

Media Report 30 April 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 i

Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada

[COVID-19 cases: 83,199 | Recovered: 1,103,462 | Deceased: 24,169 | Total: 1,211,083](#)

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>

How to review or appeal a decision

About review and appeals

If you choose to review or appeal your decision from Veterans Affairs Canada, your first call should be to the Bureau of Pensions Advocates (BPA)—a nation-wide organization of lawyers within Veterans Affairs Canada. Their team will review your file and may recommend a departmental review or a hearing before the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.

Departmental review

One of the most common reasons why applications for disability benefits are not approved by Veterans Affairs Canada, or the assessment is less than you expected, is due to a lack of sufficient evidence in the original application. If you have new evidence that was not included in your application, you may request a departmental review and submit the new evidence.

The [Bureau of Pensions Advocates](#) team can help you with the written submission and application forms.

In a departmental review, an adjudicator from Veterans Affairs Canada will examine your submission, including any new evidence, to determine if a new decision should be issued. [Learn more about how Veterans Affairs Canada reviews a disability claim.](#)

Veterans Review and Appeal Board

If the departmental review does not meet your expectations or if your case does not merit a departmental review, you can take your claim to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB).

The [Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#) is an independent federal tribunal that offers two possible chances to appeal a disability decision from the Department. The first step is a review hearing.

Review Hearing

If possible, you are encouraged to attend and testify at your hearing. Your travel costs may be covered by Veterans Affairs. Your lawyer will:

- go through the evidence in your case with the Board members;

- ask questions of you or any other witnesses;
- introduce new evidence, and,
- make oral arguments on your behalf.

If you are unable to appear in-person, your lawyer can represent you. It is possible to testify by telephone, if you have the agreement of the Board.

Following the review hearing, you will receive a decision letter from VRAB.

If you disagree with the decision, you have the right to appeal it. This next step is an appeal hearing.

Appeal Hearing

Appeal Hearings take place in Charlottetown before a different panel than your review hearing.

For an appeal hearing, your lawyer will either argue your case on your behalf in front of a panel or file a written submission to the panel. You are not required to attend your appeal hearing.

Your lawyer will:

- go through the evidence in your case with the Board members;
- introduce new evidence, and,
- make oral arguments on your behalf.

The Board's decision at an appeal hearing is final and binding. That said, there are provisions in the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Act that allow the Board to further reconsider the matter if there has been an error of fact, error of law, or if new evidence becomes available. These reconsiderations are not routine. Your lawyer will advise you if they believe the Board would agree to hear a reconsideration in your case.

If you remain unsatisfied with the final decision, there is only one other avenue of appeal remaining – a judicial review.

Judicial Review

In certain and specific circumstances, you may be able to pursue a [Judicial Review through the Federal Court of Canada](#). This approach should only be considered in situations where you and your lawyer are certain that the Veterans Review and Appeal Board has made an error in law or in fact, or that VRAB overlooked significant facts that could impact other applicants for disability benefits. This usually involves an issue of interpretation of specific law(s). Your lawyer will advise you if they think a judicial review is an option you should consider.

It's important to note that lawyers from the Bureau are not mandated to represent you before the Federal Court. They can advise you if your case has merit, but to proceed through this review, you will need to hire your own legal counsel or you can choose to represent yourself. In order to proceed to Judicial Review you have a 30-day time limit to apply to the Federal Court of Canada.

Related information

[Bureau of Pensions Advocates](#)- If you choose to review or appeal a disability benefits decision made by Veterans Affairs Canada, a lawyer with the Bureau of Pensions Advocates can provide you with free legal advice and representation.

[Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#)- Find out how you can make an application to have your disability benefits decision independently reviewed by the Board.

[Judicial review \(Federal Court of Canada\)](#)- The Federal Court has the jurisdiction to review decisions made by most federal decision-makers.

Fact sheets

- [What you need to know about a review hearing](#)
- [What you need to know about an appeal hearing](#)
- [Connect with BPA using MS Teams](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Don Holloway, honoured Korean War veteran, passes away](#)

Red Deer News Now

A well-known local Korean War veteran has passed away. Don Holloway died peacefully April 13 at the age of 88 with his wife by his side. Holloway was Red Deer's 2020 Honourary Senior Citizen of the year and one of the city's last known living veterans of the Korean War. Don was born on June 11, 1932 in Port Blandford, Newfoundland and enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1951. Don spent a year serving in the Korean War as a Combat Engineer, and by 1977, he and his family had settled in Penhold, Alberta. As he was nearing retirement, Don built a house and made his final move to Red Deer in

[To survive, deceive: Decoys in land warfare](#)

War on The Rocks

In a black-and-white photo seen in many books and newspapers to illustrate the deception integral to the D-Day invasion, four men carry a 30-ton Sherman tank near what seems to be a barrack. This famous image is bizarre. Of course, what it shows is an inflatable tank, a decoy that was used in the vast and complex deception operation around the 1944 Normandy landings.

