

Media Report 06 Oct 2023

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

Seeking CAF and RCMP Veterans diagnosed with a mild traumatic brain injury and/or concussion to participate in an important study!

The Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families is supporting McMaster University in a study on mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBIs) in CAF and RCMP Veterans. This 4-week virtual (online) study aims to learn the best way to help Canadian Veterans with post-concussion cognitive symptoms achieve excellence in everyday thinking.

What is an mTBI?

mTBI's can be a result of blows or jolts to the head from actions like large-calibre weapon firing, parachute jumping, pugilism, or blast exposure. Veterans with mTBI's experience a change in mental state, with symptoms including brief periods of confusion or loss of memory, slow response, or loss of coordination.

If this sounds like you, we invite you to participate.

By the end of the study, we hope to better understand if remote-delivered individual therapy, developed to help aid daily challenges due to a mild traumatic brain injury is more feasible than typical education material provided to those diagnosed with an mTBI or concussion.

[Learn more about the implications of the study and how to participate](#)

If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating, please forward this email to them.

Bonjour,

Nous sommes à la recherche de vétérans des FAC et de la GRC ayant reçu un diagnostic de TCCL ou de commotion cérébrale pour participer à une étude importante!

L'Institut Atlas pour les vétérans et leur famille soutient l'Université McMaster dans le cadre d'une étude sur les traumatismes cérébraux légers (TCCL) chez les vétérans des FAC et de la GRC. Cette étude virtuelle (en ligne) d'une durée de quatre semaines vise à connaître la meilleure façon d'aider les vétérans canadiens qui présentent des symptômes cognitifs après une commotion à atteindre l'excellence dans leur réflexion quotidienne.

Qu'est-ce qu'un TCCL?

Les TCCL peuvent être causés par des coups à la tête ou des secousses lors du tir d'armes de gros calibre, de saut en parachute, de pugilisme ou d'exposition à une explosion. Les vétérans atteints de TCCL subissent un changement d'état mental accompagné de symptômes comprenant de brèves périodes de confusion ou de perte de mémoire, des réactions lentes ou une perte de coordination.

Si ces symptômes vous sont familiers, nous vous invitons à participer à l'étude.

D'ici la fin de l'étude, nous espérons mieux comprendre si la thérapie individuelle offerte à distance, conçue pour aider à relever les défis quotidiens posés par un TCCL, est plus envisageable que le matériel pédagogique habituellement offert aux personnes ayant reçu un diagnostic de TCCL ou de commotion cérébrale.

[Pour en savoir plus sur l'étude et la façon d'y participer](#)

If the cost of your HOUSECLEANING, SNOW REMOVAL, LAWN CARE in your VIP PACKAGE has increased do to inflation. All veterans have to do is phone VAC for a reassessment, it takes vey little time and they will up date your VIP PACKAGE

Veterans Independence Program - Benefits at Home Policy

Allied Veteran, for the purpose of eligibility for VIP, is defined in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, and Appendix C to this policy. See also the Eligibility for Health Care Programs - Allied Veterans policy.

Assessable income means “income” as defined in section 7 of the War Veterans Allowance Act (i.e. gross income less applicable deductions permitted under Division B of the Income Tax Act), current monthly benefits as defined in paragraph 4(3)(c) of that Act, and any War Veterans Allowance benefit being paid to the eligible Veteran. See the Income Assessment – War Veterans Allowance Program policy.

Assessment means, for the purposes of VIP services, an evaluation of an individual’s circumstances, including home situation, individual’s functional status and available supports, to identify unmet health needs and appropriate interventions.

Day, for the purpose of the limitation to personal care in paragraph 59, is defined as the actual personal care service needs of an individual within a 24-hour period.

Eligible individual for the purposes of this policy means:

- a. Veteran pensioner, income-qualified Veteran, overseas service Veteran, or a Veteran who satisfies the age and service requirements to be recognized as a Canada service Veteran;
- b. civilian pensioner, income-qualified overseas service civilian;
- c. military service pensioner;
- d. special duty service pensioner;
- e. a prisoner of war entitled to basic compensation under subsection 71.2(1) of the Pension Act;
- f. an allied veteran entitled to VIP.

g. a former member or Reserve Force member who is entitled to a disability award or entitled to a pain and suffering compensation; or

h. a former member or Reserve Force member who has received a detention benefit under Part 3 of the Veterans Well-being Act.

The conditions for eligibility for each group listed above are set out in sections 15, 17 and 18 of the Veterans Health Care Regulations, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of this policy, and are outlined in Appendix B – VIP Eligibility. For Allied Veterans eligible for VIP see paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of this policy and Appendix C – Allied Veterans.

Primary caregiver means, for the purposes of this policy, the adult person (18 years or older) who, on the day of the client's death or admission to a health care facility:

- a. had been the person primarily responsible for ensuring that care was provided to the client;
- b. had not been receiving a wage for ensuring the care;
- c. had been maintained by or had been maintaining the client for a continuous period of at least one year (this could include emotional support and companionship and is not only related to financial support); and
- d. had been resident in the principal residence of the client for a continuous period of at least one year.

