

## Media report 04 Dec 2020

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.

NDHQ WSM Santa's Corner – 1 December to 11 December 2020 / Le coin lecture du Pere Noel du Mess des Adj's & Sgt's QGDN – 1 décembre au 11 décembre 2020

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/api/mail/image001.jpg?action=attachment&folder=default0%2FINBOX&id=110731&attachment=2&delivery=view&delivery=view>

Vaccine distribution in Canada has military involved

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/former-nato-commander-to-lead-canada-s-vaccine-distribution-rollout-1.5207122>

## COVID-19 information and assistance for Veterans

VAC offices are not open to the public due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

You can continue to connect with us through [My VAC Account secure messaging](#) or by calling 1-866-522-2122.

To speak to a mental health professional now, please [call the VAC Assistance Service](#):

1-800-268-7708

1-800-567-5803(TTD/TTY)

If you are experiencing an urgent financial need, [emergency funding](#) may be available. Call 1-866-522-2122.

## [Infographic – Serving Veterans during COVID-19](#)

### Questions and Answers

- What's the best way to reach VAC right now?

At this time, client and visitor access to our area offices is suspended until further notice. You can continue to connect with us:

- through [My VAC Account secure messaging](#); or
- by calling us at 1-866-522-2122. We are maintaining a strong capacity to support Veterans over the phone because we recognize that stable internet connections can sometimes be difficult.

Ultimately, we encourage you to stay home and follow the directions of local health authorities. Our staff are available, working remotely and prioritizing getting benefits to Veterans and their families.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

- Are you still processing applications?

Our staff are available, working remotely and prioritizing getting benefits to Veterans and their families.

Our teams continue to make decisions on treatment and benefits and issue payments to Veterans. Since March 17, we have increased the number of employees able to work from home who adjudicate, process and pay disability claims. We are making as many decisions as possible and quickly issuing payments to Veterans.

- I am unable to obtain the documentation requested for my disability benefits application. What happens now?

We understand that, in the current situation, it may be more difficult to collect the documentation you need for your application, especially if you do not have regular access to your health practitioner. We want to assure you that your date of application is protected, even if you are unable to submit medical (or other) information to support your claim until later. If your claim is approved, you will be paid back to this date. It is important to remember, Pain & Suffering Compensation decisions and effective dates cannot predate April 1, 2019.

What this means for your application:

- If the information we requested from you will be delayed:
- you do not need to request an extension from the Department,
- your claim may be placed on hold in the interim, and
- we will continue processing your application once the required documentation has been received.

When available, the required information may be sent to us in one of the following ways:

- upload through My VAC Account, or
- by mail at:  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
PO Box 6000  
Matane QC  
G4W 0E4

- What mental health resources are available to me during this uncertain time?

The [VAC Assistance Service](#) is a free, 24/7 mental health resource that connects you to psychological support and counselling. You do not have to be receiving VAC benefits to use this service. Call 1-800-268-7708 to speak to a mental health professional right now.

If you have an Operational Stress Injury (OSI), [OSI clinics](#) have started offering tele-health services to Veterans.

- In person Service Canada offices are closed to the public. How can I apply for VAC benefits and services?

If you would like to apply for VAC benefits and services or need assistance completing your application, please call us at 1-866-522-2122 or message us online through [My VAC Account Secure Messaging](#). However, if your inquiry is not urgent, we ask that you consider contacting us at a later time, so we can focus on the most urgent needs.

If you need more information on changes to Employment Insurance and the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit, please see [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response plan](#).

- I am struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Can VAC assist me?

If you are struggling to meet your needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact us. We will work with you to find ways to best support you and your family.

- Call us at 1-866-522-2122.
- [My VAC Account secure messaging](#).
- [Government of Canada financial programs for Canadians](#) in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- What is VAC doing to inform Veterans?

- [Stay connected](#) through social media

- [My VAC Account](#) notices and direct messages to clients
- Call us at 1-866-522-2122

Read more:

For Government of Canada updates visit [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#).

- [COVID-19: Travel advice](#)
  - [Travellers returning to Canada](#)
  - [How to isolate at home when you have COVID-19](#)
- Will I still receive my medications and prescriptions through VAC's federal licensed sellers?

