



Address: Attn: Mike L Blais, CD, 6618 Harper Drive, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 7K6 Ph: 905-357-3306  
Website: [www.canadianveteransadvocacy.com](http://www.canadianveteransadvocacy.com) email: [info@canadianveteransadvocacy.com](mailto:info@canadianveteransadvocacy.com)



As the Thanksgiving weekend passes, I pray that each and every one of you guys had a wonderful weekend that was shared with family and friends. I would also encourage you, now that you have fulfilled your obligations to family and friends, to spare a moment to offer a prayer for those who are not with us this year and for their families, who often experience profound grief during the holiday season. God bless our troops and their families as they tread In Harm's Way. God bless our disabled veterans who are suffering, their families who have stood beside them, sharing their pain and hardships and God bless those Canadians who, on November 5, 2011, will stand on Parliament Hill and our MPs' riding offices, as sentinels, the voices of those who have no voice or fear to speak for fear of jeopardizing their pensions or standing with the government of the day. These are the living, the patriots of a nation, join them and support our quest to restore the sacred, life-time obligation between soldier and parliament, a commitment abandoned in 2006 with the enactment of the New Veterans Charter. MLB

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*Our widows need our support, widows such as Frances Brown, 85 this year. She needs our help, her voice is not being heard, stand for her and all disabled veterans on November 5<sup>th</sup>.*



**Waiting out widows?**

I was pleased to see the Aug. 5 letter from Joyce Carter. She is an amazing lady and has really made a heroic attempt to obtain VIP assistance for the widows of Armed Forces veterans.

I am one of those widows who was left out, in spite of Stephen Harper's promises when he was trying to get elected to his first term. I wasn't dumb enough to vote for him again. My own MP, also a Conservative, has done nothing to try to

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alleviate this situation. Peter Stoffer seems to be the only MP who cares.

In 2008, I applied to Veterans Affairs for assistance with yard maintenance, heavy house cleaning and snow removal, and was refused. The past couple of years, my age (85 this fall) has caught up with me, and I now must hire someone to do these jobs for me.

Earlier this year, I re-applied, and obtained a letter from my physician asking that this service be given me. All to no avail. I have just received another refusal, stating that since I don't qualify for Revenue Canada's Disability Tax Credit, I don't qualify for this assistance. I can probably name 50 other widows in this same situation, all of us on fixed incomes.

I firmly believe that the Conservative government's ploy is to wait out we elderly widows, and let attrition solve the matter. How compassionate is that?

My husband served his country for 30 years.

*Frances Brown, New Germany*



**Canadian Veterans Advocacy Legal Issues.  
Veterans Review and Appeal Board. CVA**

Director, legal services, E Rebiere's investigation into the VRAB continues and has expanded to include several issues. We continue to seek veterans who feel they have been denied unfairly through this process, specially in the sense of physicians statements denials. Many disabled veterans are profoundly frustrated that their documentation is not being accepted, particularly when they have provided documentation to substantiate their case, oft times at their own expense, only to have it dismissed without cause. Last year, it was Master Warrant Officer Steve Dornan, who was featured on a CBC National exposé with Mellissa Fung. MWO Dornan's supportive physicians statement was authorised by a high-ranking medical officer serving with Maritime Command. His statements directly attributed the veterans illness to DU exposure in former Yugoslavia, yet was ignored, the veteran denied the pension he so justly deserved.

Has this happened to you? At any time during the appeal process was your attending physician statements dismissed, if so, you *may* have been denied due process. The Canadian Veterans Advocacy's primary objective on this front is to ensure that disabled veterans are accorded the opportunity to engage in the process without being subject to arbitrary decisions on behalf of the VRAB that are not supported within the spirit of the VRAB Act or VRAB protocols.

