you became ill or were injured, any disability from that service is covered by the Insurance Principle, which provides 24-hour coverage.

If you were serving outside an SDA or SDO, you will be covered through the Compensation Principle, which provides coverage for an illness or injury that occurred while you were on duty.

## Assessment tools used to review the claim

If the adjudicator determines that there is clear medical evidence of a chronic or permanent disability, they must then determine:

1. Your entitlement – is the disability directly or partially-related to service?  
  
and
2. Your assessment – what is the severity or extent of the disability and its impact on your quality of life?

To ensure that all decisions are fair and consistent, adjudicators always use the following tools to review your entitlement and assessment:

- [Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) - These policy statements are based on evidence from peer-reviewed medical research and literature both in Canada and abroad. They help to ensure the consistency, equity and quality of decisions made regarding the relationship between your

service and your disability.

- [Table of Disabilities](#) - The table is used by an adjudicator to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. Specifically, to assess the level of an impairment and the impact that impairment has on your quality of life.
- [Medical questionnaires](#) - The purpose of a questionnaire is to support your diagnosis and supplement the information found in the Table of Disabilities.

## The decision letter

Once the adjudicator reaches a decision on your claim, you will receive a decision letter. The letter will let you know the decision and what evidence the adjudicator used to reach their decision. If they confirmed you have a service-related disability, the letter will also show your entitlement and your assessment.

If you receive an unfavourable decision, the letter will explain the reasons why your claim was not accepted. It will also provide the name and telephone number to call if you wish to discuss this decision further or to identify what evidence your claim requires to be approved. The letter will also explain your appeal rights if you believe the adjudicator has made an error in reviewing your application and supporting evidence.

## Additional information

Learn more about how to provide all the components of a [complete application for a disability benefit](#).

### How long does it take to be approved for a disability benefit?

We are committed to providing a decision as quickly as possible. To make their decisions, adjudicators must use only the evidence they received. Once adjudicators have received all the information they require - complete and signed form(s), service records, medical reports and questionnaire(s) - they can usually make a decision within 15-41 weeks.

This timeframe will vary depending on several factors such as:

- the complexity of your condition,
- the complexity of the medical reports and questionnaires explaining that condition,
- how long it takes to receive service health records from DND or Library and Archives Canada,
- the level of detail (or lack of detail) in those service health records, and
- any challenges in getting other needed evidence to support your claim.

The [Wait time tool](#) provides current average wait times for receiving a decision on certain applications.

## Canadian Armed Forces pensions

Find information about the Canadian Armed Forces Pension plans that is specific to you as an active or retired member and to your survivors/child(ren). Learn about participating in the pension plan, retirement income sources and pension options.

## Critical Pension Services Maintained

Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic, callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Centre. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges.

Services related to pensions, including payments, are considered essential and measures are in place to ensure that critical pension services are maintained without interruption.

## Indexation Rate 2023

The pension indexation rate for 2023 is 6.3% and will be applied to your January 2023 payment.

## Services and information

### [Active member](#)

Find information about your Canadian Armed Forces pension plan as an active member.

### [Retired member](#)

Find information about your Canadian Armed Forces pension plan as a retired member.

### [Survivor/Dependant](#)

Find information about the Canadian Armed Forces pension plans as a survivor of a deceased plan member.

### [Prospective member](#)

Find information about the Canadian Armed Forces pension plans if you are interested in joining the Canadian Armed Forces.

### [How we did this month](#)

View the most recent monthly client call statistics from the Canadian Armed Forces pensions.

## Most requested

- [Contact](#)
- [Glossaries](#)
- [Useful links](#)
- [Service levels](#)
- [Instructions to access your Pension Portal](#)

## Contributors

- [National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces](#)

## **Making better possible: Pension modernization video series**

Two pension plan members tell their personal stories about transitioning to retirement under the new pension administration.

- [story](#) Laws and regulations
- [Canadian Forces Superannuation Act](#)
- [Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act](#)
- [Pension Benefits Division Act](#)

[All related laws and regulations](#)

## **Publications**

- [Bulletins](#)
- [Pensions annual reports](#)

## **News and announcements**

- [End of the Canada Savings Bonds Program](#)
- [New Canadian Armed Forces pension plans online information](#)

[All related news and announcements](#)

## **Features**

[New Canadian Armed Forces pension plans online information](#)

Find out what's happening with the Canadian Armed Forces pension plans administration.

[Pension Portal for active members of the Canadian Armed Forces](#)

Active members of the Canadian Armed Forces have access to services using the Pension Portal.

## **IN THE MEDIA**

[Canada's military pulling back in Middle East as European, domestic needs rise](#)

[Relatives shocked by identification of First World War soldier a century after being reported missing](#)

[L'Armée canadienne de passage à Beauceville](#)

[Vets only coffee house starting at Gananoque Legion](#)

[Canadian veterans get the NHL experience with Ottawa Senators alumni through Soldier On](#)

program

Le combat des femmes au combat

Fortification structures set up in Kyiv

Ukrainian sappers arrive in Tokyo to continue training after sessions in Cambodia

L'armée canadienne suscite beaucoup d'intérêt