

Media Report 04 JUNE 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

[BREAKING NEWS: Active COVID-19 cases: 39,797 | Recovered: 1,308,932 | Deceased: 25,440 | Total: 1,374,275](#)

E-petition 3441 to end “Gold diggers clause”

This is interesting and I believe it not only affects the military but all of the Federal Government Pensions

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3441>

•FRONTLINE IN THE NEWS

[DND to implement NDA review recommendations JUN 01, 2021](#)

Today, the Minister of National Defence, Harjit S. Sajjan, tabled in Parliament the report on the Third Independent Review of specified provisions of the [National Defence Act \(NDA\)](#) and their operation. This review began in November 2020 and provides recommendations on one of the largest overhauls of the National Defence Act and Canadian military justice system in recent memory.

The review, headed by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Morris J. Fish set out three priority areas for his recommendations:

- 1.remove the present duty of those affected by sexual misconduct to report their experience to the chain of command;
- 2.provide free and independent legal advice to those affected by sexual misconduct; and

3.implement immediately the Declaration of Victims Rights provided for in Bill C-77.

Saying this is a “critical time” for the report, Minister Sajjan thanked the team of Justice Fish, for their "dedicated work on behalf of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces."

The Minister went on to commit the department to "work to bolster confidence in the military justice system, and by implementing the recommendations provided by Justice Fish we will be able to improve our justice system for the members of the Canadian Armed Forces. This is one of the steps we will continue to take to bring about the culture change that is needed in the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence."

The specified provisions that were reviewed by the Independent Review Authority include those relating to military justice (including the Code of Service Discipline), military grievances and external review of grievances, the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal and the Military Police Complaints Commission.

The Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) accept in principle the 107 recommendations made. In the short term, implementation will begin on 36 of Justice Fish’s recommendations.

Acting Chief of the Defence Staff, Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre has expressed his support of the initiative. “In support of our Canadian Armed Forces members’ unlimited liability in the execution of their mission, Canada must ensure that the military justice system remains aligned with contemporary social values and legal norms. The justice system will continue to be what the Supreme Court of Canada has called a full partner of the civilian justice system.”

•Exclusive: Tanks risk becoming 'difficult and dangerous' on battlefield, warns head of British Army By Con Coughlin, Defence Editor 1 June 2021

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•“The Telegraph”<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/01/exclusive-tanks-risk-becoming-difficult-dangerous-battlefield/>

•The head of the British Army has said that tanks risk becoming “very dangerous and very difficult to employ” on the battlefield unless they are upgraded, as he defended the decision to cut the numbers of “obsolete” equipment. The proposed cuts, which are detailed in the Defence Command Paper title, Defence in a Competitive Age, have drawn intense criticism, with claims that they will leave the Army incapable of fighting conventional battles. As part of the decision to almost halve the number of main battle tanks, the Government is to invest £800 million building a new generation of upgraded, fully-digitised Challenger 3 tanks to replace the current model. He argues that the dramatic changes taking place in

modern warfare have made such changes necessary as the Army makes the transition from using industrial age equipment to embracing the advantages of digital technology.

- “We are an industrial age organisation with an industrial outlook that is confronted with the information age,” said Sir Mark. “The pace of change is outstripping the ability of institutions like the Army to reappportion resources to keep up.” The decision to scrap the Warrior overturns a previous Ministry of Defence commitment to spend £1.4 billion on an upgrade programme. The Warrior will now be replaced by a new generation of 500 Boxer armoured vehicles, which critics claim have less firepower and offer less protection, issues which Army chiefs say they are keen to address. Instead Sir Mark wants to embrace a whole range of new technologies that will help the Army to adapt to the rapid changes taking place in the modern battlefield.

