

Media Report 10 Dec 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

Canada

Total Percentage of population vaccinated	Total Percentage of population fully vaccinated	Eligible (5+) Percentage of population vaccinated	Eligible (5+) Percentage of population fully vaccinated	
80.70%+0.15%	76.04%+0.06%	84.88%+0.16%	79.98%+0.06%	
Total doses administered	First doses	Second doses	Third+ doses	Received doses administered
61,678,556+8630,855,070+529,073,108+21,750,378+71,685	6,390	1,215	84,080	85.98%+1.20%

Dec. 3, 2021:Ontario is now including third dose numbers in their dataset. Due to technical issues, Ontario's data for Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 was also included in the province's Dec. 3 update. These factors caused a temporary spike in first dose numbers, which has since been fixed in our charts.

Veterans Emergency Fund, if you need help over Christmas, please read

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are using the Veterans Emergency Fund to the full extent possible to support Veterans' safety and well-being. Read more about updates to the Emergency Fund during this time in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.

1.

Support you need, when you need it. When the unexpected happens we can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses.

About this program

The Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) provides financial support to Veterans, their families or their survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

What is an emergency?

Every situation will be different and unique, which is why applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The emergency fund covers essentials, such as:

- Food
- Clothing
- Rent, mortgage
- Medical care/expenses
- Expenses required to maintain safety and shelter.

As this is only temporary financial relief, we will also work with you to identify your long-term needs. Together, we will look for solutions to improve your financial stability.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for this program if you have an urgent financial need, and are:

- a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- the spouse/common-law partner of the former member;
- a survivor of a deceased CAF member or Veteran; or
- an orphan of a deceased CAF member or Veteran (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

You must be a Canadian resident to receive this grant.

How to apply

Before you apply

We will need as much information as possible about the financial emergency. You can provide such things as: invoices, quotes, notices, or statements to explain the situation.

If this is your first time applying to a Veterans Affairs Canada program we will need [proof of identity](#), for example a drivers licence.

You can expect a decision within one or two business days of submitting your application. If we approve your application, you will receive payment within that time as well.

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](#).

Although you can apply through My VAC Account, we will contact you personally before a decision is made. The application process will not be conducted exclusively online.

[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

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Veterans Emergency Fund.

Find information about [trust and emergency funds](#) to support Veterans in need.

Related programs

[Assistance Fund](#): if you receive the War Veterans Allowance, you may qualify for this cash grant to help in an emergency.

[Canadian Forces Income Support](#): a tax-free monthly benefit to help low-income Veterans, survivors, and dependent children.

Frequently asked questions

Has the VEF changed as a result of COVID-19?

The intent of the fund hasn't changed, however, VAC has responded to the needs of Veterans. In exceptional circumstances, VAC can approve amounts in excess of \$2,500.00 per applicant/family during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the fund provides emergency financial support to Veterans, their families and survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

I am a Veteran who is facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Is the VEF available to me?

You may be eligible if you are a Canadian resident and a:

- Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- Current spouse/common-law partner of a Veteran;
- Survivor of a deceased Veteran or deceased CAF member; or an
- Orphan of a deceased Veteran or deceased CAF member (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

We also require that you provide as much information as possible about the emergency need (i.e. quotes, notices, statements, letters, etc.) and that you provide documentation demonstrating the resources that you currently have available. We encourage applicants to apply for other sources of income (e.g. [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#), Employment Insurance) and access opportunities (e.g. mortgage payment deferrals, car payment deferrals) that may be available to them before applying for the VEF. We understand that these benefits or additional options may take some time to take effect. However knowing that you have tried to access other COVID-related supports will help us determine your overall need and VEF eligible expenses.

If the COVID-19 restrictions last for months, can I access the fund multiple times?

Yes, if you qualify, you may access the fund multiple times, up to the maximum amount payable. For COVID-19 situations, you may be able to access up to three months of the requested expense in one payment if it is clear that the financial issues will not be resolved by other means and will be ongoing during this unique period.

Will the method of payment change because of COVID-19?

At this time, there are no changes to the way the VEF is paid. The preferred method of payment is a payment directly to the 3rd party using a VAC credit card. Where a payment by credit card is not possible, payment by priority direct

deposit is available. Payment by priority cheque may be possible but may cause a delay in the payment being received.

