

Media Report 13 December 2019

Rehabilitation services can improve your health and help you adjust to life at home, in your community or at work. Depending on your circumstances and needs, it may include treatment and therapies to overcome or cope with a service-related illness or injury.

About this program

Rehabilitation services can improve your health and help you adjust to life at home, in your community or at work.

Your rehabilitation needs will be assessed and then your individualized rehabilitation plan will be developed. Your rehabilitation plan is the roadmap to your recovery. The plan can include treatments and therapies from:

- Medical rehabilitation – services to improve your health to the fullest extent, or
- Psychosocial rehabilitation – health services to help you regain your independence.

When you are ready, your rehab plan can also include vocational rehabilitation. This part of your plan will identify the training or skills development you need to start a new career.

If your health does not allow you to take part in vocational rehabilitation, this part of your rehab plan can be transferred to your spouse as vocational assistance.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for rehabilitation services if you:

- Served in the Canadian Armed Forces, and
 - Have a barrier to re-establishment which is a health issue (temporary or permanent) related to your service that prevents your full participation at work or home or in the community
-

How to apply

Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. My VAC Account offers a guided web form that makes applying easier. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

Mail or in person

Download the application form. Then, drop it off at a [VAC office or CAF transition centre](#). You can also mail your completed application directly to the address listed on the form.

Get help with your application

The staff at any [VAC office or CAF transition centre](#) can assist you, or call us at 1-866-522-2122.

Building a rehabilitation plan

We can usually make a decision about rehabilitation program eligibility within a few weeks of receiving your application. If approved, you will receive the one-on-one support of a VAC case manager.

Your case manager will work with you (and your family) to identify your goals. Together you will build your rehabilitation plan.

To ensure your success, the plan will identify:

- Your goals
- The services and benefits you will need to reach those goals
- Local service providers to help get you there
- A timeframe to complete it all

You are the most important part of any successful rehab plan. As you work through your plan, it is important to keep in touch about your services or any challenges you face. Give feedback to your case manager, the health professional, or anyone who is working with you.

From start to finish, your VAC case manager will:

- Work closely with you and your family
- Respect your privacy and confidentiality
- Help identify information and services you need
- Help you develop support networks
- Coordinate between you, your health professionals, and other service providers
- Track and discuss your progress on a regular basis

Additional information

Find out more

Are you medically-releasing from the Canadian Armed Forces soon?

If so, you can apply for rehabilitation services before you leave service. If approved, the start date of your rehabilitation plan, and your [Income Replacement Benefit](#), can be the day after you release.

Related programs

[Vocational rehabilitation](#) - Coaching, support and any other training you need to return to work or find a new job after an injury.

[Vocational assistance](#) - Coaching, support and any other training you need to return to work or find a new job after an injury.

[Income Replacement Benefit](#) – A monthly payment to maintain your income while you are taking part in the VAC rehabilitation program.

[Case management](#) – A case manager can help you set goals and find the services you need to overcome a challenge in your life.

Frequently asked questions

How can I pay my bills while taking part in the rehab program?

Participants in rehabilitation services with health problems resulting primarily from service may qualify for the [Income Replacement Benefit](#). This income support ensures your total income will be at least 90% of your gross pre-release

military salary. This is available so you can focus on what matters most – your health and career goals.

I didn't medically release from service, but I am having difficulty coping with life after service, do I qualify?

VAC's rehabilitation services assist any Veteran who is experiencing a physical or mental health issue, related to their service, which is creating a barrier to their re-establishment to civilian life. It does not matter if that barrier is considered permanent or temporary. When you are completing the application form, be sure to detail how your health has negatively impacted your life at home, at work or in the community.

I already applied for a disability benefit and provided this information on all of my health issues, do I have to do that all over again to apply for Rehabilitation.

No. If you have already applied for a VAC disability benefit for any of the health conditions that are creating a barrier to your re-establishment in civilian life, just check the box on the rehabilitation form that says "see recent disability award application on file".

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the policies related to [rehabilitation services and vocational assistance program](#).

B.C. court rules against injured veterans in fight for disability pensions

Written by [Robert Smith](#) × December 5, 2019

The B.C. Court of Appeal has dealt a devastating blow to a group of injured veterans engaged in a landmark legal battle with the federal government.

The six veterans involved in the so-called Equitas lawsuit had alleged that they were unfairly treated because of a major overhaul in 2006 to the way the government compensates those injured in the line of service.

Chief among the changes was replacing lifelong disability pensions with a lump-sum payment, career training and targeted income support, which the veterans contended was worth less than the previous pension system.

The case, which was first launched in 2012 under the previous Conservative government but continued with the Liberals, was seen as having major implications for all recently injured veterans.

The Equitas veterans scored a victory in 2014 when a B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled that there was enough merit to the case — which the group planned to turn into a class-action lawsuit — to proceed to trial.

But after the federal government appealed the decision, the B.C. Court of Appeal on Monday struck down the veterans' claim in its entirety, with a three-judge panel saying the case had no chance of success.

Lawyer Don Sorochan, who is representing the Equitas veterans, was preparing to meet with his clients in Vancouver and told The Canadian Press he would have to consult with them to determine their next course of action.

One possible step would be to try to bring the issue to the Supreme Court of Canada.