- “The nature of close combat is potentially changing given the range and precision of modern munitions,” he said. “This means exposing fewer soldiers to the full lethality and violence of the future battlefield – soldiers will only be exposed when only soldiers can do the job. As a consequence, the Army is investing heavily in a new generation of long-range weapons, with the emphasis on long-range reconnaissance as well as enhanced firepower such as rockets, artillery and armoured drones.” “We are the best Army in Europe, which is a responsibility and an obligation, and we are definitely going to keep it that way.”

- Sir Mark said he is determined that the radical changes being made will not undermine the Army’s future war-fighting strength.

- “And that is why we have invested much more substantially in the deep battle while seeking to make the equipment used in the close battle much better protected, more lethal and more deployable.”

- “In future the decisive battle will be fought increasingly at depth and range, and that really reduces the risk around the close battle.

- “Replacing Boxer with Warrior is not like for like,” admits Sir Mark. “But there is very little point holding on to legacy equipment that is reaching the end of its shelf life.”

- “It was a straight decision as to whether we were going to pour new money into old legacy equipment,” explained Sir Mark. “And Warrior fell into that bracket of equipment that was becoming increasingly obsolete.”

- The need to undertake a radical overhaul of the Army’s current war-fighting capabilities also explains the decision to scrap the Warrior, the infantry workhorse which has seen action in conflicts ranging from the Gulf War to Afghanistan.

- Sir Mark said: “We are far better off having a fleet of 148 of the most capable main tanks in the world than a larger fleet of increasingly vulnerable tanks that we would have found very dangerous and very difficult to employ.”

- But in an exclusive interview with The Telegraph, General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, the Army’s Chief of the General Staff, mounts a robust

defence of the cuts, arguing they are necessary to make the force battle ready for 21st-century warfare.

- The Army is to see its current fleet of 227 Challenger 2 battle tanks, which have been in operation since 1998, reduced to just 148. The Army's 758 Warrior infantry fighting vehicles are to be retired ahead of schedule and replaced by 508 new Boxer mechanised infantry vehicles, following publication of the government's Integrated Review earlier this year.

- General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith defends decision to cut 'obsolete' equipment

Disability benefits

1.

Do you have an illness or injury from your service? Disability Benefits are financial recognition for the impact this service-related injury or disease can have on your life.

About this program

A disability benefit is a tax-free, financial payment to support your well-being.

The amount you receive depends on the degree to which your condition is related to your service (entitlement) and the severity of your condition, including its impact on your quality of life (assessment).

Do you qualify?

To qualify for a disability benefit you must be one of the following:

- Canadian Armed Forces member or Veteran,
- a current or former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP),
- Second World War or Korean War Veteran (includes Merchant Navy), or
- [certain civilians](#) who served in the Second World War.

You should apply for a disability benefit if you:

1. have a diagnosed medical condition or disability; and
2. are able to show that the condition is related to your service.

If you qualify for a disability benefit, you will receive either a:

1. Pain and suffering compensation * – a life-time monthly benefit or lump sum benefit – the choice is yours.

- View the [pain and suffering compensation rates](#).

- [View all](#) Pain and Suffering Compensation FAQs.

or

2. Disability pension **- a life-time monthly benefit. If you have any dependents (e.g. spouse, common-law partner and/or children), your monthly amount will be increased.

View the [disability pension rates](#).

*If you have a pending application for a disability benefit and were expecting to receive a disability award, you do not need to re-apply. Your application for a disability benefit will now be processed as Pain and Suffering Compensation.

**A disability pension is provided if you served with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Second World War or Korean War. For other CAF service, a disability pension is provided in relation to any application prior to April 1, 2006.

How to apply

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 any [VAC office](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [Service Canada office](#). You can also mail your completed form directly to the address listed on the form.

[Go to form](#)

Get help with your application

The staff at any [VAC office](#), [CAF Transition Centre](#) or [Service Canada office](#) can assist you or call us at 1-866-522-2122. Service Officers with [The Royal Canadian Legion](#) or [The War Amps of Canada](#) can also assist you with your application, including helping you get all of the information you need to support your application. Their assistance is free of charge.