SISIP - I would remind all veterans that the conservative government continues to fight over 6000 veterans in the courts and have already committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to prevent those affected by the unjust clawback on the VAC's pensions for pain and suffering, to unite in a class action suit. Why does our government not recognize the spirit of the Act, where it plainly stipulates that a Veterans Affairs Canada pension to a wounded warrior is awarded for a lifetime of pain and suffering and is NOT to be considered or affected by income replacement programs? Why is the government not ensuring that our disabled veterans are provided the financial security that they deserve instead of supporting the Manulife SISIP LTD Clawback? Perhaps these answers will be revealed in Halifax this November, when veterans, now united under a certified class-action lawsuit, will have their say in federal court.

The Canadian Veterans Advocacy is

encouraging all veterans who support the conservative party of Canada to contact your Member of Parliament by whatever means you are comfortable and encourage them to desist opposing those they have been elected to protect and fulfill their obligation to the wounded by settling with those who have been financially persecuted. These are Canada's sons and daughters, this award provided by a nation in recognition of their sacrifice in the service of our nation abroad.

**LUMP SUM AWARD.** Jim Scott continues to move forward with his class-action suit on behalf of his wounded son and other veterans who have been seriously wounded in Afghanistan and provided with the Chump Sum Award instead of the lifetime obligation abandoned by parliament in 2011. Mr. Scott has retained pro bono support by a very affluent law firm that fields over 400 lawyers. However, there will be costs in the sense of providing documentation that must be borne by the plaintiffs, the wounded! We are encouraging all CVA supporters to support this effort, even if it is just twenty bucks as it does legitimize the Canadian Veterans Advocacy's dedication to have this unjust policy revoked or deemed illegal by the courts and the **lifetime obligations to those who have sacrificed treasure in war and peace is restored!**



#### **Questions about VAC Stakeholders raised by Bill C-55's discriminatory exclusions**

Certainly, no one could have forecast the repercussions to the traditional veteran's stakeholder organizations now that the details of Bill C55 have been revealed. The Royal Canadian Legion in particular was very active in encouraging political support and went so far as to encourage its 300,000+ membership nationwide to contact members of the Loyal Opposition to persuade them to pass Bill C55 without delay mere weeks prior to the last election. As such, traditional veterans praying for relief through Bill C-55's enhancements must have been stunned when Madame Patricia Varga, President, Dominion Command, Royal Canadian Legion, publicly accused the Harper Government of discrimination against World War 2, Korean, and veterans of UN

and NATO missions prior to 2006.

Why did not the stakeholders know this? Surely they would not, could not have supported this Bill had they known that it deliberately excluded their membership? There are two UN organizations present, two UN-NATO, very few, if any of the veterans they are at the table to represent will be eligible for Bill C-55's enhancements. None of the World War 2, Korean era veterans, the traditional base of the Royal Canadian legion and ANAVETS are eligible either. Sadly, they would only discover this fact when Minister of National Defence Peter McKay publicly dismissed Mme. Vargas accusations by claiming Bill C55 was always intended solely for the new veterans.

Five years after the New Veterans Charter, the stakeholders have presented hundreds of recommendations, yet a mere handful of recommendations have been enacted.

What role does the VAC Stakeholders Committee really have, why does it exist? Have they not, for the past five years, been no more than window dressing for the announcements of decisions based on fiscal restraint, not the need of our veterans? How can the government claim to have heard veterans voices when they do not even hear the voices of organizations that represent hundreds of thousands veterans? How long will it be before they realize that words without action will only be ignored and as a consequence, there will be more veterans suicides, more destroyed families, more addictions, more homeless veterans...

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, provides the platform for all veterans and all organization to stand as one, proud, independent, united under one voice, purpose solely dedicated to our wounded warriors.

Canadian Veterans Advocacy Blazer and Vest Crests are available at \$15 each. Plus postage and handling.

