

Media Report 29 JULY 2022

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.

The Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) disability benefits are offered by Veteran Affairs Canada to health support the well-being of those who have served in the armed forces. As of 2021, roughly 19% of veterans are served by Veterans Affairs Canada.

What Is Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Disability Program?

The Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) disability program operates through the Bureau of Pensions Advocates. It is a [tax-free](#) monetary payment that is meant to support the welfare of qualifying veterans. Based on need, the amount beneficiaries receive depends on your entitlement level and your condition's severity. The more your disability reduces your quality of life, the higher the value of the benefit. This is determined through an assessment performed by VAC.

Who Is Eligible For The VAC Disability Program?

To qualify for this benefit, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a veteran thereof
- Be either a former or current Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) member
- Be a veteran of World War II or of the Korean War, including the Merchant Navy
- Be a qualifying civilian who served during World War II

If you fall into one of the above categories, have a [diagnosed disability or medical condition](#), and can prove that your injury originated from your service, then you should apply. To be eligible for the plan, you must meet all of the above criteria.

VAC Disability Payment Dates 2022

As with most government-issued benefits, you can register for [direct deposits](#) to receive the payment on the day the benefit gets issued. The VAC disability and pension payment dates for 2022 are as follows:

Benefit Payment Dates

January 28, 2022

February 25, 2022

March 30, 2022
 April 28, 2022
 May 30, 2022
 June 29, 2022
 July 28, 2022
 August 30, 2022
 September 28, 2022
 October 28, 2022
 November 29, 2022
 December 22, 2022

VAC Benefits

Depending on your situation, you can qualify for one of two types of benefits.

Compensation For Pain and Suffering

Compensation for pain and suffering comes in either the form of a lifetime monthly benefit or as a lump sum amount. The choice lies with the beneficiary, with specific amounts as follows:

Rate of Pain and Suffering Compensation (%)	Disability Extent (%)	Monthly Benefit (\$)	Lump Sum Amount (\$)
5	5-7	60.84	19,793.71
20	18-22	243.34	79,174.84
40	38-42	486.68	158,349.67
60	58-62	730.03	237,524.51
80	78-82	973.37	316,699.34
100	98-100	1,216.71	395,874.18

**The table above is a shorten sample, for the full list of rates [please click here](#).*

Disability Pension

Disability pension provides a lifetime benefit, paid monthly. It increases depending on how severely your disability impacts your life. The VAC performs an assessment to determine the level that which the issue impacts your ability to function. This determines the class into which you get categorized. Additionally, if the qualifying veteran has any dependents such as children or a spouse, then the amount increases.

Class	Monthly Benefit (\$)	Additional Monthly Payments (\$)		
	Single Veteran	With Spouse	One Child	Second Child

1	3,019.53	754.88	392.54	286.85	226.46
5	2,415.62	603.91	314.03	229.48	181.17
10	1,660.74	415.19	215.90	157.77	124.56
15	905.86	226.47	117.76	86.06	67.94
20	150.98	37.75	19.63	14.34	11.32

If there is exceptional incapacitation, there is an additional allowance issued based on severity. The highest amount is \$1,598.45 and the lowest is \$532.84 per month. There are other benefits, such as Critical Injury and Death Benefits that address the immediate expenses paid after extreme circumstances.

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	Learn More
British Columbia Disability Assistance	Learn More
Nova Scotia Disability Support Program	Learn More
New Brunswick Disability Support Program	Learn More
Child Disability Benefit (CDB)	Learn More
Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)	Learn More

How To Apply For The VAC Disability Program?

If you are an eligible veteran and plan to apply for the VAC benefit, there are two main avenues to apply:

1. Using your My VAC Account, you can complete an online application. If you don't yet have an account, you can create a new one using a secure online service. The next step involves verifying your identity using personal information.
2. If you have any issues with the online service, you can call the toll-free number or visit Service Canada or Royal Legion and complete the application in person. You can download the forms, fill them out, and mail them in rather than completing an online application.

Additional Veteran Programs You May Qualify For

Regardless of whether you qualify for the VAC disability benefits, there are other Veteran support benefits you may be able to access. These include:

Critical Injury Benefit

The [Critical Injury benefit](#) has a cash value of \$78,989.83 that gets issued as a lump sum amount. It is entirely tax-free and is designed to address the immediate results of traumatic and severe injuries or diseases that resulted from service.

Rehabilitation Services

This service is a part of the Income Replacement Benefit and is meant to supply 90% of your gross, pre-discharge military salary. It is available while you participate in [Rehabilitation Services](#) through the VAC. The benefit provides a minimum income of \$51,419.23 yearly, before tax.

Clothing Allowance

If you receive a disability benefit for an issue that directly causes extra wear and tear on your clothing, then you can [qualify for this benefit](#). It also applies if you have a service-related disability that causes you to require specialty clothing. There are ten tiers for the benefit, each representing a different level of severity. The highest value of the benefit is \$226.41 and the lowest amount is \$25.10.

