

## Media Report 12 Nov 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

[100th anniversary of the poppy](#)

CMEA

On this 100th anniversary of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in Canada, it is fitting to recall the work of an Engineer. The story, James Melville, The man who brought the poppy to Canada, tell how Brigadier James Melville, a Royal Canadian Engineer veteran of two world wars and our first Colonel-Commandant, set up a workshop in Ottawa to employ disabled veterans. He got the manufacturing rights to the poppy symbol in the early 1920s so the lapel pins could be produced by those veterans.

### **Legion: Afghanistan Interpreter Resettlement**

Earlier this week, a team at Legion House, led by Grand President Larry Murray, met with MGen (retd) Denis Thompson and members representing the Afghanistan Strategic Evacuation Team (ASET), including those from the VTN who have been leading the way with fundraising efforts. The attached deck provides detail. A recent CBC Fifth Estate episode on this can be found at <https://CBCgem.app/34azhUMn7qZwC3xZ7>

They are looking for federal funding, the consideration of which was stalled when the election was called. The group only has enough funds to carry them through to today.

ASET considers the Veterans community as a natural ally in the effort to resettle eligible Afghans and their families.

The attached letter (E/F) of support was forwarded to the PM and noted Ministers this morning. They will be shared on Legion social media tomorrow and will be circulated throughout the organization next week.

This may also be a discussion topic at the next Veterans Consultation Assembly, planned for early 2022. The lack of both attention and action by the federal government is impacting the mental well-being of CAF members, especially those who had served in Afghanistan.

For your awareness.

In comradeship,

Steven

Steven Clark

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- [Veterans' Week 2021: Service, Courage and Sacrifice](#)
- [Remember Indigenous Veterans Day](#)
- [100 years of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada](#)
- [Veteran Success Story: Captain Judy Harper blazes new trails](#)
- [65 years of Peacekeeping](#)
- [Adapting and improving for Veterans during COVID-19](#)
- [Resources for homeless Veterans](#)
- [Invitation to participate in study on cannabis use](#)
- [Invitation to take part in study on chronic pain](#)

### **Adapting and improving for Veterans during COVID-19**

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Since the pandemic began, we have reached out to over 20,000 Veterans. While offices remain closed, you can continue to connect with us through [My VAC Account secure messaging](#) or by calling 1-866-522-2122.

Here are some other ways we have adapted to better serve you during the pandemic:

- [Operational stress injury clinics](#) group therapy sessions are offered online.
- [Career transition services](#) continue to be delivered virtually.
- Vocational rehabilitation providers are offering virtual assessments tailored to each Veteran's unique situation
- Certain prescription requirements have been waived and coverage for virtual health services is extended.
- Some health assessments are taking place virtually, allowing our health professionals to provide more accessible services.

To stay up to date with the latest information, bookmark and visit the Government of Canada's [Coronavirus page](#).

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### **Resources for homeless Veterans**

[An estimated](#) 3,000 to 5,000 Veterans experienced homelessness in Canada in 2019, and together we can change this.

Staff at Veterans Affairs offices across the country are available to help Veterans who are experiencing homelessness, and connect them with organizations in their communities that work to solve homelessness.

VAC also offers immediate supports like the [Veterans Emergency Fund](#), which can provide funds quickly for urgent and unexpected needs. These can include essentials like food, shelter or medical expenses while we identify long-term needs and look for more long-term solutions.

Further support for low-income Veterans includes:

- the [Canadian Forces Income Support](#), a monthly payment to help low-income CAF Veterans, survivors and dependent children
- the [War Veterans Allowance](#), a monthly payment to Second World War or Korean War Veterans who have a low household income.

There are also support systems for homeless Veterans offered by other organizations such as:

- [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) provides financial assistance to serving and former CAF members, RCMP and their families who are in financial distress
- [Support our Troops](#) provides extra support due to challenges arising from CAF service, and
- [Veterans Emergency Transition Services \(VETS\) Canada](#) helps to secure housing, food and customized supports.

## **How you can help**

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless, the first step is to contact a [local area office](#) by calling us at 1-866-522-2122.

Free and confidential professional mental health support is also available for Veterans, their families and caregivers toll-free, 24/7 through the VAC Assistance Service, at 1-800-268-7708 or 1-800-567-5803 (TTD/TTY).

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## **Engagement**

### **McGill seeking Canadian Veterans to participate in cannabis use study**

The [MissionVAV](#) program from McGill University is developing new strategies to improve the health of Veterans who deal with physical and mental health issues. McGill is looking for Veterans to participate in an anonymous cannabis use study. Your experiences as a user, positive or negative, are invaluable to researchers.

Currently, knowledge of medical cannabis treatment for conditions like chronic pain, stress, poor sleep and post-traumatic stress disorder is largely driven by trial and error. By participating in this study, you can help researchers find better

ways to use medical cannabis to improve the health and well-being of your comrades, their family members and other Canadians.

Visit the [Active Veterans website](#) to share your experience by completing a brief and anonymous online survey. For more information, call 1-800-461-3006. McGill will not collect your name nor contact information while conducting this study.

