

Media Report 14 February 2020

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Benefits for Survivors (of Disability Pension Recipients)Continuation of Disability Pension. and direction to Support you need, when you need it. Rehabilitation services and local Media Articles

Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members,

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has launched an online consultation to learn how we can better communicate with and reach out to former Canadian Armed Forces members and their families. The Veteran Community Consultation is geared toward Veterans who do not currently receive benefits and services from VAC.

We are requesting your help in spreading the word to your members and networks so that we can hear from as many Veterans as possible in this consultation.

It is important that all former military members are aware of the benefits and services that VAC offers, and how to access those supports, even years after release. The findings of this consultation will help us improve the way we communicate with Veterans to better meet your needs.

Please encourage Veterans in your networks to participate, by sharing the link with your membership list or including it in your next newsletter. A poster is also available that we can send you by email to post in your gathering space. If your organization is active on social media, please consider sharing our [Facebook and Twitter posts](#) about this consultation with your own networks.

The online consultation will run until the end of March. In-person discussion groups will be organized in communities across Canada this spring.

Visit www.veteranconsultation.ca to participate in the consultation.

If you have any questions, please contact vac.consultation-consultation.acc@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

Cher(e)s intervenant(e)s et membres des groupes consultatif,

Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) a lancé une consultation en ligne pour comprendre comment nous pourrions mieux communiquer avec les anciens membres des Forces armées canadiennes et leur famille et les sensibiliser. La

consultation auprès de la communauté des vétérans s'adresse aux vétérans qui ne bénéficient actuellement d'aucune prestation ni d'aucun service d'ACC.

Nous avons besoin de votre aide pour faire passer le message auprès de vos membres et de vos réseaux, afin que nous puissions entendre le plus grand nombre possible de vétérans dans le contexte de cette consultation.

Il est important que tous les anciens militaires connaissent les prestations et les services qu'ACC leur offre, ainsi que les moyens d'y accéder, même des années après leur libération. Les constatations de cette consultation nous aideront à améliorer nos méthodes de communication avec les vétérans, pour mieux répondre à leurs besoins.

Merci d'encourager les vétérans de vos réseaux à participer, en partageant le lien avec votre liste d'adhérents ou en l'insérant dans votre prochain bulletin d'information. Nous mettons également à votre disposition une affiche, que nous pouvons vous envoyer par courriel, à mettre en valeur dans votre lieu de rassemblement. Si votre organisme est actif dans les médias sociaux, veuillez partager dans vos réseaux nos messages sur [Facebook et Twitter](#) au sujet de cette consultation.

La consultation en ligne sera ouverte jusqu'à la fin du mois de mars. Des groupes de discussion en personne auront lieu dans des collectivités de tout le Canada ce printemps.

Visitez le site www.consultationveterans.ca pour participer à la consultation.

Si vous avez des questions, communiquez avec nous à l'adresse vac.consultation-consultation.acc@canada.ca.

Cordialement,

L'équipe de mobilisation et de sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

Benefits for Survivors (of Disability Pension Recipients)

Continuation of Disability Pension

When a disability pensioner dies, if he or she was pensioned at 5% or greater, the survivor will continue to receive (for a period of one year) the same [Disability Pension](#) or Prisoner of War compensation that was being paid to the pensioner.

This includes any Attendance Allowance and/or Exceptional Incapacity Allowance the pensioner was receiving at the time of death. After this one year period, a survivor's pension will be automatically paid.

Survivor's Pension

A survivor's pension will be paid to the survivor of a disability pensioner commencing one year from the time of death. The pensioner's benefits continue in full for the first year.

If the pensioner was receiving a pension of 48% or greater, the survivor is entitled to a full survivor's pension. If the pensioner was receiving a pension between the 5% and 47% rate, the survivor will receive one-half of the Disability Pension that was paid to the pensioner.

Surviving spouses/surviving common-law partners who remarry will continue to receive the survivor's pension. Children and other qualified dependents may also qualify for benefits following a pensioner's death. Please contact us for more information.

Education Assistance Program

If you are a child of a deceased Veteran or Canadian Armed Forces member or Veteran, you may receive financial assistance for post-secondary education if your parent:

- died as a result of military service;
- or
- had received a disability benefit of 48% or greater at the time of death.