Treatment Benefits

[Treatment benefits](#) offer financial benefits and a variety of services to assist veterans in maintaining health. If you qualify, you can get a VAC healthcare card that covers medical out-of-pocket expenses for things like prosthetics and prescriptions. The actual amount of coverage depends on the severity of your issue.

Benefits For Survivors

Financial [support is provided for survivors](#) (spouse, children, etc.) of a pensioner receiving disability, a member of the armed forces, or a Veteran so died in serving.

If your spouse has passed away, you may qualify for the [Allowance For The Survivor](#) benefit.

Financial Advice

Veterans have access to various [support services to assist with financial management](#). There are services to assist with money management and financial planning. While there are many services online, you can also contact your local VAC office to receive assistance.

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation

This [tax-free benefit](#) is issued to veterans who incur a permanent, service-induced disability. The extreme severity must pose a barrier to the veteran becoming established as a civilian after service. As with the other benefits, it varies based on how much the disability impacts the veteran. The minimum value is \$529.01 monthly while the maximum is \$1,587.02 per month.

Attendance Allowance

This benefit is meant to [compensate for the price of hiring a caregiver](#), whether full or part-time, to assist with regular activities. It varies from \$319.79 to \$1,998.03 per month, based on how severe the disability is. Attendance refers to the amount of time the caregiver spends tending to the needs of the veteran.

Exceptional Incapacity Allowance

A tax-free benefit issued monthly, the [exceptional incapacity allowance](#) is for serious injuries or illnesses that drastically impact the veteran's quality of life. Provided the veteran undergoes ongoing pain, emotional, mental, or physical, the benefit has a value of up to \$1,598.45. As with the other benefits, it is based on the severity of the issue.

ADDITIONAL READING



[Canada PRO Deposit Dates 2022](#)

[READ POST](#)



[Compassionate Care Benefits](#)

[READ POST](#)



[CPP Payments Schedule 2022](#)

[READ POST](#)

What Is The VAC VIP Program?

The [Veterans Independence Program \(VIP\)](#) is a benefit that is meant to assist veterans in retaining independence within their homes. It is a tax-free payment that can assist with costs such as landscaping, personal care, transportation, nutritional requirements, and other needs. The program coordinates with various registered service providers and reimburses them directly, requiring no out-of-pocket expenses. If the veteran uses non-registered providers, they can submit receipts for reimbursement. For situations where the veteran is awaiting payment, the VAC processes it along with their regular monthly benefit payments.

VAC Disability Benefit FAQs

Are VAC payments taxable?

While most VAC benefits are non-taxable, there are exceptions like the income replacement benefit. Veterans Affairs offers financial counselling, where you can determine the tax implications of the benefits. In most cases, there is no tax on the disability benefits at all.

Do veterans get paid for life?

Veterans can, in situations where they require assistance, receive monthly payments for life. Or veterans can choose to take a lump sum at any point.

What is Pension for Life?

Pension for Life combines benefits such as [income support](#) and recognition programs to encourage the wellbeing of Canadian Armed Forces members and service veterans, provided they live with a disability related to service in the military. It combines Pain and Suffering Compensation, Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation, and Income Replacement.

What happens to the veteran's family if they pass?

If a veteran dies while receiving a monthly pain and suffering benefit, and has not received the equivalent value of the lump sum amount, it transfers to beneficiaries. Surviving spouses and dependent children receive the remainder in the form of a lump sum payment.

Are survivors and surviving dependent children eligible for the Pension for Life?

Yes, the surviving spouses and dependent children can qualify for certain Pension for Life benefits. These include the Pain and Suffering and Income Replacement Benefits.

Final Notes

Whether you are a qualifying veteran or know someone who may benefit from these services, it can help to understand how VAC disability benefits work. The easiest way to access financial assistance is to use the online portal to reach your veteran's account and apply within the portal. Once you begin the application process, the VAC office guides you through the remainder of the process. By taking advantage of the programs available to you as a veteran, you can claim the benefits you earned while serving your country.

Dear Stakeholders,

For the first time in 50 years, the 2021 Census included a question on military service. You can now view the information and data that was collected on the Statistics Canada [website](#).

This is a key milestone, as it sheds important light on the demographic, economic, family and household characteristics of military members and Veterans. This information will help VAC and other Veteran support organizations, including the Canadian Armed Forces/Department of National Defence and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation better understand – and better serve – Canadian Veterans and their families.

Veterans Affairs Canada will continue to work with Statistics Canada and other partners and stakeholders to build a stronger statistical ecosystem for the Veteran population.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca

Chers intervenants,

Pour la première fois en 50 ans, le Recensement de 2021 comprenait une question sur le service militaire. Vous pouvez maintenant consulter les

renseignements et les données qui ont été recueillis sur le [site Web](#) de Statistique Canada.

