

Media Report 07 Jan 2021

This week's 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

Mental Health Benefits (Notice of Pre-publication) / Avantages pour soins de santé mentale (Avis de prépublication)

On 1 January 2022, the Canada Gazette published a [Notice of Pre-publication](#) to amend the Veterans Health Care Regulations. These regulatory amendments relate to the “Improving Mental Health Care for Veterans” initiative, and support the statutory changes currently being made to the [Department of Veterans Affairs Act](#).

As a reminder, we are looking for comments and feedback from Veterans and others with expertise related to Veterans and their health. Those interested are invited to attend a virtual technical briefing on the Mental Health Benefits in mid-January. Details on how to join will follow in the days to come.

Anyone interested is also welcome to submit comments on the amendments by 30 January 2022 to cabinetbusinessunit-unitedinformationducabinet@veterans.gc.ca. We will consider all comments and possible adjustments before submitting the proposed regulatory amendments to Treasury Board for consideration, and then to the Governor in Council for approval.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team
Veterans Affairs Canada
vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca

À tous les intervenants,

Le 1er janvier 2022, la Gazette du Canada a publié un [avis de prépublication](#) en vue de modifier le Règlement sur les soins de santé pour anciens combattants. Ces modifications réglementaires sont liées à l'initiative « Améliorer les soins de santé mentale pour les vétérans », et elles appuient les modifications législatives actuellement apportées à la [Loi sur le ministère des Anciens Combattants](#).

Nous vous rappelons que nous sollicitons les commentaires et la rétroaction des vétérans et des autres personnes ayant une expertise liée aux vétérans et à leur santé. Les personnes intéressées sont invitées à assister à une réunion virtuelle d'information technique sur les avantages pour soins de santé mentale à la mi-janvier. Les détails seront communiqués au cours des prochains jours.

Toute personne intéressée est également invitée à soumettre ses commentaires sur les modifications avant le 30 janvier 2022 à cabinetbusinessunit-unitedinformationducabinet@veterans.gc.ca. Nous examinerons tous les commentaires et ajustements possibles avant de soumettre les modifications réglementaires proposées au Conseil du Trésor pour examen, puis au gouverneur en conseil pour approbation.

Sincères salutations,

L'équipe de la mobilisation et de la sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca

Starting on 1 April 2022, Veterans living in Canada who apply for a disability benefit for a mental health condition – as well as those who have already applied – will automatically qualify for Mental Health Benefits coverage.

Veterans will have up to two years of treatment for conditions such as anxiety and depressive disorders, or trauma-and-stressors-related disorders. This immediate access to mental health support is part of initiatives for the Veteran community announced in Budget 2021.

With Mental Health Benefits, we will fund Veterans' mental health services while their disability benefits application is processed. Early intervention and faster access to mental health services will lead to improved health outcomes for Veterans. Mental Health Benefits will provide coverage for prescription drugs, as well as examinations by psychologists, addictions counsellors, social workers, or other approved mental health professionals.

A Notice of Pre-publication to amend the Veterans Health Care Regulations will be published in the [Canada Gazette](#) tomorrow. These regulatory amendments relate to the "Improving Mental Health Care for Veterans" initiative and support the statutory changes currently being made to the [Department of Veterans Affairs Act](#).

We are looking for comments and feedback from Veterans and others with expertise related to Veterans and their health. Those who would like to learn more about the Mental Health Benefits are invited to attend a technical briefing in mid-January. More details to follow.

Anyone interested is also welcome to submit comments on the amendments to cabinetbusinessunit-unitedinformationducabinet@veterans.gc.ca from 1 January to 30 January 2022. We will consider all comments and possible adjustments

before submitting the proposed regulatory amendments to Treasury Board for consideration, and then to the Governor in Council for approval.

Sincerely,

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À tous les intervenants,

À compter du 1er avril 2022, les vétérans habitant au Canada qui présentent une demande de prestations d'invalidité pour un problème de santé mentale, ainsi que ceux qui l'ont déjà fait, seront automatiquement admissibles à une couverture des avantages pour soins de santé mentale. Les vétérans auront droit à jusqu'à deux ans de traitement pour des conditions telles que les troubles anxieux et dépressifs, ou les troubles liés à des traumatismes et à des facteurs de stress. Cet accès immédiat aux mesures de soutien de la santé mentale fait partie des initiatives ciblant la communauté des vétérans annoncées dans le budget de 2021.

