

## Media report 06 Nov 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.

### **Veterans' Week 2020 / Semaine des vétérans 2020**

As you know, Veterans' Week (November 5 to 11) is a time for Canadians to honour those who have served our country, past and present, in times of war, military conflict and peace.

The theme of this year's Veterans' Week is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, in which more than one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served, and over 45,000 died. This milestone also allows us to reflect on the courage and valour of the members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) who continue to follow in their footsteps.

This year marks an unprecedented time in history. As we continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines, Veterans Affairs Canada is taking a digital-first approach in commemorating Veterans' Week, and has developed numerous ways Canadians can commemorate and remember.

Every day, your organization's commitment and dedication continue to make a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families. Please continue to share the powerful message of remembrance within your organization and your networks.

Here are various ways you can show that #CanadaRemembers:

1. Wear a poppy with pride;

2. [Join the conversation](#) on social media! You can share what remembrance means to you, and include the Veterans' Week hashtag #CanadaRemembers;

3. Tune-in to the [Faces of Freedom podcast](#) which tells the stories of those who have served in a variety of battles during the Second World War, or share reflections on them;

4. You can also explore stories of those who served and sacrificed for our country by reading [Faces of Freedom](#) profiles;

5. Check out our collection of [Veterans' Week learning resources](#) for youth of all ages and share them with your children and any teachers you know;

6. Explore our [Home Learning Corner](#), where you and your children can learn more about the brave Canadians who served during the Second World War; and

7. Learn more about those who have served our country through [Heroes Remember](#) videos of Veterans sharing their experiences.

We encourage you to visit the [Veterans' Week 2020 web feature](#) to learn about other ways to get involved with remembrance.

Together, let's show that #CanadaRemembers, and inspire our colleagues, friends and families to do the same.

Lest we forget.

Sincerely,

Paul Thomson Faith McIntyre

Director General, Commemoration Director General, Communications

Veterans Affairs Canada Veterans Affairs Canada

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Chers collègues,

Comme vous le savez, la Semaine des vétérans, qui a lieu du 5 au 11 novembre, est l'occasion pour les Canadiennes et les Canadiens de rendre hommage à ceux qui ont servi notre pays, hier et aujourd'hui, en temps de guerre, de conflit militaire et de paix.

Cette année, le thème de la Semaine des vétérans est le 75<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, au cours de laquelle plus d'un million de Canadiens et de Terre-Neuviens ont servi et plus de 45 000 d'entre eux ont perdu la vie. Ce jalon nous permet également de réfléchir au courage et à la bravoure des membres des Forces armées canadiennes qui continuent à suivre leurs traces.

Cette année marque un moment sans précédent dans l'histoire. Comme nous continuons à respecter les directives liées à la COVID-19, Anciens Combattants Canada adopte une approche d'abord numérique pour souligner la Semaine des vétérans et a mis au point de nombreux moyens pour permettre aux Canadiennes et aux Canadiens de commémorer la fin des hostilités et de se souvenir de ceux qui ont servi.

Chaque jour, l'engagement et le dévouement de votre organisation continuent d'avoir des effets réels sur la vie des vétérans et de leur famille. Veuillez continuer à diffuser le puissant message de commémoration au sein de votre organisation et de vos réseaux.

Voici différentes façons de montrer que #LeCanadaSeSouvient :

1. Portez fièrement un coquelicot;

2. [Participez à la discussion](#) sur les réseaux sociaux. Vous pouvez présenter ce que la commémoration signifie pour vous et ajouter le mot-clic de la Semaine des vétérans #LeCanadaSeSouvient;

3. Écoutez le [balado Visages de la liberté](#) qui raconte l'histoire de ceux qui ont servi dans diverses batailles pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, ou dites ce que vous en pensez;

4. Vous pouvez également consulter les [Visages de la liberté](#) pour en apprendre davantage sur ceux qui ont servi notre pays et qui se sont sacrifiés pour lui;

5. Consultez notre ensemble de [Ressources d'apprentissage de la Semaine des vétérans](#) à l'intention des jeunes de tous âges et présentez-les à vos enfants et à tous les enseignants que vous connaissez;

6. Découvrez notre [Coin de l'apprentissage à la maison](#), où vous et vos enfants pourrez en apprendre davantage sur les braves Canadiennes et Canadiens qui ont servi pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale;

7. Visionnez des entrevues [Des héros se racontent](#) pour voir des vétérans raconter leur expérience afin d'en apprendre davantage sur ceux qui ont servi notre pays.

Nous vous encourageons à consulter le [site Web de la Semaine des vétérans 2020](#) pour découvrir d'autres façons de participer à la commémoration.

Ensemble, montrons que #LeCanadaSeSouvient et encourageons nos collègues, nos amis et les membres de notre famille à faire de même.

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.

Cordialement,

Paul Thomson Faith McIntyre

Directeur général, Commémoration Directrice générale, Communications

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# How to review or appeal a decision

## 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](#)

## **Battle of Britain RCAF National Ceremony 2020**

On behalf of the RCAF Planning Committee, a belated thanks to my fellow members of NVOC who were of great help in making this year's much abbreviated ceremony a success.

The quiet and respectful ceremony at the Beechwood Military Cemetery was viewed in real time on line by more than eighty thousand across Canada

<https://www.facebook.com/RCAF.ARC/videos/were-live-at-beechwood-national-military-cemetery-in-ottawa-for-the-ceremony-com/344914303520163/> .

Matt Carson

Veterans Contingent Commander

National Battle of Britain Ceremony

## **Soldier dies during training exercise on Alberta military base: defence department**

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/soldier-dies-during-training-exercise-on-alberta-military-base-defence-department/ar-BB1azJEZ?li=AAggXBV>



# The Royal Canadian Legion announces 2020-2021 National Silver Cross Mother

<https://webmail.bell.net/appsuite/#!/&app=io.ox/mail/write:compose>

The attached may be of interest.

When Covid struck the SteAnne's hospital the Watch mobilized 85 troops to fill in where and when required. They lived in quarantine when not on duty – in local hotels. No face to face socializing, and no messes.

Dirty linen, clothing, and dishes were placed outside the door and clean stuff appeared shortly after, along with meals.

The Montreal and Toronto Associations formed a support team along with the Women's Division and the Regimental Foundation to provide troop support. "Comfort Bags" with snacks, and signed Thank you cards along with an Amazon gift cards were passed to the troops and Military Medical staff by the CO and RSM. Those with Birthdays received customized cupcakes.

Makes one proud to have been with the Regiment.

Best wishes

Matt

IN THE NEWS

[RCE War Veteran and artist Tom Matthews dies at 99](#)

[Veterans with local ties honoured during virtual ceremony](#)

[Former Sapper Brian Cleaver wins Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers](#)

[Feds urged to act as data suggests COVID-19 making it hard for veterans to get help](#)

[Effet comptable trompeur de la pandémie sur la contribution canadienne à l'OTAN](#)

[Canada jumps closer to meeting NATO military spending target](#)

[During the war, the Maple Leaf Club was a hot spot for soldiers](#)

[Chinese peacekeepers awarded UN Medal in South Sudan](#)

[Armes d'opérations spéciales: les Canadiens s'entraînent au Koweït avec les Américains](#)

[France's Griffon engineering prototype breaks cover](#)

[AFCEC awarded patent for new runway repair technology](#)

[Une œuvre en l'honneur de Fern Blodgett Sunde](#)

[IVECO unveils Superav Land armored vehicle to Qatar army](#)