While Monday's ruling represents a win for the federal government, it could actually represent a double-edged sword for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberals.

That's because Trudeau campaigned with Equitas members during the last federal election campaign in 2015, and the Liberals were the only party that promised to reinstate the lifelong pensions.

Yet the Liberal government continued to fight the court case after coming to power, and has yet to reinstate the disability pensions for injured veterans.

The government has said it will provide more details by the end of the year, but even then, many veterans are worried that it will fall far short of the previous system of compensation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, Canadian Veterans with Disabilities

– here is a link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/home.html>

It provides a search feature and a box on the right that provides links to some highlighted items – currently showing 5 pages of three items each.

On Page 4: Canadian Veterans with Disabilities: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.881454&sl=0>

On Page 5: Indigenous veterans: from memories of injustice to lasting recognition: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.868144&sl=0>

Heroes remember presents: June 6th, 1944, D-Day: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.871984&sl=0>

Moving towards ending homelessness among veterans: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.872351&sl=0>

From a look at past highlighted items (I browsed back as far as the end of March 19):

Client experiences with Veterans Affairs Canada Rehabilitation Program and Case Management Services: Final Report: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.875373&sl=0>

Defending Canadian Sovereignty: new threats, new challenges: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.868774&sl=0>

Medical cannabis and veterans' well-being: <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.874423&sl=0>

[Tunnels reveal First World War sappers underground battle](#)

Livington Ledger

Tunnel network reveals how First World War sappers battled beneath the Western Front as their comrades fought in the trenches above. The elaborate network of underground tunnels where fighting continued beneath the killing fields of the Western Front during World War One has been revealed in a set of incredible images. The photographs show the remains of tunnels where engineering soldiers, known as "sappers" would have worked in darkness to knock out enemy German underground units. [READ MORE](#)

[Construction Engineers from 4 Wing busy in Romania](#)

Courier News

Construction Engineers from 4 Wing were busy in Romania during Operation REASSURANCE. Check

out the following photos to see what they were up to. [READ MORE](#)

[Des milliers de souhaits de Noël pour les soldats canadiens à l'étranger](#)

Radio-Canada

Des milliers de cartes de vœux sont envoyées aux soldats canadiens qui doivent rester à l'étranger pendant les Fêtes. Une initiative organisée chaque année, mais qui a pris de l'ampleur cette année avec l'aide des réseaux sociaux. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Canadian general: Male-dominated Iraqi military getting used to female soldiers](#)

Bridge River Lillooet News

Iraq's male-dominated military may slowly be getting used to dealing with high-level female counterparts, suggests the recently departed male commander of Canadian Armed Forces trainers in that country. Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin said that bodes well for his successor, Maj.-Gen. Jennie Carignan, who assumed command last week of the NATO training mission in Iraq, a country whose military and political power is held squarely in the fist of men. [READ MORE](#)

[Artillery and Engineers celebrate St. Barbara's Day](#)

Canadian Military Family Magazine

While many folks are already in the Christmas spirit at the beginning of December, Canadian Artillery and Royal Canadian Engineer members celebrated St. Barbara's Feast Day. Celebrated on Dec. 4th, St. Barbara's Feast Day is a day where artillery formations, units, and sub-units host parades, sports days, guest nights, cocktail parties, feasts, open houses, and other activities. Plus churches commemorate St. Barbara. [READ MORE](#)

[Des parachutistes militaires dans le ciel de Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier](#)

45e Nord

Les résidents de Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier et les gens de passage dans le secteur pourraient apercevoir des parachutistes militaires prenant part à un exercice le 28 novembre 2019, nous avise le 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Régiment. Environ 100 soldats provenant principalement du 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Régiment, participeront à cet entraînement, annonce par voie de communiqué le major Mark Noël de la Compagnie A du 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Régiment. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Korean War vet Sapper at peace knowing future services will be held at Truro memorial](#)

Truro Daily News

Curtis Faulkner listens intently as his visitor speaks. Then he breaks into a wide-faced smile. "Oh my God, I'm glad to hear that," the 88-year-old veteran says. "That made my week, made my year." Sitting in a wheelchair in his nursing home room, Faulkner's face displays the emotions running through his mind after hearing the news he has waited on for so long. "That takes such a weight off of me," he says, with watering eyes. [READ MORE](#)

[4 Wing athletes cherish memories of China competition](#)

Courier News

It's something you'd never forget, a trip China and the chance to compete with the world's best of the best. The memories linger for competitors from 4 Wing Cold Lake who took part this fall in the Military World Games held in Wuhan, China. They were there with thousands of military athletes from member nations of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) for the 7th Military World Games. [READ MORE](#)

Une alliance à vie entre Louiseville et les vétérans de l'armée canadienne

Le Nouvelliste

Étant une des premières villes canadiennes à permettre le stationnement gratuit dans ses espaces munis d'un horodateur à tout vétéran de l'armée canadienne, peu importe sa province de résidence, Louiseville a su attirer l'attention de Pierre Dugal. Ce vétéran de l'armée canadienne a été un des instigateurs de l'établissement d'une nouvelle plaque d'immatriculation québécoise soulignant l'apport des vétérans. Il était à Louiseville lundi, en compagnie de trois collègues, pour remettre au maire Yvon Deshaies une plaque symbolique des vétérans de l'armée. [LIRE PLUS](#)