Please contact your federal licensed seller of cannabis to find out current operating policies as these companies operate separately from retail cannabis stores.

If your federal licensed seller is out of cannabis for medical purposes, you may now transfer your medical authorization document from one federal licensed seller to another without getting a new medical authorization document from your health care practitioner, as long as it is still valid. Your new federal licensed seller will contact Medavie Blue Cross to get authorization for direct billing.

#### [List of federal licensed sellers](#)

Please note federal licensed sellers are privately-owned enterprises, Veterans Affairs Canada does not have control over cannabis supplies. Health Canada regulates federal licensed sellers. You may contact Health Canada at [cannabis@canada.ca](mailto:cannabis@canada.ca) if you have concerns regarding the supply of cannabis available.

- I applied for my Veteran Service Card and haven't received it, why is there a delay?

The Government of Canada is taking precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is temporarily stopping Veteran Service Card production. Production and distribution of the cards will begin as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please visit the [Veteran Service Card](#) for more information.

- Is the Department continuing to accept and conduct Departmental Reviews during COVID?

Yes. We are continuing to accept and conduct Departmental Reviews during COVID. The Bureau of Pensions Advocates also continues to make progress in digitizing Departmental Review claims which will also help improve the time for processing these claims.

- Are you still making Corrective Payments during COVID?

Yes, we are still making corrective payments during the ongoing COVID-19 situation. If between 2003 and 2010, you received a disability pension

or certain related benefits that we administer, you may receive a corrective payment because of a discrepancy in our calculations.

Most payments are automatic, however, please [contact us](#) at 1-866-522-2122 if:

- You no longer receive benefits that we administer, or
- You are the legal representative of the estate of a deceased benefit recipient.

If you are legally entitled to inherit assets from the estate of a deceased recipient, you may apply to receive a corrective payment. You will be able to apply via an [online application form](#), where you can also upload the required supporting documents, or by using a paper application and sending us hard copies of these documents. To apply, you will need to provide certain information and documents, including:

- Deceased's permanent residence at time of death, place and date of death, and other identifiers (Service number or Regimental Number, and VAC File number or K number).
- Deceased's death certificate
- Deceased's will (if they died with a will)
- Release signed by all other persons legally entitled to inherit (or "succeed to") the assets of the deceased (form provided in application)
- Proof of your identity

You may also request an estimate via the [online portal](#), available through our website.

## One-time payment to persons with disabilities

- What is the One-time payment to persons with disabilities?
- How do I know if I qualify for the payment?
- How and when will I receive the payment?
- Who can I contact with questions about the payment?

## Impact of COVID-19 Emergency Benefits on Veterans Affairs Canada Financial Benefits

- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my Income Replacement Benefit payment? Will it count toward the \$20,000 work income?
- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my

- Canadian Forces Income Support payment?
- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my War Veterans Allowance payment?
- If I receive COVID-19 emergency benefits from my Provincial or Territorial government, will those impact any income support benefits I receive from VAC?
- Can VAC tell me if the COVID-19 emergency benefits are taxable and whether they will have any impact on my income tax for 2020?

#### How has Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes been Impacted by COVID-19?

- Will cannabis for medical purposes reimbursement requests continue to be processed?
- What happens if my medical authorization document expires, and I can't see my doctor/nurse practitioner now due to COVID-19? What happens if my medical specialist's supporting letter has expired, or is about to expire, and I can't see them now due to COVID-19?
- What if I'm a new client, and I want to be reimbursed by VAC for more than three grams of cannabis for medical purposes per day?
- Will federal licensed sellers run out of cannabis for medical purposes?
- What about delivery of my products?

