

Media Report 05 Mar 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 it.

CANADA

[Active COVID-19 cases: 30,340 | Recovered: 802,926 | Deceased: 21,807 | Total: 855,126](#)

Nice tribute paid to Sir Capt Tom Moore

Nice tribute paid to an old veterans. May he rest in Peace. Take care and stay safe. Joe

Subject:Second World War plane flyby marks U.K. Capt. Tom Moore's funeral

A Second World War-era plane flew Saturday over the funeral service of Captain Sir Tom Moore, in honour of the veteran who single-handedly raised millions of pounds for Britain's health workers by walking laps in his backyard.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/second-world-war-plane-flyby-marks-u-k-capt-tom-moore-s-funeral-1.5326988>

How to review or appeal a decision

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 it.

About review and appeals

If you choose to review or appeal your decision from Veterans Affairs Canada, your first call should be to the Bureau of Pensions Advocates (BPA)--a nationwide organization of lawyers within Veterans Affairs Canada. Their team will review your file and may recommend a departmental review or a hearing before the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.

Departmental review

One of the most common reasons why applications for disability benefits are not approved by Veterans Affairs Canada, or the assessment is less than you expected, is due to a lack of sufficient evidence in the original application. If you have new evidence that was not included in your application, you may request a departmental review and submit the new evidence.

The [Bureau of Pensions Advocates](#) team can help you with the written submission and application forms.

In a departmental review, an adjudicator from Veterans Affairs Canada will examine your submission, including any new evidence, to determine if a new decision should be issued. [Learn more about how Veterans Affairs Canada reviews a disability claim.](#)

Veterans Review and Appeal Board

If the departmental review does not meet your expectations or if your case does not merit a departmental review, you can take your claim to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB).

The [Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#) is an independent federal tribunal that offers two possible chances to appeal a disability decision from the Department. The first step is a review hearing.

Review Hearing

If possible, you are encouraged to attend and testify at your hearing. Your travel costs may be covered by Veterans Affairs. Your lawyer will:

- go through the evidence in your case with the Board members;
- ask questions of you or any other witnesses;
- introduce new evidence, and,
- make oral arguments on your behalf.

If you are unable to appear in-person, your lawyer can represent you. It is possible to testify by telephone, if you have the agreement of the Board.

Following the review hearing, you will receive a decision letter from VRAB.

If you disagree with the decision, you have the right to appeal it. This next step is an appeal hearing.

Appeal Hearing

Appeal Hearings take place in Charlottetown before a different panel than your review hearing.

For an appeal hearing, your lawyer will either argue your case on your behalf in front of a panel or file a written submission to the panel. You are not required to attend your appeal hearing.

Your lawyer will:

- go through the evidence in your case with the Board members;
- introduce new evidence, and,

- make oral arguments on your behalf.

The Board's decision at an appeal hearing is final and binding. That said, there are provisions in the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Act that allow the Board to further reconsider the matter if there has been an error of fact, error of law, or if new evidence becomes available. These reconsiderations are not routine. Your lawyer will advise you if they believe the Board would agree to hear a reconsideration in your case.

If you remain unsatisfied with the final decision, there is only one other avenue of appeal remaining – a judicial review.

Judicial Review

In certain and specific circumstances, you may be able to pursue a [Judicial Review through the Federal Court of Canada](#). This approach should only be considered in situations where you and your lawyer are certain that the Veterans Review and Appeal Board has made an error in law or in fact, or that VRAB overlooked significant facts that could impact other applicants for disability benefits. This usually involves an issue of interpretation of specific law(s). Your lawyer will advise you if they think a judicial review is an option you should consider.

It's important to note that lawyers from the Bureau are not mandated to represent you before the Federal Court. They can advise you if your case has merit, but to proceed through this review, you will need to hire your own legal counsel or you can choose to represent yourself. In order to proceed to Judicial Review you have a 30-day time limit to apply to the Federal Court of Canada.

Related information

[Bureau of Pensions Advocates](#)- If you choose to review or appeal a disability benefits decision made by Veterans Affairs Canada, a lawyer with the Bureau of Pensions Advocates can provide you with free legal advice and representation.

[Veterans Review and Appeal Board](#)- Find out how you can make an application to have your disability benefits decision independently reviewed by the Board.

[Judicial review \(Federal Court of Canada\)](#)- The Federal Court has the jurisdiction to review decisions made by most federal decision-makers.