[Les ministres des Anciens Combattants et de la Défense nationale soulignent le 70e anniversaire de la bataille de Kapyong](#)

45e Nord

En ce 70e anniversaire de la bataille de Kapyong, les Canadiens soulignent le service et le sacrifice des personnes qui ont servi vaillamment pour défendre la paix et la démocratie lors de la guerre de Corée. Pendant la bataille de Kapyong, le 2e Bataillon du Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, aux côtés de ses alliés, a surmonté des défis inimaginables pour réussir à empêcher une défaite qui aurait pu être coûteuse pour les forces de la Corée du Sud et des Nations Unies. L'issue aurait facilement pu être différente sans la présence des Canadiens sur la colline 677, qui ont tenu en échec une force ennemie beaucoup plus imposante le 24 avril 1951.

[Black Hawk helicopters spotted over Edmonton are part of Exercise Maple Resolve at CFB Wainwright](#)

Global News

Did you see them? Edmontonians recently turned a quizzical eye to the sky, when several

American military helicopters were buzzing over the city. The choppers were spotted landing and taking off several times from the helipads atop the University of Alberta and Royal Alexandra hospitals. The three of the helicopters were also spotted, parked at the Calgary airport. "These flights are for training purposes for the benefit of U.S. Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk crews that will soon be taking part in Exercise Maple Resolve in Wainwright, in order to familiarize them with medical facilities in the area," said Maj. Trevor Reid, a senior public affairs officer with the Canadian Armed Force

[Maj.-Gen. Fortin gets the jab: Canadian military using Moderna to immunize its troops](#)

CTV News

The military general in charge of the logistics of Canada's COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin, has received his first dose as part of the Canadian Armed Forces' immunization campaign. Fortin — who with a team has been seconded to the Public Health Agency of Canada's National Operations Centre to lead the massive and complex endeavour — received his shot last week, at a military vaccination clinic in Ottawa.

[Drones militaires à Bagotville: Richard Martel et Marc Asselin réaffirment leur appui](#)

Le Quotidien

Alors que le lieu qui accueillera le projet de système d'aéronefs télépilotés (SATP), ou drones militaires, de l'Aviation royale canadienne, n'a pas encore été déterminé par Ottawa, le député de Chicoutimi-Le Fjord Richard Martel et le maire d'Alma Marc Asselin joignent leur voix afin de réitérer leur appui envers la Base militaire de Bagotville

[Somewhere in France': Manitoban hopes sharing WWI letters will encourage others to dig into family history](#)

CBC News

Some start simply with "Somewhere in France," others talk about the day's weather as seen by Cecil Edmund Minary or about the battle lines of the First World War. Now, one of Minary's descendants hopes the letters her great-great-uncle wrote from the front lines of the war inspire others to dig into their own family's history. "It's pretty neat to be able to read his exact experiences, in his own handwriting," said Kendra Minary, Cecil's great-great niece

[Frenchman donates Canadian military bike to Juno Beach Centre](#)

Toronto Sun

When Canadian Cpl. Marius Aube landed on the shores of Normandy on D-Day, the 26-year-old Sherbrooke, QC, native couldn't have known what would become of his Airborne Folding Bicycle some seven decades later. After landing at Graye-sur-Mer on June 6, 1944, Aube, who served with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, met a French family at a nearby farm in Ranville, Normandy, and befriended their 14-year-old son, Christian Costil. When Aube's regiment left for Germany during the last year of the war, he gave the bike to the thrilled teen.

[Le Canada renouvelle l'Op NÉON pour contrer les tactiques de contournement des sanctions maritimes de la Corée du Nord](#)

45e Nord

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Marc Garneau, et le ministre de la Défense nationale, Harjit Sajjan, ont annoncé que le gouvernement du Canada prolongera jusqu'au 30 avril 2023 l'opération NEON. L'opération NEON, a contribution du Canada à un effort multinational coordonné visant à appuyer la mise en œuvre des sanctions du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies (CSNU) à l'endroit de la Corée du Nord.