#### Education and Training Benefit during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- I can't finish my courses because of COVID-19. Do I have to pay any money back to VAC?
- My school has closed due to COVID-19 and is not offering an alternative way for me to complete my term. What information does Veterans Affairs need so I am not in an overpayment situation?
- My school has granted me an extension to complete my current period of study. Do I have to amend my plan to reflect this extra time?
- My upcoming period of study has been cancelled. Do I need to submit a plan amendment?
- Although my school has found ways to continue courses, I can't finish my studies because of my personal situation (such as being sick, needing to work, currently a caregiver, or for another reason). What should I do and will I have to pay money back?
- My school is now totally on-line, but I do not have the necessary equipment or setup in order to participate. Will VAC pay for a computer or Internet services?
- There is a delay in obtaining documentation from my school to provide

proof of completion for the current period. Will you process my monitoring form without proof of completion?

- Education Resources in Canada

## VAC Assistance Service

The [VAC Assistance Service](#) can provide you with psychological support. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The service is for Veterans, former RCMP members, their families, and caregivers and is provided at no cost. You do not need to be a client of VAC to receive services.

Toll-free: 1-800-268-7708

TDD/TTY: 1-800-567-5803

## My VAC Account

A simple and secure way to do business online with Veterans Affairs Canada.

[Register](#)

[Sign in](#)

## Impact of COVID-19 Emergency Benefits on Veterans Affairs Canada Financial Benefits

- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my Income Replacement Benefit payment? Will it count toward the \$20,000 work income?

If you receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), it will not affect your VAC Income Replacement Benefit Payment. It also won't count against the \$20,000 you can earn before offsetting your Income Replacement Benefit.

- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my Canadian Forces Income Support payment?

No. The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) will not affect the Canadian

Forces Income Support payment you receive from VAC.

- If I receive the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), will it impact my War Veterans Allowance payment?

No. The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) will not affect the War Veterans Allowance payment you receive from VAC.

- If I receive COVID-19 emergency benefits from my Provincial or Territorial government, will those impact any income support benefits I receive from VAC?

No. Any COVID-19 emergency benefits you receive from your provincial or territorial government will not impact the income support benefits you receive from VAC.

- Can VAC tell me if the COVID-19 emergency benefits are taxable and whether they will have any impact on my income tax for 2020?

Unfortunately, VAC is not able to answer questions about how the COVID-19 emergency benefits may impact your income tax status. If you have concerns about how these benefits may impact your tax status, we recommend you contact your financial advisor or the Canada Revenue Agency. For residents of Quebec, you may wish to contact Revenue Quebec.

How has Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes been Impacted by COVID-19?

- Will cannabis for medical purposes reimbursement requests continue to be processed?
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- I can't finish my courses because of COVID-19. Do I have to pay any money back to VAC?
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- need so I am not in an overpayment situation?
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  - My school is now totally on-line, but I do not have the necessary equipment or setup in order to participate. Will VAC pay for a computer or Internet services?
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  - Education Resources in Canada

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TDD/TTY: 1-800-567-5803

## How has Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes been Impacted by COVID-19?

- Will cannabis for medical purposes reimbursement requests continue to be processed?  
Yes. Medavie Blue Cross, which processes cannabis for medical purposes requests on behalf of VAC, is continuing to operate in accordance with provincial health authority guidance.
- What happens if my medical authorization document expires, and I can't

see my doctor/nurse practitioner now due to COVID-19? What happens if my medical specialist's supporting letter has expired, or is about to expire, and I can't see them now due to COVID-19?

If you are having difficulty getting a new medical specialist letter due to the COVID-19 outbreak, please check with your medical specialist as they may still be offering services by phone or telehealth (video appointment). If this is not an option, you may wish to confirm with your federal licensed seller whether they can put you in touch with a medical specialist who offers telehealth appointments.

If you are unable to access a medical specialist by telehealth in order to obtain a new supporting letter, please call Medavie Blue Cross at 1-866-522-2122.

- What if I'm a new client, and I want to be reimbursed by VAC for more than three grams of cannabis for medical purposes per day?

If you do not have a supporting letter from a medical specialist, VAC can only approve reimbursement of three grams per day of cannabis for medical purposes.

If you purchase more than three grams per day from your federal licensed seller, please keep your receipts. If you are approved by VAC for reimbursement of more than three grams per day, we will consider reimbursing any receipts after the effective date of your approval.

- Will federal licensed sellers run out of cannabis for medical purposes?

