

Media Report 21 May 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

Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada

[Active COVID-19 cases: 61,066 | Recovered: 1,258,477 | Deceased: 25,093 | Total: 1,344,788](#)

WORLD

COVID Live Update: 163,254,325 Cases and 3,385,526 Deaths ...

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>

Government announced that his tour of duty as the Deputy Minister Retired MGEN Walt Natynczyk of Veterans Affairs Canada is coming to a close.

To all Veterans, Families, Associations and Stakeholders,

Today, Government announced that my tour of duty as the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada is coming to a close. My last day with the Department will be 24 May, when I will hang-up my spurs...again!

Over these past six and a half years, it has been a privilege to continue to serve those who served our nation. It was humbling to honour our fallen comrades and I was proud to make every effort to assist those in need.

All of us who wore the uniform of the CAF and RCMP made a choice to sign-up and each of us had a unique experience in uniform. There were good times and there were tough times. Tragically, some of our comrades in arms made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada. Some amongst us were wounded, some became ill or injured.

For some folks, the support from Veterans Affairs made a positive difference on the road to recovery and well-being. In other cases, the great staff at VAC will continue to provide support that reflects Care, Compassion and Respect. Our VAC employees are dedicated to their mission to support all of our Veterans and their families. Almost all have a link to a Veteran in their personal life and many are Veterans themselves. While they have a huge amount of empathy, some need to use all the tools at their disposal to gently nudge us on the road to wellness.

Thank you for your service in the Veterans' community, for your enduring leadership, generosity and support to those in need. I have appreciated your insights, your determination to make a difference and your understanding. A small request: just as we learned on Basic Training, please continue to work together as a tight-knit team towards a common good for our Veterans.

It's been great to serve with you again! May you be blessed with health and safety.

Respectfully,

Walt Natynczyk

Veterans Emergency Fund

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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](#).

Welcome to the member transition task list

This self-guided tool will help you keep track of the tasks you choose to complete to support your transition to life after service. The tool has been developed using the seven [domains of well-being](#), a concept based on a holistic understanding of human needs and capacities.

Suggested timelines have been included to help guide you through the transition process. If you have less than 12 months prior to your release, it is recommended that you begin completing tasks identified as "mandatory tasks and/or key". If, at any time, you are feeling overwhelmed or need help, please contact your local [CAF Transition Centre](#) and/or [Veteran Affairs Canada](#).

Use the following features to begin creating your personalized member transition task list:

Filter and sort

Filters have been added to help you sort or group different tasks together. Select one or multiple filters to narrow down your list further. For example, select 'mandatory' and 'medical' to see which medical tasks are mandatory.

Identify important tasks

Star a task to indicate its importance and then apply the 'starred' filter to display only these tasks.

Mark as not applicable

Not all tasks will be relevant to you. In this case, you can check off the "This task is not applicable to me" option to organize & personalize your task list.

Check off completed tasks

To mark a task in the task list as complete, click the check-mark to the left of the task.

Save & track your progress

The task list saves your file automatically every few seconds as you work. Check your progress whenever you like.

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