

Media Report 03 Sept 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

Legion Letter

27 August 2021 File: 29-1 Dear Member of Parliament: On behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion (the Legion) I am sharing our 2021 "It's our duty" position paper. This paper outlines our organization's advocacy agenda and includes recommendations for government leaders of all parties. These are the issues we know are essential to the well-being of our Veterans and their families and must be considered seriously. We develop and update our advocacy positions annually, based on feedback from our members, our experiences working with Veterans and partners across the country, and progress on the mandates presented to Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence. We are appreciative of government efforts already underway, but we must all strive to do more. Some items have seen no tangible progress for years, which is unacceptable. Among other priorities, we need to see: • Immediate tackling of the backlog of disability applications; • culture change within the CAF related to reporting and handling of sexual misconduct; • a sharper focus on homelessness including a pan-Canadian strategy to combat Veteran homelessness; • widespread improvements to the long-term care system. Our position paper provides a brief outline of specific target areas, and we look forward to working with all elected representatives to improve life for our Veterans and their families. We will continue to closely monitor progress and share feedback. Canada now has sufficient background and evidence-based input from support organizations to improve things dramatically – right now. We ask for fewer reports and meetings to rehash the same problems and concepts, and we need to see immediate action! After reading the following information you may forward any questions or

comments to me via: bjulian@legion.ca Sincerely, Bruce Julian Dominion
President

Reopening of the NDHQ WO&SGTs' / C&POs' Mess -- réouverture du mess
des Adjs et Sgts / PM et M du QGDN

•Greetings Mess Members,

The Mess Committee is excited to inform you that the Commandant of CFSG (O-G) has authorized the reopening of our Mess. This is fantastic news that many have been waiting for.

Although we have been given the authorization to open, we cannot provide the official reopening date as of yet. It will take several weeks until we can reopen as there are many steps that have to happen before we welcome members back into the Mess. A few examples of these steps are:

- Staff will need to be recalled and their e-mails will need to be reactivated, training and recertification must take place and new contracts put in place (note that Mess Manager/Staff and HR Manager/HR staff may have scheduled vacation which could delay this step);
- There will have to be a complete stock taking and ordering of food and alcohol;
- The Mess will need to be cleaned and health and safety inspections have to be conducted; and
- A new budget and events calendar will have to be created and approved.

Ontario is currently in Phase 3 with Covid-19 restrictions and these restrictions will need to be considered/respected when planning events and building capacity. Once we are reopened, we will begin to host events again (DWD, wedding, meeting, etc.). As we move forward with each step, the Mess Committee will communicate with you to ensure you are kept informed.

The Mess Committee has allocated funds for a grand reopening party. If you have recommendations for the party, please send to our Entertainment Representative, Sgt Robert Smith at Robert.Smith8@forces.gc.ca.

If you have any questions/concerns regarding the reopening plans, please contact me at andy.hewett@forces.gc.ca.

On behalf of the Mess Committee and office staff, we look forward to welcoming you back physically to the Mess.

Salutations aux membres du Mess,

Le Comité du Mess est heureux de vous informer que le Commandant du GSFC (O-G) a autorisé la réouverture de notre Mess. C'est une nouvelle fantastique que beaucoup attendaient.

Bien que nous ayons reçu l'autorisation d'ouvrir, nous ne pouvons pas encore fournir la date officielle de réouverture. Il faudra plusieurs semaines avant la réouverture car de nombreuses étapes doivent être franchies avant que nous puissions accueillir les membres à nouveau dans le Mess. Voici quelques exemples de ces étapes :

- Le personnel devra être rappelé et ses e-mails devront être réactivés, une formation et une recertification devront avoir lieu et de nouveaux contrats devront être mis en place (notez que le directeur/le personnel du mess et le directeur des RH/le personnel des RH peuvent avoir des vacances prévues, ce qui peut retarder cette étape) ;
- Il faudra faire un inventaire complet et commander de la nourriture et de l'alcool ;
- Le Mess devra être nettoyé et des inspections de santé et de sécurité devront être effectuées ; et
- Un nouveau budget et un nouveau calendrier d'événements devront être créés et approuvés.