Il s'agit d'un événement important, car cette question permet d'obtenir de précieux renseignements sur les caractéristiques liées à la démographie, à l'économie, aux familles et aux ménages des militaires et des vétérans. Ces renseignements aideront Anciens Combattants Canada et d'autres organismes de soutien aux vétérans, notamment les Forces armées canadiennes, le ministère de la Défense nationale et la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement, à mieux comprendre – et à mieux servir – les vétérans canadiens et leur famille. Anciens Combattants Canada continuera de collaborer avec Statistique Canada et d'autres partenaires et intervenants pour bâtir un écosystème statistique pour la population de vétérans.

Cordialement,

L'Équipe de mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca

VAC Frequently Asked Questions

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1. How is the amount of a disability benefit determined?

The amount of a disability benefit you receive will be determined by:

- the degree to which that disability is related to your service (entitlement); **and**
- the extent of the disability (assessment).

Once it is established that your disability is related to your service, the next step is to determine the extent or severity of your disability so that we can assign an assessment level.

To learn more, see the [How Benefits Are Determined](#) section.

2. What are Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines?

[Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) are policy statements used to guide the decision-making process and help in determining the relationship between your medical condition or disability and your service. The guidelines are based on credible medical evidence and research. Similar guidelines from across the country as well as the United States and Australia were reviewed during the development process. Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines help to ensure our decisions are consistent and fair.

3. What is the Table of Disabilities (TOD)?

The [TOD](#) is a legislated/statutory instrument used to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. The table considers the relative importance of a certain body part/system in assessing the level of impairment and the impact of on an individual's lifestyle. The disability assessment is established based on the medical impairment rating, in conjunction with quality of life indicators.

4. What are medical questionnaires?

[Medical questionnaires](#) are forms we have developed for your healthcare provider to complete with all of the details of your disability. These standardized forms provide guidance for your health care provider to ensure he or she provides all of the necessary and relevant information we need to make a decision on your application for disability benefits. The medical questionnaires are used, along with other submitted medical information, to confirm your medical diagnosis and determine the impairment rating of your disability.

When you give your health care provider the [medical questionnaire](#), please be sure to also provide your completed and signed [Consent for Veterans Affairs Canada to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties](#) form which gives him or her the authority to release your personal medical information to us. If your health care provider does not wish to fill out the questionnaire, they can provide a "narrative report" as an alternative. This report must include the same basic information as the questionnaire. Please do not have a medical questionnaire completed until you have been provided with specific instructions from us regarding the questionnaire(s) required. .

5. When can I expect to receive a decision?

We are committed to getting you a decision as soon as possible. In most cases, a decision will be made within 16 weeks of the Department receiving all the information required from you to support of your application.

6. What happens if my disability gets worse?

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens, you can request a reassessment if there is medical evidence to show that there has been a change in the severity of your disability. If a new condition develops that you think is related to your service, you can submit an application for that condition. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your benefit will be adjusted accordingly-unless you are already receiving the maximum assessment as set out in the [Table of Disabilities](#). If that is the case, no additional amount can be provided.

7. I do not agree with the Department's decision on my application? What can I do?

If you do not agree with the decision you have received regarding your application for disability benefits, you have the right to appeal the decision or request a Departmental Review if you have new evidence. The [Bureau of Pensions Advocates \(BPA\)](#) and [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) both provide free assistance with reviews and appeals.

8. I'm having difficulty preparing my application for Disability Benefits. Can anyone help?

Yes, VAC staff are always happy to help you with your application or any other questions you may have. In addition, Service Officers with The Royal Canadian Legion or The War Amps of Canada also provide assistance with applications free of charge. You can find out more in the "[Who Can Help?](#)" section.

9. I am no longer living in Canada. Can I still get benefits?

In some circumstances, we can provide benefits to you while you are living or vacationing outside of Canada.

You can contact us toll-free, from:

- United States – Call 1-888-996-2242 (toll free)
- United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Belgium – Call 00-800-996-22421 (toll free)
- Any other country – 613-996-2242 (collect)

10. When will benefits start?

If you receive a favourable decision letter, it will indicate a start date.

11. [How do I get my service health records?](#)

12. Why can I only get a Disability Award and not a monthly pension?

The monthly disability pension has been replaced with a combination of financial benefits that have been designed to meet your individual needs.

Our [Earnings Loss program](#), for example, provides you with a monthly income of 90 % of your pre-release salary while you are participating in our [rehabilitation program](#) or until age 65 if you are not able to work. The Disability Award is paid as a one time award to help you overcome any immediate financial concerns and as an opportunity for you to generate income. It is not taxable. There are flexible Disability Award payment options from which to choose: a lump-sum payment, annual payments over the number of years of your choosing, or a combination of these two payment options.

13. If I receive a significant compensation through the Disability Award, can I get advice to help me manage it?

Yes. In fact, we encourage you to get a financial expert's [advice](#) to help you manage this compensation. Veterans Affairs Canada will cover the cost of that

advice up to \$500.

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