

Media Report 19 Feb2021

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.

[Active COVID-19 cases: 33,151 | Recovered: 778,700 | Deceased: 21,420 | Total: 833,346](#)

- The 30th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War is fast approaching! / Le 30e anniversaire de la fin de la guerre du Golfe approche rapidement

Hello / Bonjour,

- Happy 2021 to the Veterans' Week Communications Partner Group! We wanted to reach out as we are preparing to mark the 30th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War (February 2021). More than 4,000 Canadians served in the Persian Gulf region in 1990-1991 as part of the coalition that fought to remove the invading forces of Iraq from neighboring Kuwait.

We created a one-stop-shop to mark this important anniversary – be sure to check out our [web page](#) that will soon be populated with a variety of stories, shareable graphics and images all related to Canada's contributions to the Gulf War. For the time being, we have attached a variety of shareable images. I have also attached our current digital plan, which will provide a glimpse into the activities and initiatives we will be sharing on our channels (our comprehensive social media plan will follow shortly).

If you require a copy of the digital plan in French, please do not hesitate to reach out. We encourage you to keep an eye on our channels and share our content over the commemorative period.

We want to hear from you!

Are you and your organization also planning to mark this special anniversary? If you have specific activities planned for the 30th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War, please reach out to myself and Ryan Curley (CC'd on this email). We'd love to hear from you!

If you have any questions about our plans for the 30th anniversary of the

end of the Gulf War, do not hesitate to reach out!

Bonne année 2021 aux membres du Groupe des partenaires des communications de la Semaine des vétérans! Nous voulions communiquer avec vous parce que nous nous préparons à souligner le 30e anniversaire de la fin de la guerre du Golfe (février 2021). Plus de 4 000 Canadiens ont servi dans la région du golfe Persique en 1990-1991 au sein de la coalition de nations qui devait se battre pour retirer les forces d'invasion de l'Irak du pays voisin, le Koweït.

Nous avons créé un guichet unique pour souligner cet anniversaire important. Assurez-vous de consulter notre [page Web](#), qui présentera bientôt différentes histoires, des graphiques et des images partageables se rapportant aux contributions du Canada à la guerre du Golfe. En attendant, vous y trouverez une variété d'images partageables. Vous trouverez également en pièce jointe notre plan numérique actuel, qui vous fournira un aperçu des activités et des initiatives que nous allons partager sur nos canaux (notre plan complet pour les médias sociaux suivra bientôt).

Si vous avez besoin d'une copie du plan numérique en français, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous. Nous vous encourageons à avoir un œil sur vos canaux et à partager notre contenu pendant la période de commémoration.

Nous voulons avoir de vos nouvelles!

Est-ce que vous et votre organisation prévoyez également de souligner cet anniversaire spécial? Si vous avez prévu des activités spéciales pour le 30e anniversaire de la fin de la guerre du Golfe, communiquez avec moi et avec Ryan Curley (en CC à ce courriel). Nous serions heureux d'avoir de vos nouvelles!

Si vous avez des questions au sujet de nos plans pour le 30e anniversaire de la fin de la guerre du Golfe, n'hésitez pas à nous en faire part!

Thank you / Merci,

Brent Bell

a/ Senior Communications Officer | Agent de communication principal p. i.

Communications Division | Direction générale de communications

Veterans Affairs Canada | Anciens Combattants Canada

Brent.Bell@canada.ca | Tel : (613) 407-5711

Everything you need to know about COVID-19 and your taxes, explained

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/everything-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19-and-your-taxes-explained-1.5314548>

Veterans Emergency Fund

Back by popular demand

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are using the Veterans Emergency Fund to the full extent possible to support Veterans' safety and well-being. Read more about updates to the Emergency Fund during this time in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.

1.

Support you need, when you need it. When the unexpected happens we can get you quick access to funds for urgent needs such as food, shelter or medical expenses.

About this program

The Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF) provides financial support to Veterans, their families or their survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

What is an emergency?

Every situation will be different and unique, which is why applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The emergency fund covers essentials, such as:

- Food
- Clothing
- Rent, mortgage
- Medical care/expenses
- Expenses required to maintain safety and shelter.

As this is only temporary financial relief, we will also work with you to identify your long-term needs. Together, we will look for solutions to improve your financial stability.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for this program if you have an urgent financial need, and are:

- a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- the spouse/common-law partner of the former member;
- a survivor of a deceased CAF member or Veteran; or
- an orphan of a deceased CAF member or Veteran (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

You must be a Canadian resident to receive this grant.

How to apply

Before you apply

We will need as much information as possible about the financial emergency. You can provide such things as: invoices, quotes, notices, or statements to explain the situation.

If this is your first time applying to a Veterans Affairs Canada program we will need [proof of identity](#), for example a drivers licence.

You can expect a decision within one or two business days of submitting your application. If we approve your application, you will receive payment within that time as well.

Apply online

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can submit your application for this benefit online. If you aren't registered, you can [register now](#).

Although you can apply through My VAC Account, we will contact you personally before a decision is made. The application process will not be conducted exclusively online.

[My VAC Account](#)

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.

[Go to form](#)

Get help with your application

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

Additional information

Find out more

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Veterans Emergency Fund.

Find information about [trust and emergency funds](#) to support Veterans in need.

Related programs

[Assistance Fund](#): if you receive the War Veterans Allowance, you may qualify for this cash grant to help in an emergency.

[Canadian Forces Income Support](#): a tax-free monthly benefit to help low-income Veterans, survivors, and dependent children.

Frequently asked questions

Has the VEF changed as a result of COVID-19?

The intent of the fund hasn't changed, however, VAC has responded to the needs of Veterans. In exceptional circumstances, VAC can approve amounts in excess of \$2,500.00 per applicant/family during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the fund provides emergency financial support to Veterans, their families and survivors whose well-being is at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.

I am a Veteran who is facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Is the VEF available to me?

You may be eligible if you are a Canadian resident and a:

- Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF);
- Current spouse/common-law partner of a Veteran;
- Survivor of a deceased Veteran or deceased CAF member; or an

- Orphan of a deceased Veteran or deceased CAF member (or the legal guardian if the orphan is under the age of 18).

We also require that you provide as much information as possible about the emergency need (i.e. quotes, notices, statements, letters, etc.) and that you provide documentation demonstrating the resources that you currently have available. We encourage applicants to apply for other sources of income (e.g. [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#), Employment Insurance) and access opportunities (e.g. mortgage payment deferrals, car payment deferrals) that may be available to them before applying for the VEF. We understand that these benefits or additional options may take some time to take effect. However knowing that you have tried to access other COVID-related supports will help us determine your overall need and VEF eligible expenses.

If the COVID-19 restrictions last for months, can I access the fund multiple times?

Yes, if you qualify, you may access the fund multiple times, up to the maximum amount payable. For COVID-19 situations, you may be able to access up to three months of the requested expense in one payment if it is clear that the financial issues will not be resolved by other means and will be ongoing during this unique period.

Will the method of payment change because of COVID-19?

At this time, there are no changes to the way the VEF is paid. The preferred method of payment is a payment directly to the 3rd party using a VAC credit card. Where a payment by credit card is not possible, payment by priority direct deposit is available. Payment by priority cheque may be possible but may cause a delay in the payment being received.

When can I expect to receive the funds?

Once we receive your completed application and supporting documents, most decisions and payments will be made within one to two business days. Although we have a one to two business day service standard, we will work to address the emergency situation more quickly where it is possible to do so.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Veteran Emergency Fund policies](#).

View all [Veterans Emergency Fund FAQs](#).

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