When can I expect to receive the funds?

Once we receive your completed application and supporting documents, most decisions and payments will be made within one to two business days. Although we have a one to two business day service standard, we will work to address the emergency situation more quickly where it is possible to do so.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Veteran Emergency Fund policies](#).

View all [Veterans Emergency Fund FAQs](#).

Modern Veterans Beds at Perley

You will recall that Perley was granted 65 Other Qualified Veterans or more simply modern veterans beds over the past few years.

We have long been pushing VAC to double that to 130 to fill the about to be renamed Rideau Veterans Residence.

I am pleased to advise that VAC has just granted us the approval for an additional 65 modern Veterans beds which will achieve the full total of 130 that we were seeking.

This is great news!

Regards.

Thank you Randy S.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/11/caf-improves-promotion-selection-process.html>

CAF improves promotion selection process, beginning with General and Flag Officers

November 26, 2021 – Defence Stories

Author: Lieutenant Yanick Hamel

In October 2021, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) took its first steps to introduce new rigour and science to its promotion selection process. This sets the stage for an ongoing evolution of the CAF's appointment to command and promotion process to be more inclusive and to ensure those selected embody CAF ethics and values.

“We are making improvements to the selection process for promotions and appointments, and refining our performance-evaluation process, so that they can be more effective and inclusive. Character traits such as integrity, humility, and empathy will be encouraged and valued, playing an equal part along with performance for our leaders. This will strengthen our ability, through the selection process, to identify the best leaders for the right positions while ensuring that those selected truly embody CAF ethos and values,” said General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Over the next years, the CAF will introduce an evidence-based framework for character-based leader assessments to provide a broader lens in support of selection and promotion processes.

As a first step, candidates on the General Officer and Flag Officer (GOFO) selection boards completed three online psychometric assessments.

The first assessment was a non-verbal measure of general cognitive ability/reasoning (a core component of character), geared to the senior leader level.

The second assessment was a personality inventory that measured various aspects of personality commonly associated with success in organizations.

Finally, candidates completed an assessment of leadership skills that is commonly used in executive selection processes. The results of these assessments contributed the member’s overall score.

Candidates who are recommended to the Minister of National Defence for promotion to or within the GOFO Cadre will also be subject to a post-selection confirmation step using what is known as a “360 degree” assessment tool. This is a process that collects feedback from multiple evaluators regarding an individual’s leadership effectiveness. In order to obtain a holistic perspective of the candidate’s leadership behaviours and effectiveness, raters are chosen for the candidate from a diverse group as possible.

“General and Flag Officers share the responsibility for the stewardship of our institution, and for the profession of arms as a whole,” said Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and chairperson of this year’s GOFO selection board. “Our evolving assessment framework is a step forward in enhancing the CAF’s overall efforts toward positive culture change.”

Across all selection boards this year, additional efforts were made to reduce bias and foster diverse perspectives. Key amongst the initiatives were a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) review of scoring criteria and the inclusion of at least one voting member from a designated group such as a woman, visible minority or Indigenous member of the Defence Team.

“Increasing diversity and representation in leadership positions is critical to the success of our mandate and to the well-being of our people. Culture change starts with leaders and creating a diverse selection board for GOFOs is a commendable first step towards ensuring all candidates are given equal and fair opportunities. The incorporation of a senior DND civilian voting member was important to expand the perspective brought to GOFO candidate files,” said Mmelsabelle Desmartis, Assistant Deputy Minister Human Resources (Civilian), and board member for the 2021 GOFO selection boards.

Research and consultation are underway to develop an evidence-based framework for character-based assessments that can be expanded to other leadership ranks in the coming

years. The intent is to expand the framework to Major/Lieutenant-Commander and Sergeant/Petty Officer 2ndClass and above levels.

The introduction of these changes to the promotion and selection process will accompany the forthcoming implementation of the CAF's new electronic-based appraisal system – Performance and Competency Evaluation (PaCE) – with an overall end state of selecting inclusive leaders who embody the CAF's professional values and ethos.

Greetings, Peacekeepers,

Our annual (except for last year) Christmas dinner is scheduled to take place next Tuesday December 14th at the Delicious Steakhouse on St Joseph Blvd in Orléans, as in previous years. We have been given a two hour window from 5:00 to 7:00pm, with a limit of 20 people under the current restrictions.