Fact sheets

- [What you need to know about a review hearing](#)
- [What you need to know about an appeal hearing](#)

Share the: [MEDAL Petition e-3224 is Approved. PLEASE SHARE, thanks.](#)

Dear Comrades and all fellow Canadians, the Medal Petition for an "inclusive" medal for has been approved and is available on-line for signatures. See link above, or link below.

Notes:

- A. [only 1 signature per email address. (Their Rules).] . . .but;
- B. [Any Canadian of any age can sign. (Also Their Rules).] From 9 to 109 any Canadian with their own personal email address can sign.

1. Please click on the link to open and read about the Petition.
2. Scroll down to where it says sign the petition. You will see the Sponsor, M.P. Chandra Arya.
3. Click on sign the petition. Complete all items with a red star including in clicking in the two boxes after your information.
4. Type in the letters/numbers as shown and then click on sign.
5. IMPORTANT: You will get an email asking you to confirm; Click on the link in the email to complete the signing process.

My wife just signed. Please share this email with all your family, friends, fellow

Canadian Citizens
and of course our Comrades-in-Arms.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-3224>

IN THE NEWS

LGen Chris Whitecross (Ret'd) joins the Athena Network

From eVeritas — RMC Newsletter (RMC Public Affairs / Gracieuseté des Affaires publiques du RMC)

The Athena Network announces that LGen (Ret'd) Christine Whitecross has accepted the invitation to serve as the Athena Network's very first Senior Mentor. In this role, she will offer mentorship guidance that extends to all naval and officer cadets, as well as share her knowledge and expertise on various subjects through both formal and informal activities.

Garrison Petawawa begins Transition Trial initiative for CAF personnel

Canadian Military Family Magazine

The Transition Centre Petawawa has started the Transition Trial initiative that will assist members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and their families with the transition to civilian life

Military to send troops to U.S. in its largest international exercise of pandemic

CBC News

The Canadian military is defending its decision to send hundreds of troops to the U.S. for training, even as one Edmonton soldier called it a "trivial exercise" that needlessly puts troops at risk of COVID-19. Around 500 members of the Canadian military will travel to Fort Polk, Louisiana, this week to participate in a three-week long exercise with roughly 4,500 U.S. troops. It's the largest international training exercise the Canadian Army has taken part in since the beginning of the pandemic, a military spokesperson confirmed. The commander of Edmonton-based 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1CMBG) called the exercise a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity and a necessary step to ready the group for its next assignment.

Military exercises assist with restoration of Lower Kootenay Band wetlands

Creston Valley Advance

The Lower Kootenay Band (LKB) partnered with the Canadian Army Reserve to host military exercises on the Band's wetlands on Feb. 20, an initiative designed to simultaneously help with the restoration process of the Band's marsh

landscape. Soldiers from the 39 Combat Engineer Regiment — many of whom were from Trail and Cranbrook's 44 Engineer Squadron — spent the day honing their bridge surveying and design skills, as well as milling lumber and detonating explosives.

[Après une 3e écloison de COVID-19, l'armée arrive à Pimicikamak](#)

Radio-Canada

Vingt-cinq membres des Forces armées canadiennes sont arrivés mardi matin dans la Première Nation de Pimicikamak pour aider la communauté d'environ 8000 personnes à lutter contre la propagation du coronavirus. Les militaires sont arrivés à 10 h, a indiqué le chef de la Première Nation, David Monias, lors d'une entrevue avec Radio-Canada. Ils devraient rester deux semaines, mais des réévaluations seront faites au 7e et au 12e jour de leur séjour.

[Path to skilled trades eased for Fanshawe College military grads](#)

London Free Press

A new partnership will help military veterans enter the skilled trades after they graduate from Fanshawe College. The college recently announced it's partnering with Helmets to Hardhats (H2H), a non-profit established in 2012 to help soldiers who served in the Canadian Armed Forces enter the building trades after they leave the military.

[New pistols for the Canadian military — defence industry told to expect request for bids shortly](#)

Ottawa Citizen

Defence industry representatives say they are expecting in the next several days the federal government will issue a request for bids for new pistols for the Canadian military. The new handguns will replace the Second World War-era Browning Hi-Power pistols.

[Study concludes depleted uranium doesn't cause Gulf War illness](#)

Military Times

In the decades since Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, veterans and researchers have strained to find a cause of the myriad symptoms known as Gulf War illness, with a strong suspicion that the depleted uranium used in armor-piercing rounds created a toxic exposure with long-term health consequences. A study released recently from the University of Texas and the UK's University of Portsmouth found that inhaled fumes and dust from rounds and tank armor are not the culprit.