Avec les avantages pour soins de santé mentale, nous financerons les services de santé mentale des vétérans pendant que leur demande de prestations d'invalidité est traitée. Une intervention précoce et un accès plus rapide aux services de santé mentale amélioreront les résultats de santé des vétérans. Les avantages pour soins de santé mentale couvriront les médicaments sur ordonnance ainsi que les examens fournis par des psychologues, des conseillers en toxicomanie, des travailleurs sociaux ou d'autres professionnels de la santé mentale approuvés.

Un avis de prépublication en vue de modifier le Règlement sur les soins de santé pour anciens combattants sera publié dans la [Gazette du Canada](#) demain. Ces modifications réglementaires sont liées à l'initiative « Améliorer les soins de santé mentale pour les vétérans », et elles appuient les modifications législatives actuellement apportées à la [Loi sur le ministère des Anciens Combattants](#).

Nous sollicitons les commentaires et la rétroaction de vétérans et d'autres personnes ayant une expertise liée aux vétérans et à leur santé. Les personnes qui souhaitent en apprendre davantage sur les avantages pour soins de santé mentale sont invitées à assister à une séance d'information technique à la mi-janvier. De plus amples détails suivront.

Toute personne intéressée est également invitée à soumettre ses commentaires sur les modifications à cabinetbusinessunit-unitedinformationducabinet@veterans.gc.ca du 1er au 30 janvier 2022. Nous examinerons tous les commentaires et ajustements possibles avant de soumettre les modifications réglementaires proposées au Conseil du Trésor pour examen, puis au gouverneur en conseil pour approbation.

Sincères salutations,

L'équipe de la mobilisation et de la sensibilisation des intervenants
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NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 7 JANUARY 2022

•**British Armed forces to get new guidance on how to use 'inclusive language'** The new guide includes more inclusive ways to address disability, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation and social mobility .The armed forces are to be given new guidance on "inclusive language" after the Defence Secretary said he is "unhappy" with the current advice. Military personnel from all three services had been told to avoid using phrases such as "crippled with debt" or "blind drunk".The guide, produced by the MoD's Diversity and Inclusion Directorate, denies being "an attempt to police language" or "restrict your personal style of communication", but was created to help staff "speak more powerfully, precisely and respectfully", according to the Mail on Sunday. It recommended avoiding phrases such as "deaf to our pleas" in case it offended the disabled. The 30-page pamphlet said the words "woman" and "female" "mean different things but are often used interchangeably", adding: "Referring to women as females is perceived by many as reducing a woman to her reproductive parts and abilities."Not all women are biologically female, and the conflation of 'female' to 'woman' erases gender nonconforming people and members of the trans community." "The women in the platoon" is said to be a more inclusive phrase than "the females in the platoon".

•**France takes the lead of NATO's highest readiness force.** France takes the lead of NATO's highest-readiness military force on Saturday (1 January 2022), for a period of one year. The formation, formally known as NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force(VJTF), was created in 2014 in response to crises in the Middle East and Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and is permanently available to move within days to defend any Ally. The VJTF is the highest-readiness element of NATO's 40,000-strong Response Force.

•**Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's end of year message to NATO troops and veterans. 20 Dec 2021.**

As this year draws to a close, I want thank all those who serve, and who have served, under the NATO flag, for the sacrifices you and your families make, every day.

For our freedom and our security. Meeting our men and women in uniform is one of the greatest privileges of my role. And I was delighted to see many of you again in person this year. In our peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. On board the HMS Queen Elizabeth during our Steadfast Defender exercise. And most recently, in our multinational battlegroup at Camp Ādaži in Latvia.

•I also want to take this opportunity to thank our veterans. Especially those who served in Afghanistan. For over twenty years, there have been no terrorist attacks on our countries organized from Afghanistan. We owe this to you. And I pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. As we look to the New Year and our Summit in Madrid, we are adapting our Alliance, to face a more dangerous and competitive world.

We are stepping up to address any threats and any challenges. On land, at sea, in the air, in space, and in cyber space. This starts with strong and capable armed forces.

It starts with you. You represent the spirit and the strength of our Alliance.