According to Wayne Mac Culloch, who has very kindly been the point of contact with the restaurant, there are 18 people signed up.

He would like to give the restaurant firm numbers and asks those who have signed up to contact him immediately to confirm, and if there are any others interested in attending pls contact him immediately.

This email is copied to him to facilitate such contact.

Below is the latest issue of 'Salute' from VAC.

There are always items of interest so I'm forwarding to all our members even though some may have received it directly.

With best wishes for a joyful and healthy Christmas,

PAX

David Rath

President, CAVUNP Ottawa

From: Veterans Affairs Canada < notifications@engagementhq.com >

Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2021 3:30 PM

To: wdraths@gmail.com

Subject: Salute! December 2021

•NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 10 DECEMBER 2021

U.S.-Russia talks. Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden spoke on Tuesday 7 Dec about the situation in Ukraine. According to reports, Biden threatened severe sanctions if Moscow invades Ukraine. Russia continues to mass troops on the Ukrainian border. On Monday 6 Dec, Biden called the French, German, British and Italian leaders to discuss concerns over a possible assault. They called on Moscow to deescalate tensions and expressed their continued support for Ukraine's sovereignty. Relatedly, the Pentagon acknowledged that U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and NATO's supreme allied commander Europe to discuss

Ukraine. Russian budget. Russia released its federal budget for the coming year and for the 2023-24 period. It projects a surplus of 1.3 trillion rubles (\$17 billion), or 1 percent of gross domestic product, in 2022 and 300 billion rubles, or 0.2 percent of GDP, in 2023. One of the priorities for the coming years will be to reduce the gap in budgetary spending between the regions. Subsidies to the regions will increase by 5.6 percent compared to 2021.

Russia and Ukraine: War or Bluff? When the Soviet Union collapsed, it lost control of the western borderlands that had been the bedrock of its security for hundreds of years. Those borderlands created a strategic depth that forced invaders into an extended and exhausting campaign that Russia could resist. Russia had been attacked in the 18th century by the Swedes, in the 19th century by France, and twice in the 20th century by Germany. There had also been wars with Turkey in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1991, these borderland regions became independent, and from the Russian point of view, the West generally and the United States specifically sought to control the newly formed states. This constituted nothing less than an existential threat to Russia. Russia sees itself as vulnerable, particularly from the west, where the most dangerous threats have historically originated. Belarus and Ukraine are the heart of Russian fears. The Ukrainian border is only a few hundred miles from Moscow and is therefore a major threat when in the hands of enemies. Distance will not wear down an enemy attacking from there. From the Russian point of view, the unwillingness of the United States to recognize these deep-seated fears suggests the United States has aggressive and dangerous designs. The only imaginable value Belarus and Ukraine hold for the Americans is to put Russia in a position where it must capitulate to the United States on all critical matters – or risk an outright invasion. Where the United States has no overriding interests, Russia has existential ones. Russia's war plan is obviously secret, but the government of Ukraine has released its view of how a Russian invasion would be executed. It consists of three thrusts intended to isolate and occupy Kyiv: northward from the Crimean Peninsula, southward from Belarus and westward from Volgograd. Together, they would surround Kyiv and pass through a substantial part of Ukraine, giving them maximum opportunity for low-cost pacification. NOTE : Selected extracts from : <https://geopoliticalfutures.com/>

Thank you Randy S.

The Canadian Forces Income Support is a tax-free monthly benefit. It helps low-income CAF Veterans who no longer qualify for the Earnings Loss Benefit, after participating in the Rehabilitation program.

For the purposes of this program, VAC measures your household income according to the Statistics Canada Formula. This formula takes any taxable income you are currently earning or any government benefits you receive into consideration.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for Canadian Forces Income Support if you:

- are a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces,
- have a low household income,
- are looking for work or participating in the Career Transition Services program, and
- no longer qualify for the Earnings Loss Benefit.

As a survivor or dependent child you continue to receive this benefit. Learn more about [Canadian Forces Income Support – Survivors](#).

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](#).

[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 form directly to the address listed on the form.

[Go to 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

We use the [Statistics Canada Formula](#) to measure low household income.

