



THE
CANADIAN VETERANS ADVOCACY

one veteran, one standard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Michael L. Blais, CD
Founder and President
905-357-3306 // 905-359-9247
info@canadianveteransadvocacy.com

**The Canadian Veterans Advocacy supports Opposition Day Motion to
Exclude Veterans Affairs Canada from the Strategic Review
Budget Cuts in the upcoming Federal Budget**

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario, March 2, 2012 – The Canadian Veterans Advocacy will be in Ottawa on Monday, March 5, and Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in the Public Gallery of the House of Commons in a show of support for the Opposition Day Motion to exempt the Department of Veterans Affairs from strategic review cuts that will be presented by MP Peter Stoffer and the NDP.

“The Canadian Veterans Advocacy has been fighting to get the Harper Government to exclude VAC from budget cuts since the 5-10 percent benchmark was announced,” said Michael Blais, president and founder of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy. “I encourage Prime Minister Harper and all Conservative Members of Parliament to support this motion and embrace their sacred obligation to support our disabled RCMP, police services, and military veterans.”

Mr. Stoffer and the NDP have invited Veterans to join them in the House of Commons in support of this motion and vote on veterans’ issues this week. The motion to exempt Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) from the Strategic Review budget cuts will be debated in the House on Monday, March 5. The motion will also call on the government to assure that programs and services are provided to all military and RCMP veterans and their families in a timely and comprehensive manner. Then on Tuesday, March 6, the motion will be put forward at approximately 5:15 pm (ET), with the vote to take place at approximately 5:45 pm (ET).

“I hope Veterans in the region can join me in Ottawa to remind the government of the human consequences these budget cuts will have if they go ahead. I will be in the Public Gallery for the debate on Monday and for the vote on Tuesday,” said Mr. Blais. “It will be interesting to see if the Harper Government does the right thing and supports this motion. If they choose to block it and continue to ignore their responsibility to Veterans, I want them to have to look us in the eyes while they do it.”

The Canadian Veterans Advocacy is encouraging all Veterans and concerned citizens in the Ottawa region to attend the House of Commons, in the Public Gallery, on Monday and Tuesday, March 5-6, for the debate, presentation and vote on this important motion to exclude Veterans

Affairs Canada's budget from the cutbacks. If you cannot attend, the Canadian Veterans Advocacy asks Veterans and concerned citizens across the country to contact their local Conservative MPs and ask them to support this Opposition Day Motion. Mr. Blais, along with other representatives of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy will be joining Mr. Stoffer for a reception in honour of Canadian military and RCMP veterans in the Railway Room at 253D Centre Block after the vote.

About The Canadian Veterans Advocacy

The Canadian Veterans Advocacy is a federally registered not-for-profit organization focused on improving the quality of life for Canadian Veterans. The organization was founded in 2010 by Michael L. Blais, CD. Mike, along with other military, RCMP and police services veterans united in the first annual Canadian Veterans National Day of Protest in 2010, and held a repeat protest in 2011 after the Government failed to make substantive changes to the New Veterans Charter. Of primary importance was – and is – the restoration of the *life time* Social Covenant between Canada's sons and daughters and the Nation they serve, a sacred trust abandoned in 2006 with the implementation of the New Veterans Charter.

INFORMATION

Michael L. Blais, CD
Founder and President
905-357-3306 // 905-359-9247
info@canadianveteransadvocacy.com
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/CdnVetsAdvocacy/>

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