Primary caregivers would be eligible spouses and common-law partners, although adult children and others may qualify.

Survivor, in relation to the eligible individual, means the adult person (18 years or older) who, immediately before the Veteran/civilian pensioner or income-qualified Veteran/Civilian died; or, if the eligible individual died in a health care

facility, immediately before the eligible individual was admitted into the health care facility, was:

- a. the person primarily responsible for ensuring that care was provided to the Veteran;
- b. not receiving a wage for ensuring that care was provided to the eligible individual;
- c. residing in the principal residence of the eligible individual for a continuous period of at least one year; and
- d. maintaining or maintained by the eligible individual for a continuous period of least one year.

Policy requirements

Eligibility

General

1. Eligibility criteria and services provided to eligible individuals, primary caregivers and survivors can be found in sections 15 to 18 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*.

Veterans, Civilians and Reserve Force Members

1. The eligibility criteria and services funded for each eligible individual varies depending on such factors as type of service, where and when they served, income, disability benefit entitlement, and health needs.
2. See sections 15, 17 and 18 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*, and *Appendix B – VIP Eligibility* for information

about the eligible individuals, eligibility criteria and eligible services.

3. Some eligible individuals who have access to VIP-like services from federal, provincial and community programs that are meeting their needs may be granted entitlement only to ensure that they receive treatment benefits they would be eligible for as VIP recipients (i.e. B-line coverage).

4. If an eligible individual with entitlement only has needs that increase over time and the provider of VIP-like services is no longer fully meeting the needs, the Veteran can receive VIP from VAC as a second payer to top up services.

Allied Veterans

1. An Allied Veteran is defined in the War Veterans Allowance Act as “... a former member of an Allied Force...” Veterans Affairs Canada interprets the term “former member” to mean an individual who served in a formal military capacity as an enlisted member of the “armed forces” (i.e. army, navy or air force). Service as a former member of a resistance group cannot be recognized.

2. The provisions of the Veterans Health Care Regulations recognize various types of Allied Veterans depending on when and where the Veteran served, whether the Veteran was domiciled in Canada prior to or after serving in the Allied Force, and whether the Veteran is entitled to a disability pension. For the VIP this recognition can be broken down into two categories: Allied Veterans with pre-war Canadian domicile, and Allied Veterans with post-war Canadian domicile. Regardless, if the Veteran is an Allied Veteran, they must still meet the criteria for being an Overseas Service

Veteran, an Income-qualified Veteran, or a Veteran Pensioner before they can be eligible for VIP.

3. See Appendix B for information about Allied Veteran eligibility criteria and eligible services and see Appendix C for Allied Veteran definitions.

Primary Caregivers

1. See section 16 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations* and Appendix B – Veterans Independence Program Eligibility for information about primary caregiver eligibility criteria and eligible services.

2. A primary caregiver is entitled to receive financial support to obtain the housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services that the Veteran was receiving at the time the Veteran died or began residing in a health care facility, if:

1. within one year after either the Veteran's death or admission into a health care facility (whichever comes first), the primary caregiver is assessed; or, at any point in time, the primary caregiver presents evidence relating to their health condition during that period on the basis of which an assessment can be made;

2. the assessment and all subsequent assessments indicate that the provision of the housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services are necessary for health reasons and to assist the primary caregiver to remain self-sufficient at their principal residence;

3. the primary caregiver is resident in Canada; and

4. the services are not available to the primary caregiver as insured services under a provincial health care system or a private insurance policy.
3. A primary caregiver of an eligible individual who was receiving housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services because of exceptional health needs (see section 18 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*), or who has entitlement only is entitled to continue to receive those services if the primary caregiver meets the eligibility criteria, and:
 1. the provincial/community services cease when the eligible individual dies or is admitted to a health care facility; or,
 2. the primary caregiver must pay to continue receiving the services.
4. When an eligible individual is no longer able to stay in their family home and moves into an assisted-living or similar facility, the primary caregiver is entitled to receive the housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services that were in place at the family home. The primary caregiver must meet the eligibility criteria.
5. A person who does not satisfy the criteria to be recognized as a primary caregiver may be eligible for housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services as a “survivor” (see paragraphs 16 to 21).
6. The needs of the primary caregiver are to be assessed initially within one year after the Veteran’s death (or admission to a health care facility) and on a periodic basis thereafter. Alternatively, the initial assessment may be conducted later, provided it is based on evidence relevant to the one-year period after the veteran’s death or admission to a health care facility.

7. A primary caregiver is entitled to receive only the housekeeping or grounds maintenance services that the Veteran was receiving. If a Veteran was receiving only housekeeping services, then the primary caregiver may only continue to receive housekeeping. The same applies for grounds maintenance.