Disability pension corrective payment

If you received a benefit from VAC between 2003 and 2010 and it was under the Pension Act, 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 a benefit from VAC, or
- You represent the estate of a deceased recipient.

If you are legally entitled to inherit assets from the estate of a deceased recipient, you may [apply to receive a corrective payment](#) if you are eligible.

Additional information

[The application package](#)—learn more about all of the components that make up an application for a disability benefit.

[How we review a claim for a disability benefit](#)—learn more about how your disability claim is reviewed by the department and particularly, by the adjudicator – a trained decision-maker for disability claims.

[Disability Pension Corrective Payment](#)—If you are legally entitled to inherit the assets of a deceased benefit recipient, you may apply to receive the corrective payment.

Monthly payment dates – 2021

- January 28
- February 25
- March 30
- April 29
- May 28
- June 29
- July 29
- August 30
- September 29
- October 28
- November 29
- December 23

Reviews and appeals

If you do not agree with the decision made regarding your application for disability benefits, you may request a Departmental review. Learn more about [reviews and appeals](#).

Reassessment

If the disability for which you are receiving VAC benefits worsens and medical evidence can show this change in your condition, you can request a reassessment. If the reassessment confirms that your condition has worsened, your disability benefit, will be adjusted accordingly – unless you are already receiving the maximum amount of the benefit. To request a reassessment, your first step should be to [call us or visit your local VAC office](#).

Tools for Adjudication

[Eligibility Entitlement Guidelines](#)– These guidelines are current medical and scientific descriptions of known injuries and diseases related to service.

[Table of Disabilities](#)– This table helps the adjudicator assess the level of impairment and the impact that impairment has on your quality of life.

Related programs

[Critical injury benefit](#)- A one-time payment that recognizes the immediate impact of the most severe and traumatic service-related injuries or diseases.

[Rehabilitation services](#)- Services to improve your health and adjust to life after service.

[Clothing allowance](#)- Monthly payments if you need new or special clothing due to your health issues.

[Treatment Benefits](#)– Coverage for medical and health related services.

[Benefits for survivors](#)– Financial support or compensation for the survivors of a disability pensioner or of a member or Veteran who died in service or as a result of a service-related illness or injury.

[Financial advice](#)- If you receive a lump-sum payment more than 5% of the current maximum, we can pay up to \$500 for professional advice to help you manage your money effectively.

[Additional pain and suffering compensation](#)- Monthly payments in recognition of any severe and permanent disability, related to your military service, which creates a barrier to life after service.

Programs related to a disability pension:

[Attendance allowance](#)- Monthly payments for a disability pensioner whose health needs require daily personal care support.

[Exceptional incapacity allowance](#)- Monthly payments if your illness or injury impacts your quality of life.

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 is my request for Disability Benefits decided?

Learn more about [how we review a disability benefit claim](#).

Are there policies for this program?

Yes. Read more about the [Disability Benefits](#) policies.

[Read more FAQs](#) about the disability benefits program.

IN THE NEWS

[Online survey: Proposed designs for the National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan](#)

[Sondage en ligne: Concepts proposés pour le Monument commémoratif de la mission du Canada en Afghanistan](#)

[Cpl Jodi Payne presented with 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, Chief Choice Award](#)

[A hand up for vets who are homeless — ex-Cadets giving back / Un coup de main pour les vétérans sans abri — Les Anciens redonnent](#)

[Women gaining senior roles in Canadian military amid sexual misconduct scandal](#)

[Exercise TAZ RUNNER focuses on Improvised Explosives Device Disposal](#)

[Le brigadier-général Timothy Arsenault assume le commandement de la Force opérationnelle IMPACT](#)

[Canadian troops lining up in droves to be vaccinated with 85% receiving one dose](#)

[Downtown Guelph banner program to honour local veterans](#)

[Écrire pour guérir : des militaires ouvrent leur cœur](#)