To qualify, you must enter the program before you turn 25 years of age. This assistance cannot be extended beyond the year in which you turn 30. This support may be provided for four years or 36 academic months, whichever is less.

For more information on any of the above programs or to apply please [contact us](#).

Related Links

- [Career Impact Allowance](#)
- [Disability Benefits](#)
 - [Disability Pension](#)
 - [Benefits for Survivors](#)
 - [Disability Award](#)
 - [Benefits for Survivors](#)
 - [Exceptional Incapacity Allowance](#)
 - [Related Allowances](#)
 - Applying for Benefits
 - [Step 1 – Get an Application Form](#)
 - [Step 2 – What You Need to Apply](#)
 - [Step 3 – Submit Your Application](#)
 - [How Benefits are Determined](#)
 - [Table of Disabilities](#)
 - [1995 Table of Disabilities](#)
 - [Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#)
 - [Medical Questionnaires](#)
 - [Service Health Records for **Disability** Benefit Application](#)
- [Who Can Help?](#)
- [Reviews and Appeals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Service Delivery](#)

What is the Table of Disabilities?

The Table of Disabilities (TOD) is a legislated /statutory instrument used to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. The Table considers the relative importance of a certain body part/system to assess the level of impairment and the impact that impairment has on the individual's quality of life.

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- [Ch 01 – Introduction and Instructions](#) (Updated: April 2019)
- [Ch 02 – Quality of Life](#) (Updated: April 2019)
- [Ch 03 – Partially Contributing Impairment](#)

- [Ch 04 – Paired Organs and Paired Limbs](#) (Updated: April 2019)
- [Ch 05 – Attendance Allowance](#) (Updated: February 2018)
- [Ch 06 – Clothing Allowance](#) (Updated: April 2019)
- [Ch 07 – Exceptional Incapacity Allowance](#) (Updated: April 2019)
- [Ch 08 – Visual Impairment](#)
- [Ch 09 – Hearing Loss and Ear Impairment](#) (Updated: February 2019)
- [Ch 10 – Nose, Throat and Sinus Impairment](#)
- [Ch 11 – Dental and Oral Impairment](#)
- [Ch 12 – Cardiorespiratory Impairment](#)
- [Ch 13 – Hypertension and Vascular Impairment](#)
- [Ch 14 – Gastrointestinal Impairment](#)
- [Ch 15 – Endocrine and Metabolic Impairment](#)
- [Ch 16 – Urinary, Sexual and Reproductive Impairment](#)
- [Ch 17 – Musculoskeletal Impairment](#)
- [Ch 18 – Malignant Impairment](#)
- [Ch 19 – Impairment in Activities of Daily Living](#) (Updated: October 2017)
- [Ch 20 – Neurological Impairment](#) (Updated: October 2016)
- [Ch 21 – Psychiatric Impairment](#) (Updated: October 2016)
- [Ch 22 – Skin Impairment](#)
- [Ch 23 – Hemopoietic Impairment](#)
- [Ch 24 – Tuberculosis](#)

Frequently asked questions

If I receive a payment from a class action settlement, is this payment reduced from any Disability Benefits I receive from Veterans Affairs Canada?

If you report a payment from a class action settlement, we review all relevant information to decide whether the settlement should be reduced from the Disability Benefit.

If you apply for a Disability Benefit, it is your responsibility to tell us that you received or are pursuing third-party compensation for the same medical condition(s). Third-party compensation includes Workers' Compensation and class action lawsuit settlements. You need to provide this information in Section F on the Disability Benefits Application (PEN923) form. When you report third-party compensation, you must also complete the form entitled Consent for Veterans Affairs Canada to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties (VAC928). If it is a payment from a class action, we review the terms of the settlement.

If necessary, we offset any third-party compensation as outlined in the Veterans Well-being Regulations.

2. Would you call someone to find out if they are receiving compensation from a class action settlement or another third party?

We make contact with any disability applicant whose application is incomplete, including an incomplete section related to third party compensation. When a member applies for a Disability Pension, the application asks if they are applying for compensation for the same disability from another source, such as Workers' Compensation. If this question is not answered, the application is incomplete and it is standard procedure for us to follow-up.

3. How is the amount of a disability benefit determined?

The amount of a disability benefit you receive will be determined by:

- the degree to which that disability is related to your service (entitlement); and
- the extent of the disability (assessment).