L'Ontario est actuellement dans la phase 3 avec les restrictions Covid-19 et ces restrictions devront être prises en compte/respectées lors de la planification des événements et du renforcement des capacités. À mesure que nous avancerons dans chaque étape, le comité du mess communiquera avec vous pour s'assurer que vous êtes tenus informés. Une fois que nous serons rouverts, nous commencerons à accueillir à nouveau des événements (DWD, mariage, réunion, etc.).

Le comité du mess a alloué des fonds pour une grande fête de réouverture. Si vous avez des recommandations pour la fête, veuillez les envoyer à notre représentant du divertissement, le Sgt Robert Smith, à Robert.Smith8@forces.gc.ca.

Si vous avez des questions/préoccupations concernant le plan de réouverture, veuillez me contacter à andy.hewett@forces.gc.ca.

Au nom du comité du mess et du personnel de bureau, nous sommes impatients de vous accueillir de nouveau physiquement au mess.

Respectfully / avec respect,

CPO 2 / pm 2 Andy K.R. Hewlett, MMM, CD

President of the Mess Committee (PMC), [NDHQ WO & Sgts' / C & POs' Mess](#)

Canadian Armed Forces

andy.hewlett@forces.gc.ca/819-360-7423 (iPhone)

Président du comité du mess (PCM), [Mess des Adjs et Sgts / PM & M du QGDN](#)

Forces armées canadiennes

andy.hewlett@forces.gc.ca/819-360-7423(iPhone)

Join our Facebook group : [NDHQ WOs' & Sgts' / C & PSs' Mess Facebook group](#)

Visit our Share Point: [NDHQ WOs' & Sgts' / C&POs' Mess – Home \(mil.ca\)](#)

Visit our CAF Connection page: [NDHQ Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess \(cafconnection.ca\)](#)

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• [Veterans' Issues and the Upcoming Federal Election](#)

Hoping you have had an enjoyable summer during these challenging times!

With respect to the current federal election campaign, I am taking the liberty of attaching the NCVA position paper which calls for:

2.the adoption of bold and creative measures to accelerate the establishment of fast-tracking protocols and automatic entitlements for outstanding veterans' claims in order to alleviate the intolerable backlog and wait time crisis, which has only been compounded by Covid-19; and

3.the establishment of a comprehensive program model that would essentially treat all veterans with parallel disabilities in the same manner as to the application of benefits and wellness policies through a "one veteran – one standard" approach.

There is no question that Canadian veterans and their families will be closely monitoring all federal leaders to determine which party is prepared

to make a substantial commitment to rectifying the shortfalls and inequities which continue to be found in veterans' legislation.

We have underlined the fact that there are almost 700,000 veterans in Canada today and, when family, friends and supporters are considered, this number of potential voters is not without significance. The basic question remains: which federal party will stand up for veterans in this election campaign and finally address the discrimination and injustice which remains in relation to veterans' pension and benefits (the "elephant in the room")?

All the best,

Brian

Veterans and Benefits

®Veterans have access to more benefits than they think. 400,000 Living Veterans By Region 300.000 630K 200,000 Service Veterans 100.000 Armed Living Veterans in Canada Atlantic Central Prairies Western Foreign countries 19% VIP (Veterans Independence Program) Some VIP treatment benefits include: independent Veterans served by VA (..s Affairs yearly remain self-sufficient community. Prosthetic Devices needs, (VAC) financial obtain wide range of services Prescription Dr 26% Home Health Care Veterans Personal 65+ Veterans age 65 eligible receive benefits VIP aids disabilities needs assistive devices You may be eligible more benefits than you think." src="

Careers in the federal public service

As a Veteran of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), you bring exceptional abilities and expertise to the workplace. Along with your commitment to teamwork and your leadership skills, you can make a real difference while continuing to serve Canada.

Veterans Affairs Canada is eager to help you continue to serve your country in the federal public service.

[Before you start](#)

Information for members and Veterans who want to apply for jobs in the federal public service.

[Searching for jobs](#)

How to find available jobs in the public service.

[How to read a job advertisement](#)

Understanding the terms found on a typical federal public service job advertisement.

[Preparing your application](#)

Information to help you develop your cover letter and resume.

[After you apply](#)

Information about how applicants are assessed.

[FAQs](#)

Answers to some of the most common questions about starting a career in the federal public service.

Education and Training Benefit

1.

Thinking of going back to school after your career in the military? Get financial help to go to college, university, technical school, or a short-term program.

About this program

If your studies have been affected by COVID-19 or you are thinking of applying for the Education and Training Benefit, there is [important information](#) you need to know.

