

Media Report 20 December 2019

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as direction to Support you need, when you need it. VIP services and local Media Articles.

Merry Christmas Wishes for our Soldiers and Veterans

“Keeping our country’s freedom and integrity is a tough job. Our family wishes you a joyous and festive Christmas.”

“To keep you warm and safe this holiday season, we pray that Christmas will bring a moment of peace and hope not just for our country, but for the entire world. Thank you and Merry Christmas!”

“My family’s thoughts and prayers are with you this Christmas Season. We are eternally grateful for your courage and commitment.”

Mr Randy Stowell,CD

National President of NATO VETERANS of Canada organization

Veterans Independence Program, VIP

Could home care services help you remain independent in your own home? The Veterans Independence Program provides annual funding to help cover the cost for these services.

About this program

The Veterans Independence Program provides funding for services such as grounds maintenance, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, and professional health and support services.

This program does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it is intended to work with those programs to help meet your needs.

Note: If you think you may have a need for these services, be sure to complete the Veterans Independence Program application at the same time as your Pain and Suffering Compensation application. If approved, this will allow you to access support at the earliest possible date.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Veterans Independence Program if you need home care

services and you:

- have qualified for a disability benefit, or
- have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance, or
- receive Prisoner of War Compensation, or
- are eligible for, but can't access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed) in a long term care facility.

How to apply

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](#).

Mail or in person

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

Get help with your application

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

Additional information

Find out more

Services covered by VIP funding include:

- Grounds maintenance (can include snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.)
- Housekeeping (can include laundry, meal preparation, errands, etc.)
- Nutrition (e.g. meal delivery services)
- Professional healthcare and support (assessments, diagnostics, etc.)
- Personal care
- Ambulatory healthcare (assessments, diagnostics, activities and transportation to these services)
- Transportation (transportation to activities or services)
- Long term care (residential, intermediate or chronic care), and
- Home adaptations are a one-time only benefit to your principal residence that allow you to carry out everyday activities. This grant can only be provided a second time if the Veteran changes their principal residence.

See this chart for the [maximum rates payable](#) for these services.

[Healthcare service providers](#) - Learn more about providing VIP services and how to become a registered provider.

Related programs

[Disability Benefit](#): Compensation to recognize that your injury or illness is a result of your military service.

[War Veterans Allowance](#): Monthly payments if you have a low household income.

[Prisoner of War Compensation](#): Monthly compensation if you were taken prisoner or detained by enemy forces.

[Attendance Allowance](#): Monthly payments if your health needs require personal care support.

[Veterans Independence Program for survivors](#): As a surviving spouse, you may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

[Veterans Independence Program for primary caregiver](#): You may qualify for help to remain independent in your home.

Frequently asked questions

What is the fastest way to apply for VIP services?

The fastest way to apply is by using [My VAC Account](#).

I am currently living outside of Canada, can I still receive my VIP benefits?

Unfortunately, Veterans Independence Program payments can only be provided to you when you are residing in Canada.

Can I choose any provider of services?

You may obtain services from the provider of your choice.

How is my housekeeping/grounds maintenance grant calculated?

The housekeeping and grounds maintenance grants are calculated based on your level of need and the going rate for these services in your area, up to [allowable maximum amount](#). These rates are determined by a review of costs for these services across the country, including the labour market index. This national rate table shows the [going rates payable by geographic area](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Read the [Veterans Independence Program policies](#).

The pipes has returned to Almonte, Mississippi Mills and Lanark

County! Formed a short 6 months ago, the Almonte Legion Pipe Band

The skirl of the pipes has returned to Almonte, Mississippi Mills and Lanark County! Formed a short 6 months ago, the Almonte Legion Pipe Band has already participated in multiple parades especially around Remembrance Day where we participated in eight separate parades as well as a fundraising Tattoo and a Battle of the Atlantic parade which is a testament to the dedication and keen practice of the band members. Starting a Pipe Band from scratch is challenging mission and sponsorship is key to our success.

Under the direction of Pipe Major Jenny Putinski, and the leadership of Band Manager Neil MacLeod, 19 intermediate and senior pipers, 10 novice pipers still on their chanters, 6 intermediate and senior drummers, and 10 novice drummers still on their practice pads have been meeting weekly at the Almonte Legion Branch 240 to learn, practice, and improve.