Survivors

1. See section 16.1 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*, and Appendix B – Veterans Independence Program Eligibility for information about survivor eligibility criteria and eligible services. **All criteria** must be satisfied at the time of application to be eligible.
2. To qualify, at the time of application, the survivor must be an adult, 18 years of age or older and:
 1. not be eligible to receive any services as a primary caregiver under section 16 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*;
 2. be in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement under the *Old Age Security Act*, or be approved for the Disability Tax Credit under section 118.3 of the *Income Tax Act*;
 3. be residing in Canada (where a survivor is absent from Canada for 183 days or less in a calendar year, their residence in Canada is presumed not to be interrupted);
 4. have a need for the housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services. It must be established that the need is due to a health reason and that the health reason must be addressed in order for the survivor to remain independent in their principal residence; and

5. confirmation that the services are not available to them under a provincial health care system or private insurance policy.
3. The *Veterans Health Care Regulations* were amended to provide eligibility for housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services to a qualified survivor of an income-qualified civilian, an income-qualified Veteran, a Veteran pensioner or a civilian pensioner who, at the time of their death, was not in receipt of housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services; and includes a survivor of a Veteran/civilian who died prior to the establishment of the VIP.
4. If the Veteran/civilian, at the time of death, was not an income-qualified Veteran/civilian as defined in section 2 of the *Veterans Health Care Regulations*, but was qualified at some point during their lifetime, the survivor would be eligible.
5. The Veteran/civilian cannot have been in receipt of grounds maintenance and/or housekeeping services at the time of their death, although they may have been in receipt of funding for other VIP services, such as personal care.
6. Survivors of those Veterans/civilians who were in receipt of housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services at the time of their death or admission into a health care facility may be eligible for those benefits as “primary caregivers” (see paragraphs 9 to 15).

Exclusions

IN THE MEDIA

Canadian military shows how they train Ukrainian sappers

Ukrinform

The Canadian Armed Forces showed how combat engineers teach Ukrainian defenders the skills needed on the battlefield. "The skills taught by Canadian Armed Forces combat engineers on Operation UNIFIER will help the Armed Forces of Ukraine sappers make the environment safer for soldiers to work and move," Operation UNIFIER posted on X. [Read More](#)

Ukraine war: Training to clear the world's most heavily mined country

BBC News

Ukraine is now the most heavily mined country in the world, and it's slowing down Ukrainian military advances. The training by British Army sappers — combat engineers, some of whom faced similar obstacles in Afghanistan — was specifically requested by Ukraine. [Read More](#)

Le Canada offre 650 millions \$ en aide militaire à l'Ukraine

Journal Express

«Je te remercie Canada.» C'est en français que le président ukrainien, Volodymyr Zelensky, a conclu son discours à Ottawa le 22 septembre. Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau a pour sa part réitéré son soutien «indéfectible» à l'Ukraine face à la guerre contre la Russie, et a annoncé une aide militaire de 650 millions \$ sur une période de trois ans. [Lire Plus](#)

'We need to be prepared': Canada Task Force 1 wraps up fulsome training exercise in Penticton

Castanet

"Natural disasters are part of the future and we need to be prepared for them." Canada Task Force 1 recently wrapped up their training in Penticton, the final day of their three-day exercise for the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team from Vancouver. Twelve different specialty teams are assembled to

support communities when their traditional emergency services are overwhelmed by a natural disaster or major emergency. [Read More](#)

Search for unexploded munitions in North Vancouver to close some popular trails

Global News

The search for unexploded grenades and shells that date back before the Second World War has forced the closure of some popular North Vancouver trails. Crews will be working in a 17-hectare site that used to be part of the Blair Rifle Range and is now a heavily used wooded area wedged between Mount Seymour Provincial Park, Northlands Golf Course and the McCarthy Woods subdivision. [Read More](#)

Plus de 40 000 militaires réunis pour un exercice de l'OTAN l'an prochain

La Presse

Plus de 40 000 militaires des pays de l'Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord (OTAN), dont le Canada, seront rassemblés pour un exercice qualifié de plus important depuis la fin de la guerre froide. Cela se tiendra en Allemagne, en Pologne et dans les trois pays baltes en 2024. [Lire Plus](#)

Graves of Indigenous soldiers honoured in the Netherlands

Global News

An initiative involving Canadian, Indigenous and Dutch individuals is helping identify and mark the graves of Indigenous soldiers buried in the Netherlands. The Indigenous Legacy Project recently saw Veterans Affairs send over a delegation of family and community members of the buried soldiers to the Netherlands, where they helped the Liberation of the Netherlands Branch 005 honour the soldiers' sacrifices. [Read More](#)

Calgarians walk to show support for Canadian veterans

CBC News

Dozens of Calgarians recently gathered in the city's southwest to show their support for veterans, military members and their families. The Canadian Walk for Veterans, a countrywide event which seeks to raise awareness about the challenges facing military personnel, got underway as participants made their way along a five-kilometre loop on the city's South Glenmore Park pathway. [Read More](#)

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	Base Gagetown — Gagetown Gazette