VAC has contacted a number of federal licensed sellers, and they have indicated that they currently have adequate supplies of cannabis for medical purposes to fulfill customer needs.

- What about delivery of my products?

Currently, most delivery operations are continuing as normal. For any updates on delivery service, please visit the following website(s):

[Canada Post](#)

[FedEx](#)

[Purolator](#)

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- [Rapid Housing Initiative / Initiative rapide pour le logement](#)

(Le français suit)

Good day,

Recently, the Government of Canada launched the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The program includes \$1 billion to address urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians through the rapid construction of affordable housing. The CMHC is accepting applications for capital funding related to the construction of modular housing, the acquisition of land, and/or the rehabilitation of affordable housing units until December 31, 2020. Provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, as well as non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding.

Check out the [Rapid Housing Initiative](#) website to learn more.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca)

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Bonne journée,

Récemment, le gouvernement du Canada a lancé l'Initiative pour la création rapide de logement (ICRL) par l'intermédiaire de la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement (SCHL). Ce programme comprend un milliard de dollars pour répondre aux besoins urgents de logement des Canadiens vulnérables grâce à la construction rapide de logements abordables. La SCHL accepte les demandes de financement d'immobilisations liées à la construction de logements modulaires, à l'acquisition de terrains et/ou à la remise en état d'unités de logement abordables jusqu'au 31 décembre 2020. Les provinces, les territoires, les municipalités, les organismes de gouvernance et les organisations autochtones, ainsi que les organismes sans but lucratif peuvent présenter une demande de financement.

Pour en savoir plus, consultez le site web de [l'Initiative rapide pour le logement](#).

Sincères salutations,

Équipe de mobilisation et de sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca)

For those of you who have a Lee Valley store this will be great news and a big savings.

Maybe this is known to all, but I just picked up an order from LeeValley and learned that they give a 10% discount to holders of a CF one card. ( he noticed my licence plate and volunteered this info)

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Definitions for Health Care Benefits, Veterans Independence Program, and Long Term Care

The following words, phrases and definitions are relevant to the administration of

the Veterans Health Care Regulations (VHCR), wherein they have a specific meaning which is not always the ordinary interpretation.

#### Accommodation and meals (A&M) contribution

Accommodation and meals (A&M) contribution means the amount of the A&M rate, if any, that a client is required to pay monthly while residing in an approved health care facility.

#### Accommodation and meals (A&M) rate

Accommodation and meals (A&M) rate means the maximum monthly amount that can be charged to a client while residing in an approved health care facility. This rate is calculated annually by the Department, and it is based on either the lowest provincial monthly charge for accommodation and meals permitted under the [Canada Health Act](#) or the percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less.

#### Active service

Active service means the military status assigned (in accordance with the [National Defence Act](#)) whenever a person is enrolled, enlisted, drafted or warned for service or duty during an emergency, or when a person is on duty, or has been warned for duty in aid of the civil power.

#### Activities of daily living

Activities of daily living means self-administered care, including eating, dressing, washing/bathing, grooming, toileting, walking, etc.

#### Administrative error

Administrative error refers to any error, the fault of which cannot reasonably be attributed to the client.

## Adult residential care

Adult residential care means a service provided in a health care facility to meet a Type I health need.

## A-line coverage

A-line coverage means the provision of benefits, services or care under the Veterans Health Care Regulations that are required by an eligible client as a result of a health condition for which disability benefits entitlement has been granted.

## Allied veteran

Allied veteran means a person who meets the service requirements described in subsection 37(4), (4.1) or (4.2) of the [War Veterans Allowance Act](#), namely:

any former member of

- a) any of His Majesty's forces,
- b) any of the forces, other than resistance groups, of any of His Majesty's allies,
- c) any of the forces, other than resistance groups, of any power associated with His Majesty in World War I, or
- c.1) any of the forces that took part in the Korean War who was domiciled in Canada at the time when he or she joined that force or at any time while a member of that force, and
- d) served in a theatre of actual war during World War I or World War II,
- d.1) served in a theatre of operations during the Korean War,
- e) is in receipt of a pension for disability under the [Pension Act](#) in respect of service during World War I or World War II as those wars are defined in that Act,
- f) has accepted a commuted pension in respect of service described in paragraph (e),
- g) is, after death, declared to have been eligible for, or awarded, a pension described in paragraph (e) above, or
- h) served in the United Kingdom during World War I.

