

Media Report 30 Dec 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

Veterans Affairs Canada releases 2022-2025 Accessibility Action Plan

From: [Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

News release

Plan identifies accessibility barriers and lays out actions to prevent and remove them

22 December 2022 – Charlottetown – Veterans Affairs Canada

Today, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) released its first [Accessibility Action Plan](#). The Plan lays out the Department’s commitment to improve accessibility by identifying barriers and the actions that VAC can take to prevent and remove them.

VAC has a long history of serving clients with disabilities, as Veterans are more likely to have physical and mental health conditions when compared to the general population, according to VAC’s [Life After Service Studies](#).

The accessibility barriers in this Action Plan were identified in consultation with persons with disabilities, putting the “[nothing without us](#)” principle into practice. VAC conducted an [external consultation using Let’s Talk Veterans](#) and also consulted internally with its Employee Accessibility Network.

The Action Plan identifies accessibility barriers in several priority areas and outlines more than 40 concrete, measurable actions to address them, such as:

- adding described video and subtitles to audio visual displays in visitor centres;
- creating a process to collect ongoing feedback from persons with disabilities on built environment-related accessibility issues; and
- improving the application process for VAC programs and services.

VAC will monitor the progress on these actions and publish an annual progress report. An updated accessibility action plan will be produced every three years.

The [Accessible Canada Act](#) requires all federally-regulated entities, such as VAC, to publish their first accessibility action plans by 31 December 2022. The purpose of the Act is to achieve a barrier-free Canada by 2040.

Quotes

“It’s so important to be breaking down barriers for persons with disabilities, especially here at Veterans Affairs Canada. I’m so pleased to see the publication of the Accessibility Action Plan. A tremendous amount of consultation and planning has gone into this document. This plan will help remove barriers, making VAC a more accessible service provider and a more inclusive workplace.”

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

Quick facts

- VAC’s Accessibility Action Plan looks at barriers in seven priority areas: employment, built environment, information and communication technologies (ICT), communication (other than ICT), procurement of goods, services and facilities, design and delivery of programs and services, and organizational culture.
- An accessibility barrier is anything that does not allow persons with disabilities to be included and take part in all areas of life. The [Accessible Canada Act](#) identifies five types of accessibility barriers: physical and/or architectural, technological, information and communication, attitudinal, and systemic.
- VAC’s [Accessibility Action Plan](#) includes the Bureau of Pensions Advocates as well as the Office of the Veterans’ Ombud. The Veterans Review and Appeals Board has published its own Accessibility Action Plan on its [website](#).
- Questions and/or feedback related to accessibility at VAC can be sent by mail, email, telephone, or through the Department’s [anonymous online feedback form](#).
- VAC’s Accessibility Action Plan and a description of our feedback process are available in alternate formats upon request. Please visit [our web site](#) for more information.

Related products

- [2022-2025 Accessibility Action Plan](#)
- [Let’s Talk Veterans Accessibility Consultation results](#)

Associated links

- [Accessibility at Veterans Affairs Canada](#)
- [How to request alternate formats](#)
- [How to provide feedback](#)

- [Accessible Canada Act](#)
- [Overview of the Accessible Canada Act](#)
- [Accessible Canada Regulations](#)

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Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

As we continue to investigate all allegations related to Medical Assistance in Dying being inappropriately discussed with Veterans, we ask that anyone who may have experienced a similar situation to please report it by calling us at 1-866-522-2122. You can also report the situation to the [Veterans Ombud](#).

If you are struggling, please contact our Assistance Service at 1-800-268-7708 so we can get you the support you need.

My VAC Account Frequently asked questions

FAQs by topic

- [General](#)
 - [Your online credentials](#)
 - [Verify your identity](#)
 - [Temporary Address](#)
- [‘What can I apply for?’](#)
- [Track your applications](#)
- [Forms](#)
 - [General](#)
 - [Search for a form](#)

- [Guided forms](#)
- [Saved forms](#)
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- [Current benefits and payment history](#)
- [Profile](#)
- [Direct deposit](#)

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.

Looking back on the most-read articles of 2022

[1. CME Update – Construction Engineer Trades' Uniforms](#)

[2. Thousands of CAF members eligible for compensation for drinking contaminated water](#)

[3. CME Birthday – Colonel-Commandant's Birthday Message](#)

[4. Operation REASSURANCE – Ground breaking ceremony for Area E&S infrastructure projects at Camp Ādaži](#)

[5. 'Making Canada better': Excerpt from ex-general's anti-woke speech that caused an uproar](#)

[6. Fort Canada is restored on Gibraltar](#)

[7. A message to the CME on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#)

[8. Maj Rick Dunning presented the 3rd Clasp to his CD](#)

[9. 'Can't sit back and watch': Former Canadian soldier joins fight in Ukraine](#)

[10. Ukrainian soldier reveals how he secretly blew up Russian bridge](#)

[11. Engineers help an Afghan family settle in Canada](#)

[12. Remembrance Day is for all soldiers who wear the uniform](#)

[13. Construction Engineers: An essential component to a support team](#)

[14. Are you missing any medals?](#)

[15. The Martintown Cenotaph](#)

Base/Wing — Newspaper

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)

22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)

4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)

CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)

CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)

CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)

CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)

CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)

CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)

CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)

CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)

19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)
8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)
CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa
Post](#)

3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)
CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)