Once it is established that your disability is related to your service, the next step is to determine the extent or severity of your disability so that we can assign an assessment level.

To learn more, see the [How Benefits Are Determined](#) section.

4. What are Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines?

[Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) are policy statements used to guide the decision-making process and help in determining the relationship between your medical condition or disability and your service. The guidelines are based on credible medical evidence and research. Similar guidelines from across the country as well as the United States and Australia were reviewed during the development

process. Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines help to ensure our decisions are consistent and fair.

5. What is the Table of Disabilities (TOD)?

The [TOD](#) is a legislated/statutory instrument used to assess the extent of a disability for the purposes of determining disability benefits. The table considers the relative importance of a certain body part/system in assessing the level of impairment and the impact of on an individual's lifestyle. The disability assessment is established based on the medical impairment rating, in conjunction with quality of life indicators.

6. What are medical questionnaires?

[Medical questionnaires](#) are forms we have developed for your healthcare provider to complete with all of the details of your disability. These standardized forms provide guidance for your health care provider to ensure he or she provides all of the necessary and relevant information we need to make a decision on your application for disability benefits. The medical questionnaires are used, along with other submitted medical information, to confirm your medical diagnosis and determine the impairment rating of your disability.

When you give your health care provider the [medical questionnaire](#), please be sure to also provide your completed and signed [Consent for Veterans Affairs Canada to Collect Personal Information from Third Parties](#) form which gives him or her the authority to release your personal medical information to us. If your health care provider does not wish to fill out the questionnaire, they can provide a "narrative report" as an alternative. This report must include the same basic information as the questionnaire. Please do not have a medical questionnaire completed until you have been provided with specific instructions from us regarding the questionnaire(s) required. .

7. When can I expect to receive a decision?

We are committed to getting you a decision as soon as possible. In most cases, a decision will be made within 16 weeks of the Department receiving all the information required from you to support of your application.

8. What happens if my disability gets worse?

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens, you can request a reassessment if there is medical evidence to show that there has been a change in the severity of your disability. If a new condition develops that you think is related to your service, you can submit an application for that condition. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your benefit will be adjusted accordingly-unless you are already receiving the maximum assessment as set out in the [Table of Disabilities](#). If that is the case, no additional amount can be provided.

9. I do not agree with the Department's decision on my application? What can I do?

If you do not agree with the decision you have received regarding your application for disability benefits, you have the right to appeal the decision or request a Departmental Review if you have new evidence. The [Bureau of Pensions Advocates \(BPA\)](#) and [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) both provide free assistance with reviews and appeals.

10. I'm having difficulty preparing my application for Disability Benefits. Can anyone help?

Yes, VAC staff are always happy to help you with your application or any other questions you may have. In addition, Service Officers with The Royal Canadian Legion or The War Amps of Canada also provide assistance with applications free of charge. You can find out more in the "[Who Can Help?](#)" section.

11. I am no longer living in Canada. Can I still get benefits?

In some circumstances, we can provide benefits to you while you are living or vacationing outside of Canada.

You can contact us toll-free, from:

- United States – Call 1-888-996-2242 (toll free)

- United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Belgium – Call 00-800-996-22421 (toll free)
- Any other country – 613-996-2242 (collect)

12. When will benefits start?

If you receive a favourable decision letter, it will indicate a start date.

All this Toronto war veteran wants for his 100th birthday is a birthday card

blogTO

A war veteran's 100th birthday wish will likely be coming true this year, thanks to the power of social media. A photo of Toronto resident Fred Arsenault, a soon-to-be centenerian who served with the Cape Breton Highlanders during WWII, has been making its rounds on the Internet since first being published on Reddit. Someone posted a picture of the former machine gunner decked out in full Canadian Army veteran ceremonial regalia, holding up a sign with a small request. [READ MORE](#)

Army reservists testing winter survival skills with snowmobile trek from Gillam to Churchill Feb. 14

Thompson Citizen

Approximately 70 Canadian Armed Forces reservists from the 38 Canadian Brigade Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG) began arriving in Gillam Feb. 8 to prepare for Exercise Arctic Bison 2020, a 10-day training exercise to develop winter survival skills. Most of the equipment and personnel arrived Gillam Feb. 8, with the remainder of the reservists arriving Feb. 15. The exercise will run Feb. 14-21 with all participants deploying back to Winnipeg on Feb. 23. [READ MORE](#)