Getting additional training, a certification, a degree or a diploma can help you be more competitive in the workforce; setting you apart from other applicants. Whether you are continuing a learning program or just starting out, the Education and Training Benefit can help finance the education you need to reach your career goals.

The Education and Training Benefit is not limited to formal post-secondary training. A smaller amount of funding is also available for short courses, such as those aimed at career and personal development. This can include business boot camps, workshops and seminars.

The Education and Training Benefit is a taxable benefit.

Do you qualify?

You should apply for the Education and Training Benefit if:

- you were honourably released from the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve Force) on or after April 1, 2006, or are a member of the Supplementary Reserve and;
- you meet the "length of service" requirement:
 - at least 12 years of authorized days of CAF Service (4382 days) to receive up to \$84,311.24 (2021) or
 - at least 6 years of authorized days of CAF service (2191 days) to receive up to \$42,155.62 (2021).

1) You have up to 10 years following your release date to receive this funding. If you released from the Canadian Armed Forces between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2018, you have until 1 April 2028 to receive the funding.

Members of the Supplementary Reserve who honourably released between 1 April 2018 and 4 July 2019 have 10 years from date of release to receive funding.

Members who honourably released on 5 July 2019 have until 5 July 2029, and those who transferred in after 5 July 2019 have 10 years from the date of last transfer.

Please note: You cannot receive this funding while you are participating in VAC's [Rehabilitation and Vocational Assistance program](#), or if you are receiving the [Canadian Forces Income Support](#).

How to apply

Before you apply

If you're not sure what education to pursue, consider applying for [Career Transition Services](#) first. This program will give you access to a trained career coach. They will work with you to help you find your best educational or training path.

Apply online

Apply online through My VAC Account. Applying is easier with a guided form. Sign in or register for My VAC Account.

[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

After you apply, you can expect a decision on your eligibility for the Education and Training Benefit within four weeks.

Find out more

[Watch this video](#) for a quick overview of the Education and Training Benefit.

Build your education plan

If you are approved for funding, you will then submit your education and training plan. The first step is to think about your options. Here are some things to consider:

- Are you interested in pursuing a university degree? A trade school? A few workshops?
- How many years does it usually take to complete the program?
- Will you need to work while going to school?
- Do you have other commitments which might limit the time you can dedicate to your studies?

Your answers to these and other questions will help you build your plan. It can be a lot to think about. Fortunately, most Veterans who qualify for this benefit are also eligible for VAC's [Career Transition Services](#), which can provide one-on-one help to:

- Choose the field of study that is right for you,
- plan your studies to suit your circumstances,
- complete your forms, and
- support your search for a job when you have completed your courses.

We need to receive your completed plan in advance of your course or period of study (e.g. semester) before we can send you any funds. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide retroactive payments.

Submit your education plan

If you use [Career Transition Services](#), your career coach will help you submit your plan. If you are doing this on your own, there are two application forms to choose from – one for a formal program and one for a short course. You can submit your plan through [My VAC Account](#) or you can download the plan and mail it to us.

Formal program

The [formal program plan](#) requires information such as number of courses, cost of the program and start/end dates. This helps us calculate your payment plan to ensure you have enough funding for the duration of your program. If we need more information from you, we will contact you. Once your plan is approved, you will receive a letter detailing the total amount you will receive and your payment schedule.

Short course

You should fill out the [short course plan](#) when the course you want is short term and will not result in a college or university certificate, diploma or degree. For example:

- small business/entrepreneurial boot camps,
- continuing education,
- workshops,
- certification or professional designations, or
- other professional development.

Monitor your progress

When you finish a period of study (e.g. semester), you will complete and submit the [Education and Training Benefit – Monitoring Form \(VAC 1550\)](#). This form is required before we can send the next payment in your schedule. When you submit the monitoring form, you will also need to include:

- Proof of completion of the recently finished period of study (e.g. transcript), and
- Proof of enrollment in the upcoming period of study (e.g. confirmation of registration).

To ensure that these documents reach VAC quickly, we recommend uploading the monitoring form through [My VAC Account](#). Once VAC receives your completed form, your next payment will be issued.

Note: We can only issue payments within 60 days of the start of your study period.

The graduate bonus

After you complete your plan and achieve your diploma, degree or certification, you can apply for the "completion bonus." All you need to do is submit the [Education and Training Benefit – Completion Bonus \(VAC 1572\)](#), along with proof of your achievement, and you will receive an additional \$1,000.