All for one and one for all. So I wish you and your families all the best for the holidays.

And thank you for everything you do. To keep NATO strong. And to keep us all safe.

•**First NATO Military Chiefs of Defence Meeting of 2022.**

NATO's highest Military Authority, the Military Committee, will meet on 12-13 January 2022, in Brussels, Belgium. Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair of the Military Committee, will preside over the sessions, which will be attended by the Allied Chiefs of Defence. The NATO Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence Session (MCCS) enables the Chiefs of Defence to meet and discuss issues of strategic importance to the Alliance. The Allied Chiefs will meet with their operational partners to discuss the NATO-led Mission in Iraq and the Kosovo Force Mission. The Military Committee will also meet, for the last time in this format, with their former Resolute Support Partners to discuss the lessons learned/lessons identified from Afghanistan. The Allied Chiefs of Defence will then have their annual meeting with their Georgian and Ukrainian counterparts, respectively, to discuss the security situation in their Nations as well as the ongoing progress with defence-related reforms. Turning their focus to Military Strategic thinking, the Chiefs of Defence will discuss NATO's War fighting Capstone Concept, the future work strands associated with its implementation as well as the progress with the Concept for the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area. Their last session will focus on military inputs to the new Strategic Concept.

Families and caregivers

Benefits and services for family, including survivors and caregivers.

Health programs and services

Support and services related to your health and wellness.

Financial programs and services

Support for your income and other financial programs and services.

Education and jobs

Prepare for post-service life, training and education, and finding a job.

Housing and home life

Help at home and support for caregivers.

Death and bereavement

Death benefits, survivor's pension, and counselling.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Disability pension corrective payment

Apply to receive a corrective payment on behalf of a deceased family member.

[Veteran and Family Well-being Fund](#)

Funding for ideas that will improve the well-being of Veterans and their families.

[Caregiver Zone](#)

An online community for caregivers who want to share their story, ask questions or learn more about care giving.

Caregiver Recognition Benefit

About this program

Having a disability sometimes means you need ongoing care to remain in your home. The Caregiver Recognition Benefit recognizes the important role a caregiver delivers on a day-to-day basis by providing them with a tax free, monthly benefit.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Caregiver Recognition Benefit if:

- you need daily assistance of a caregiver for at least four of your activities of daily living (See: [What are activities of daily living?](#)),
- your caregiver is not paid to provide or co-ordinate your care and is over 18 years of age,
- you are not a permanent resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility,
- you are a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces, and
- you have a VAC disability benefit*

*You may have received your disability benefit as pain and suffering compensation, a disability award or as a disability pension. If you have a disability pension (or POW compensation), you would receive this support through the [Attendance allowance](#).

How to apply

Before you apply

As part of your application, your caregiver will be asked to provide proof of identity, for example a driver's license. We need this from any person applying to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) for the first time.

Fill out the application form with your caregiver. Both of you must sign the form.

To receive this benefit, you may be requested to participate in an additional health assessment. VAC will contact you if an assessment is required.

You can expect a decision within eight weeks of submitting your application. Your caregiver will begin to receive the benefit within nine weeks.

Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. My VAC Account offers a guided web form that makes applying easier. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

[My VAC Account](#)

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.

[Go to 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

See the [current rates](#).

Over time, to ensure your health and well-being, we may perform a review or re-assessment of your situation once you're in the program.

Please let us know if your caregiver changes. You will need to submit a new application any time your caregiver changes.

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Caregiver Recognition Benefit.

Related programs

[Caregiver Zone](#)- Online support and resources for those who care for Veterans.

[Disability Benefit](#)- Compensation for your service-related injury or illness.

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

Frequently asked questions

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

Yes. If you are not satisfied with a decision you may apply in writing for a review. Learn more about your [review and appeal options](#).

If the benefit is paid to my caregiver, why do I need to apply?

Since it is your health needs that require the services of a caregiver, you must apply for the benefit. However, your caregiver is required to complete and sign a section of the application. If you have granted power of attorney to someone, that person may apply on your behalf.

Is there a time limit to apply for this benefit?

You can apply for this benefit at any time.

Are there policies for this program?

Read more about the [Caregiver Recognition Benefit policies](#).

More [Caregiver Recognition BenefitFAQs](#).