Coronavirus: les militaires qui ont évacué les Canadiens de Wuhan évitent la quarantaine

Le Journal de Montréal

Contrairement aux ressortissants qui ont été évacués de la région de Wuhan en raison de l'épidémie du nouveau coronavirus, les militaires qui ont procédé à cette opération n'auront pas à passer 14 jours en quarantaine. Vendredi, 174 Canadiens sont arrivés, grâce à un vol nolisé dédié à leur rapatriement, à la base de Trenton, en Ontario, où ils doivent passer deux semaines en quarantaine, afin de s'assurer qu'ils ne sont pas atteints par le virus. Ils ont été rejoints quelques heures plus tard par 39 autres Canadiens, qui ont été évacués à bord d'un avion nolisé par le gouvernement américain. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Homes for Heroes tackling veteran homelessness with clever construction

Journal of Commerce

Thousands of Canadian veterans are homeless or without stable housing. Homes for Heroes, a charity, is trying to use construction and urban design to solve the problem. The charity has begun building affordable urban villages in major cities across Canada where homeless veterans will be assisted in transitioning back into civilian life. The villages consist of 15 to 25 individual tiny homes

arranged in a park-like setting. All homes face inward to facilitate peer-to-peer support. [READ MORE](#)

[Free, one-year Legion membership to welcome Veterans to the Legion](#)

Legion.ca

The Legion is pleased to offer currently serving and retired Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members with a free one-year Legion membership, including a subscription to Legion Magazine and access to the Member Benefit programs. Our Veteran Welcome Program, available to all Veterans who have not yet joined the Legion, is a great way to get to know the organization. [READ MORE](#)

[Soldiers now testing robot snakes, electric combat scooters and thermal-masking blankets](#)

Army Times

In the hills and woodlands of western Georgia, soldiers in squad to company-sized teams are running mock battles, testing out the latest, greatest and weirdest tactical-level gear that the Army hopes will give them the edge in a rapid, complex, fight of the future. The Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiments this year focused on six categories: Lethality, mission command, mobility, survivability, sustainment, team and soldier performance. [READ MORE](#)

[Dévoilement de la composition de l'Équipe Canada pour les Jeux Invictus 2020](#)

45e Nord

À l'hôtel de ville d'Ottawa ont été dévoilés les noms 32 membres actifs et vétérans des Forces armées canadiennes officiellement sélectionnés pour faire partie de l'Équipe Canada lors des Jeux Invictus 2020 de La Haye. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[After fixes to hydraulics, U.S. Army gears up for second stab at test of new assault bridge](#)

Defense News

The U.S. Army is gearing up for a second try at an initial operational test for its new Joint Assault Bridge, or JAB, in June after struggling through its first attempt in April 2019 due to issues related to the hydraulic system and training. A report released this month from the Pentagon's chief weapons tester revealed the JAB, during its first initial operational test and evaluation held at Fort Bliss, TX, experienced poor system reliability and limited availability. [READ MORE](#)

[L'armée ne veut pas de Huawei pour le 5G](#)

Le Journal de Montréal

Les militaires canadiens ne veulent pas qu'Ottawa permette à l'entreprise de télécommunication chinoise Huawei de déployer son réseau 5G au pays, a rapporté le «Globe and Mail», lundi. Le chef de l'État-Major des Forces armées canadiennes Jonathan Vance est parmi ceux qui estiment que cette compagnie pose un risque pour la sécurité nationale en raison de la possible intrusion du gouvernement communiste chinois. [LIRE PLUS](#)

[Nod of approval for Bailey bridges from Public Works Minister](#)

defenceWeb

Public Works and Infrastructure minister Patricia de Lille is an enthusiastic proponent of Bailey bridges

to the extent she has committed to the installation of eight of the bridges in Eastern Cape in the 2020/21 financial year. De Lille made the announcement earlier this month when handing the newly built Nkobongo bridge to the Eastern Cape provincial government. [READ MORE](#)

Secret Nazi World War II bunkers discovered near D-Day beaches

Fox News

Researchers have uncovered secret Nazi bunkers in Normandy that were used against U.S. forces at the D-Day landings during World War II. The discovery was featured in the season premiere of Expedition Unknown, which airs on Discovery Channel. [READ MORE](#)