The [Education and Training Benefit – Applicant Guide](#)(PDF) also covers all of the above steps from applying to this program through to your graduation.

Related programs

[Career Transition Services](#)- Access to a career counselor for Veterans who want to find a new job.

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

[Transition Interview](#)- Before you release, a meeting to provide information on VAC programs and services available to you and your family.

Information for education and training institutions

Veterans of the CAF have gained world-class skills and experience throughout their military careers that can translate very well into the classroom and workforce. The Education and Training Benefit will give many of these Veterans the opportunity and funding to participate in post-secondary education and other career development training programs.

Want more information? Find out how the Education and Training Benefit can [help you recruit students](#) from the Veteran community.

Frequently asked questions

If I apply for the benefit and get declined, can I appeal?

Yes. If you are not satisfied with a decision you may apply in writing for a review. Learn more about your [review and appeal options](#).

How do I change or amend my plan?

After your ETB plan has been approved, circumstances may arise that may make you want to change your plan. For example, the course load is too heavy, or you have experienced a disruption in your personal life. If you want to make a change to your education plan, you must advise VAC immediately by completing and submitting the [Education and Training Benefit – Plan Amendment \(VAC 1573\)](#). We will evaluate your updated plan, and if approved, will recalculate your payment schedule for the remaining periods of study.

I am a Reservist. Do I qualify for the Education and Training Benefit?

Yes, as of 5 July 2019, members of the Supplementary Reserve are eligible for the Education and Training Benefit. Serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces or Reserves) are not eligible for the Education and Training Benefit, except for members of the Supplementary Reserve. Also, the Education and Training Benefit is available to Veterans who honourably released on or after 1 April 2006, or members of the Supplementary Reserve and have completed a minimum of six years (2191 paid days) of CAF service. The calculation of service includes Regular or Reserve Force service, or a combination of both. The calculation is completed through DND pension services.

To find out your total paid days of military service, please contact the Government of Canada Pension Centre—Canadian Armed Forces Pensions. The Pension Centre can be reached at:

Toll free:1-800-267-0325

Outside Canada and the United States

613-946-1093

(collect calls accepted)

Online or by email

Email:pensioncentrefac.centredespensionsfac@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca.

Do family members qualify for the Education and Training Benefit?

No. This benefit is for Veterans only. But there are other options for family members. Survivors, spouses and common-law partners may be able to access [vocational assistance](#) if the Veteran is ill or injured and unable to participate in vocational rehabilitation. Also, the [Education Assistance Program](#) supports children of certain deceased Veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Education and Training Benefit policies](#).

View all [Education and Training Benefit FAQs](#).

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THESE CF NEWSPAPERS

Base/Wing — Newspaper

14 Wing Greenwood — The Aurora	17 Wing Winnipeg — The Voxair
22 Wing North Bay — The Shield	CFB Halifax — The Trident
4 Wing Cold Lake — The Courier	CFB Edmonton — The Western Sentinel
CFB Esquimalt — The Lookout	CFB Valcartier — The Adsum
CFSU Ottawa — The Guard	CFB Kingston — Garrison News
CFB Shilo — The Shilo Stag	CFB St Jean — The Servir
19 Wing Comox — The Totem Times	3 Wing Bagotville — The Vortex
8 Wing Trenton — The Contact	CFB Borden — The Citizen
CFB Petawawa — The Petawawa Post	

IN THE NEWS

[Call for applications — CMEA Bursary Program for 2021](#)

[1 ESU receives unit commendation](#)

[Statement on the 2021 federal election](#)

[La Conférence des associations de la défense invite les partis fédéraux à s'expliquer sur les enjeux de sécurité et de défense](#)

[Letter: "My son died in Afghanistan, he did not 'fall by the wayside'"](#)

[Canadian Forces to remain in Kabul after Aug. 31 deadline if security permits, says Trudeau](#)

[Des militaires canadiens pourraient rester en Afghanistan après le 31 août, selon Trudeau](#)

[New leadership at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering](#)

[See B.C. in all its 3D glory as giant Challenger Relief Map returns to PNE after 23 years](#)

[Le major-général Fortin formellement accusé d'agression sexuelle](#)

[Finally, the soldier he wanted to be](#)