An allied veteran is also any former member of any of His Majesty's forces, or of any of the forces, other than resistance groups, of any of His Majesty's allies in World War II, who served during that war, who resided in Canada for a total period of at least 10 years beginning on or after August 15, 1945, who has been honourably discharged or has been permitted honourably to resign or retire from one of those forces and who

- a) served in a theatre of actual war during that war;
- b) is in receipt of a pension for an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during service in any such force during that war or is declared to have been eligible for, or awarded, such a pension subsequent to their death;  
or,
- c) has accepted a commuted pension.

An allied veteran is also any former member of any of the forces that took part in the Korean War and who served during that war, who resided in Canada for a total period of at least 10 years beginning on or after July 27, 1953, who has been honourably discharged or has been permitted honourably to resign or retire from one of those forces and who served in a theatre of operations during that war.

### Ambulatory health care

Ambulatory health care means services such as health assessments, diagnostic services, and social and recreational services (e.g. adult day care) provided by, or under the supervision of, a health professional, and includes transportation between the client's residence and the health centre where the services are provided.

### Assistive listening devices

Assistive listening devices are instruments used to enhance a person's ability to hear in complex listening situations. These devices include closed captioning devices, FM systems, in-line telephone amplification, personalized amplification devices, signaling device systems, television systems and TTY telephones/VCO telephones.

## Benefit Arrangement

Benefit Arrangement sets out the dollar amount that the Department may contribute toward the provision of Veterans Independence Program (VIP) service(s), and the length of time during which the services may be provided.

## B-line coverage

B-line coverage means, generally, the benefits available to clients, other than disability benefits recipients, to the extent that the benefits are not available to them as insured services under a provincial health care system. The eligibility for this type of coverage is often linked to the client meeting an income test or qualifying for the Veterans Independence Program (VIP).

## British subject

British subject means anyone who owed allegiance to the British Crown, either by birth or otherwise.

## Canada Service Veteran

Canada Service Veteran means:

1. a veteran who served on full-time active service, other than service in a theatre of actual war, as a member of the Canadian forces or similar forces raised in Newfoundland; or
2. a Canadian merchant mariner, other than a merchant navy veteran, and who
  1. served for a minimum of 365 days during any of the following periods, namely,
    - the period beginning on August 4, 1914, and ending on August 31, 1921, and
    - the period beginning on September 1, 1939, and ending on August 15, 1945;
  2. is 65 years of age or more, and
  3. satisfies the income requirement of an income-qualified veteran.



## Canadian merchant mariner

Canadian merchant mariner means a person who meets the service requirements described in subsection 21.1(3), (4) or (5) of the [Pension Act](#), namely:

1. any person who, during World War I or World War II, served on board a Canadian ship while it was making a qualifying voyage (specific details are listed in subsection 37(7.3) of the [War Veterans Allowance Act](#) );
2. any person who, during World War I, served in a Canadian manning pool;
3. any person who, during World War II, served as a member of a Canadian manning pool for a period of two years or for the duration of the war, whichever was the shorter period;
4. any person who, during World War I or World War II, was permanently or recurrently employed at sea by a Canadian shipping company or by the Canadian Marconi Company Limited;
5. any trainee at a Canadian marine training school during World War I or World War II who signed an agreement to enter a Canadian manning pool at the end of the training; or,
6. any person who, during the period from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, served on board a Canadian ship while in prescribed waters (specific details are listed in subsection 37(7.4) of the [War Veterans Allowance Act](#) ) off the coast of Korea.

## Canadian National

Canadian National was used to describe what is now called a "Canadian citizen." A "Canadian national" was defined as a British subject who was a Canadian citizen under the Immigration Act.

## Chronic care

Chronic care means a service provided in a health care facility to meet a Type III health need.