This is a fun community band, focused on teaching, mentoring, and community participation, and welcomes players of all ages and abilities. Currently, the youngest member is 8, and the oldest is 80, and they are both novice players! We have lots of families learning and playing together, and pipers and drummers coming from near and far in Lanark, Renfrew and Leeds-Grenville Counties as well as Ottawa. Our key objective is to engage the senior members of our band to mentor the youth within our community passing on the skills of piping and drumming and the cultural traditions of Ottawa Valley to our future leaders.

. The bridge that defeated Hitler: The legacy of the Bailey Bridge

The Boss Magazine

Winston Churchill once famously remarked that “never was so much owed by so many to so few.” He was, of course, talking about the pilots of the Royal Air Force and their recent triumph in the Battle of Britain, but he could just have easily have been referring to a set of steel beams and cantilevers instead. [READ MORE](#)

. The battle to save the Canadian Forces' army reserve

Toronto Sun

The average Canadian might ask why the Canadian Forces' army reserve needs a bunch of retired reservists, honorary colonels and influential civilians banding together to advocate on its behalf. Surely, the militia's outstanding record and stellar accomplishments speak for themselves. Surely, the militia will be well looked after by the federal government and, particularly, the Department of National Defence. [READ MORE](#)

Remembering the Canadian soldiers lost in Southern France during the First World War

CMEA

On Oct. 5, 2019, a small group of Canadians set out to remember lumberjacks who were sent overseas as part of the Canadian Engineers to cut wood in France to support the war effort. The Colonel Commandant, BGen Steve Irwin and the Branch Chief Warrant Officer, CWO Glenn Simpkin set out on a remembrance journey with Cadet CWO Marris and Capt Forget from 1573 Bassin-de-la-Lièvre Cadet Corps affiliated to the Mapping and Charting Establishment. [READ MORE](#)

World War III: The secret underground nuclear bunkers hiding below forest revealed

Express.co.uk

Known to the British and U.S. spies as “Object 1180” these two structures were built in 1985 — at the height of the Cold War. As the threat of a nuclear strike from either side seemed more than likely, high-ranking officers needed somewhere to orchestrate their retaliation and prepare for a second strike. As a result, the cylinders were built with thick walls to withstand a direct nuclear hit and an entire city was concealed below with shops, hospitals and a vast amount of supplies to provide the generals with everything they needed. [READ MORE](#)

Retired CME Officer reaches Everest Base Camp

Authored by: Ed Batchelor, Major (Retired), Canadian Military Engineer

As a former Army Military Engineer Officer, there never seemed to be a lack of physical challenges to keep oneself fit, sharp and operationally focused on the mission at hand. However, once out of uniform, without having a baseline requirement to maintain a stated level of fitness and without programs and facilities readily available, it becomes more of a personal challenge to remain active as one approaches full retirement. At the age of 60, I have always been up for a physical challenge, but with so many to choose from, how do you decide which one, and more importantly, formulate a plan to take the desire from idea to reality? After having successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in July 2017, it was clear to me that my next adventure would be to travel to Nepal to undertake a 10-day trekking adventure up to the Everest Base Camp (EBC). [READ MORE](#)

The Afghanistan war vet who could take down a Liberal heavyweight

Maclean's

On a freezing night in 2006, Capt. Kimberly Fawcett, on the verge of being deployed to Afghanistan, lost her nine-month-old son and her right leg in a horrific highway collision. She spent the subsequent 13 years trying to get the military to pay for her \$30,000 prosthetic leg, arguing with Veterans Affairs Canada and any court that would hear her case. This past April, she officially lost the court battle. CMEA Note: Fawcett joined the army as a combat engineer in 1996 after graduating from the University of Manitoba. She later transferred to the air force and worked as an air movement officer, including on an early deployment during the war in Afghanistan in 2002. [READ MORE](#)

Mapping the Battle of Normandy

CMEA

This summer, the Canadian Research and Mapping Association (CRMA) will launch a massive initiative to help commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy. The CMEA received the letter below along with some sample images from their work. One of the most important aspects of their effort is telling the too often overlooked Sapper story. [READ MORE](#)

Ex-Combat Engineer applies Army skills to Parliament's Centre Block rehabilitation

Canadian Army

A former Canadian Army (CA) member says the military experience was ideal preparation for his current work as a project manager on the rehabilitation of Parliament Hill's Centre Block. Second Lieutenant (Retired) Yueshuang Zhu served with the CA as a Combat Engineer for five years, beginning in 2012, and spent two years at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown with the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering (CFSME). [READ MORE](#)