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**You are invited to take part in an online study:**

**Pain and mental health in Canadian Veterans and their children**

**Thank you Percy P.**

- NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 12 November 2021. *"The DDA unites national, regional, and theatre-wide military efforts to a common purpose. It provides nations with a framework to align respective national military deterrence activities in peacetime and, if directed, defend in crisis and conflict... all nested underneath the NATO 2030 initiative,"* General Wolters said.

Additionally, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Tim Radford discussed the New Force Model that SHAPE is developing with Nations. *"Today NATO is facing complex challenges – assertive authoritarian regimes, terrorism, cyber and missile threats, climate change and disruptive technologies. In response, we are undertaking our biggest adaptation since the Cold War: investing in modern capabilities, adopting new command structures, and raising the readiness and peacetime vigilance activities of our forces,"* General Radford said. **NATO 2030 is an ambitious agenda to make sure NATO remains ready, strong and united for a new era of increased global competition.**

NATO Leaders asked Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at their meeting in London in December 2019 to lead a forward- looking reflection to make NATO stronger and fit for the future. What is NATO strategic concept? NATO's purpose is **to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.**

**POLITICAL –** NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict. How does NATO resolve conflict? **30 member countries** Of the **30 member countries**, two are located in North America (Canada and the United States), 28 are in Europe, one of which (Turkey) is in both Europe and Asia.

...Of the **30 member countries**, two are located in North America (Canada and the United States), 28 are in Europe, one of which (Turkey) is in both Europe and Asia.

- How many member countries are there in NATO?

- Conflict prevention can also include fact-finding missions, consultations, warnings, inspections and monitoring. NATO makes **full use of partnership, cooperation and dialogue and its links** to other organisations to contribute to preventing crises and, should they arise, defusing them at an early stage
- What is NATO responsible for?
- The Strategic Concept is **an official document that outlines NATO's enduring purpose and nature, and its fundamental security tasks**. ... Strategic Concepts equip the Alliance for security challenges and guide its future political and military development.
- What is the NATO 2030 initiative?
- **On the 8th November 2021, the NATO Military Committee headed down to the Supreme Allied Command Operations for a day of roundtable discussions on defence and deterrence.** General Tod Wolters, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the NATO Military Representatives were ushered into their first session of the day dedicated to the Concept for the **Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA)**. Alongside NATO's Warfighting Capstone Concept, the DDA is a pillar of the NATO 2030 initiative launched at the Brussels Summit last year. NATO and Nations have been working diligently to develop these unique concepts that not only set out NATO's military priorities, its approach to current and future threats but will also provide a guide to commanders for future security requirements and resources.
- Thank you Randy

We are slowly resuming our Legion Branch operations.

Doing this within the ever-adjusting rules is, as you are aware, a constant challenge.

However, as of today, we have the Branch open with restricted hours, five days a week.

Always open by noon on Friday and Saturday and 1 PM weekdays, Tuesday to Friday, staying open until at least 6 PM every day.

We abide by all Covid 19 Regulations as required at our Branch for everyone's health and safety.

Communication with or from us can be done in various ways:

Bi-monthly newsletter

Facebook at "Bells Corners Legion Branch 593"

Branch Website at "[www.legion593.com](http://www.legion593.com)"

Email to [legion593.ca@rogers.com](mailto:legion593.ca@rogers.com)

Fax to 613 829 6537

We are working towards the replacement of our existing, antiquated phone system which has failed us recently. This may indeed be repaired by the time this notice gets out, fingers crossed.

Our phone number, for your record is, 613 829 4609.

Our Membership is strong with a total of 417 Active Members

As you know we are currently in the midst of our 2022 Early Bird Membership Drive, saving you \$10 dollars if renewed prior to December 1st. This plus a chance to win our monthly \$50. Prize draw.  
Our October winner of a \$50. Certificate was Brian Mackey

icipation in any and all of our endeavours, as this is your Branch.  
Any Membership concerns or problems, please let us know as we are here to assist you We thank you all for your continuing support.

Membership Committee  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593

## **IN THE NEWS**

[Veterans' Week Message from Veterans Affairs to the CMEA](#)

[Penticton Indian Band member honoured through Remembrance Day Sentry program](#)

[Les héros oubliés de Mékinac](#)

[2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the remembrance poppy](#)

[Canadian army ready to aid with Iqaluit's water problems](#)

[L'ère de l'impunité est révolue, prévient Anita Anand](#)

[New defence minister vows to fight sex misconduct, warns battle 'going to take time'](#)

[Veterans offered training opportunity to serve on 'glass battlefield' of cyberspace](#)

[CHSLD: les militaires auraient «restauré la dignité des aînés»](#)

[He is my brother': Retired soldiers want Canada to help former Afghan interpreter who risked it all](#)

[Norway receives armoured engineer vehicles](#)

DCC at Work

Defence Construction Canada

In this issue:

- [Solar power will light up DND's first net-zero building](#)
- [Historic building is ready to serve for another century](#)
- [Coordination key to smooth runway repairs](#)
- [Bringing the comforts of home to the Naden 40 building](#)