## Civilian

Civilian means a person who meets the service requirements described in subsection 56(1) of the [Civilian War-related Benefits Act](#), namely:

1. a person who served at sea in a ship of Canadian or Newfoundland registry during World War I or World War II for a period of at least six months, and made at least one trip through dangerous waters during that period of service;
2. a Canadian citizen, a Canadian national, or a British subject domiciled in Newfoundland at the commencement of his/her qualifying service who served at sea during World War I or World War II for a period of at least six months in a ship of United Kingdom registry or the registry of one of the countries allied or associated with His Majesty in either of those wars, and, during that period of service made at least one trip through dangerous waters;
3. a Canadian citizen who served at sea in a ship of another country allied or associated with the United Nations during United Nations military operations in Korea for a period of at least six months, and during that period of service served at least twenty-eight days on such a ship within dangerous waters off the coast of Korea;
4. a person who was a member of the Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters for Service in the United Kingdom and served in a theatre of actual war during World War II;
5. a person who was a Canadian member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross during World War I and served in a theatre of actual war during World War I;
6. a person who, during World War II, served in a theatre of war under the auspices of the Canadian Red Cross Society or the St. John Ambulance Brigade of Canada, as welfare workers, nursing aids, ambulance or transport drivers, members of Overseas Headquarters Staff, or in any other capacity; or were selected by the Canadian Red Cross Society and served with the Scottish Ministry of Health as orthopedic nurses or surgeons; or served outside Canada during the Korean War in a capacity similar to above;
7. a person who was a civilian member of Ferry Command and served in a theatre of actual war during World War II as air crew with Number 45 Wing of the Royal Air Force Transport Command, Number 45 Group of the Royal Air Force Ferry Command or the Atlantic Ferrying Organization;
8. a person who was a member of the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit and served in a theatre of actual war during World War II, engaged in cutting pit props for coal production in the United Kingdom; or,
9. a person who is in receipt of a pension under Parts I to X of the [Civilian War-related Benefits Act](#) or is declared to have been eligible for, or awarded, such a pension subsequent to the person's death.

## Civilian pensioner

Civilian pensioner means a person who is entitled to a pension under any of Parts I to III or VI to X of the [Civilian War-related Benefits Act](#), or the [Civilian Government Employees \(War\) Compensation Order](#), namely:

1. Canadian Saltwater Fishers;
2. Auxiliary Services Personnel;
3. Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit;
4. Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Firefighters for service in the United Kingdom;
5. Air Raid Precautions Workers;
6. Voluntary Aid Detachment (World War I or II);
7. Overseas Welfare Workers (World War II or Korea); or,
8. Ferry Command.

- Subject: Remembrance Day:- British Newspaper Article about Canada.
- 
- A bit late for Remembrance Day, but in case you have not seen previously. I think it is important to remember also the sacrifices paid by those who served on the home front during the world wars.
- A Very Good Read
- Salute to a brave and modest nation -
- Kevin Myers, The Sunday Telegraph, London.
- Until the deaths of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops are deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will bury its dead, just as the rest of the world, as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.
- It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored.
- Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dance-goers and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor blithely neglecting her yet again.
- That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflict
- For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different

directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved.

- Yet it's a purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.
- Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, it's a unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular memory as somehow or other the work of the 'British.'
- The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against the U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone.
- Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth largest air force in the world. The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time.
- Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated – a touching scrupulousness which of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.
- So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality – unless that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Huston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter, Mike Weir and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British.
- It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian unless she is Margaret Atwood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.
- Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves – and are unheard by anyone else – that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces.
- Canadian soldiers in the past half-century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth – in 39 missions on UN mandates and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.
- Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular non-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-

control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace – a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

- So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan?
- Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun. It is the Canadian way for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This past year more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.
- Lest we forget.
- Please pass this on to any of your friends or relatives who served in the Canadian Forces or anyone who is proud to be Canadian; it is a wonderful tribute to those who choose to serve their country and the world in our quiet Canadianway.

### **The forgotten fighter plane which won the Battle of Britain**

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20201127-the-forgotten-fighter-plane-which-won-the-battle-of-britain>

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