The amount you receive depends on if you are single, married, and if you have any children. The benefit is also adjusted on a quarterly basis to keep pace with changes in the consumer price index. See the [current rates](#).

Related programs

[Canadian Forces Income Support – Survivors](#): Monthly payments to survivors or dependants of a deceased CAF Veteran who was receiving CFIS

[Earnings Loss Benefit](#): For Veterans using Rehabilitation services, you may qualify for this benefit to support your income.

[Earnings Loss Benefit for survivors](#): For dependants of a CAF member or Veteran whose death was related to their service.

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](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Canadian Forces Income Support policies](#).

Talk to a professional now

- 1.

Call 1-800-268-7708 to speak to a mental health professional right now. A confidential and free service available 24/7 to Veterans, former RCMP members, their family members, or caregivers.

About this program

Support for your mental health

The VAC Assistance Service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Call toll-free: 1-800-268-7708

TDD/TTY: 1-800-567-5803

When you call, you are speaking to a mental health professional. They will ask you questions to identify your needs.

You can receive between 1 and up to 20 hours of confidential support through this service.

At your request they can also connect you with a local mental health professional for direct support.

Many kinds of help

The VAC Assistance Service provides support for difficulties that affect your well-being. These could include:

- Work-related issues
 - Health concerns
 - Family and marital problems
 - Psychological difficulties
 - Bereavement
 - Other problems that affect your well-being
-

Do you qualify?

The service is for:

- Canadian Armed Forces Veterans
- Former members of the RCMP
- their families, or
- their caregivers

You do not need to be receiving other services from Veterans Affairs Canada to receive this service.

Limitations

This service is available to children up to 21 years old (or up to age 25, if they are full-time students).

How to apply

There is no application form to request the VAC Assistance Service.

Call 1-800-268-7708 whenever you need the support of a mental health professional.

Additional information

Bereavement

The service can also assist family members who need support following the death of a Veteran or member of the CAF or RCMP.

Related programs

[Talk to someone who can relate](#) - a peer support network for CAF members, Veterans and their families experiencing an operational stress injury (OSI).

[LifeSpeak for Veterans, former RCMP and their families](#) - a self-help website with videos and information about mental health, nutrition and other issues that matter to you.

[Pastoral outreach](#) - You and your immediate family can get spiritual support when the need arises through VAC's pastoral outreach service.

Frequently asked questions

Who answers your call?

A Canadian mental health professional is always ready to respond to a call. They are bilingual with at least a master's degree in a psychosocial field and they are trained in crisis and suicide intervention. If they determine that it is an urgent situation, they will provide you immediate support over the phone. They will make recommendations for further support and refer you to a mental health professional in your region for face-to-face psychological support. If you live in a remote area where access to in-person services is limited, psychological support can be provided by telephone.

How many sessions are provided?

You can receive between 1 and up to 20 hours of psychological support per issue. The actual number of hours will vary depending on the nature, severity, and urgency of the problem. If the issue requires longer term support than the program can offer, you will be referred to external resources and supported until those specialized services are available.

Are there services for Veterans in isolated areas or outside of Canada?

If you are living in a remote area or outside of Canada, you can call and receive psychological support with a mental health professional.

What to do if I haven't received a call from a counsellor within 2 business days?

If you do not receive a call from a counsellor within 24 hours, please call 1-800-268-7708. We will follow-up with your mental health professional and ensure all the contact information is correct.

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
CFB Petawawa — The Petawawa Post	

IN THE NEWS

[Fruitvale leader recognized as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel](#)

[Un horaire chargé pour les militaires de Bagotville en Colombie-Britannique](#)

[Construction of new, 4-lane crossing of Nicomekl River in South Surrey to begin soon](#)

[New military tent on the way to Iqaluit after wind causes damage, halts water purification operations](#)

[Deux ans de plus au contrat de la firme Cubic pour le soutien logistique à la formation par simulation à Valcartier](#)

[Prime minister approves military help as Newfoundland deals with storm's aftermath](#)

['Starting a new life': This Afghan saved Canadian lives. Now they're returning the favour.](#)

[Canada's new top military leader says fixing 'fragile' morale one of his top priorities](#)

[Washington appelle Ottawa à respecter sa promesse d'une force rapide à l'ONU](#)

[Ottawa declines Boeing's bid to replace Canada's aging fighter jet fleet](#)