***Wear yours with pride.***



Specify Square



Specify Round

### **Canadian Veterans Advocacy Mission Statement**

- To advocate for Canada's sons and daughters as they serve in Harm's Way.
- To advocate for the abolishment of the lump sum award and restoration of a lifetime pension.
- To advocate for an end to the widows tax.
- To advocate for a comprehensive, family inclusive, PTSD program.
- To advocate on behalf of all Agent Orange victims, CFB Gagetown.
- To advocate on behalf of all veterans exposed to chemical agents at CFB Suffield.
- To advocate for RCMP and police officer veterans who served beside our troops abroad.
- To advocate for the crew affected by the fire on HMCS Kootenay.
- To advocate for an end of the system clock back on 6500 veterans VAC pensions.
- To advocate for an end to the reduction of service/CPP disability pensions at age 65.
- To advocate for substantive change and improvement to the New Veterans Charter.
- To advocate for veterans and their wives in nursing homes to be united, not separated.

Our primary mission –

### **TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR DISABLED VETERANS!**

The Canadian Veterans Advocacy's agenda is based on veterans needs, no more, no less.

**One Veteran, One Standard, One VOICE!**

## CVNDOP 2 - Team Chilliwack

### *Leading by example!*

Last year, the Veterans of Chilliwack made a conscious decision to take a stand and protest against the dictatorship of the Conservative Government for their aggressive, despicable, and shameful treatment of veterans.

We felt that there was no other option, veterans pensions and programs were being systematically reduced and eliminated under the guise of N.V.C.

It was painfully obvious that the government's ruthless plan, was to pay down the debt on the very backs of our sons and daughters who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. There was a sense of helplessness, veteran leadership organizations were losing ground with negotiations. We observed stakeholder representatives, standing behind MPs getting their picture taken during worthless veteran program announcements. Then later, justifying it, by saying " its not what we wanted but it is a start".

The average veteran lost complete trust with our government and faith in the veterans organizations who were supposed to advocate on our behalf.

This is why last year, Chilliwack protested loud and clear, with 500 veterans and supporters at the door of Chuck Strahl's office demanding change.

With colour party leading, we marched with dignity to the constituency office. We sang "Oh Canada" and had a minute silence for the brave soldiers presently serving. We had speeches and demanded our respect back. The public did not view us as "uniformed thugs" or scoff at us because we receive well deserved pensions.

They supported our cause and stood shoulder to shoulder with us. They wrote letters to the editor in support of our issues.

Civic rage was obvious!

On November 5th, 2011, the veterans of Chilliwack will again be back, larger than ever, protesting with dignity and pride. We will continue to protest each year until we get our respect back.. I encourage veterans in other areas to show some grit and do the same.

Joe Beauchene  
Chilliwack



*Hi Joe,*

*You can count on me being at my MP's Nanaimo office on 5 Nov. 2011. Last year we also had a protest gathering at his office. MP Lunney as with all other attempts to communicate with him on the subject of veterans, chose not to come out of his office, instead he sent a representative who simply took notes. NOTHING has been heard from MP Lunney or any member of his staff since then.*

*We will be back again this year and next and next until he is voted out of office, gives up or does something positive for the veterans.*

*Unless we stay united, we will have difficulties getting the results veterans deserve.*

*Good work on your part and others to keep the government's feet to the fire.*

*Keep on standing tall,*

*Lee Roberge*



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**The Canadian Aboriginal Veterans Association**



is very pleased to announce the support of the Canadian Aboriginal Veterans Association who will stand for the One Veteran, One Standard principles on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, nationwide. Welcome, brothers and sisters, together, together, our voices will be heard.

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**Canadian Veterans Advocacy**  
**Electronic Networks**

Great work has been done on our website I our new volunteer AMP and I would encourage you to check it out as it has been updated and jazzed up a little bit. Jazzed up a lot, actually. You will find all the information required in reference to the Canadian Veterans National Day of Protest, the mandate of the Canadian veterans advocacy and information on the principles that have brought us together.

<http://www.canadianveteransadvocacy.com/index.html>

The CVA message board, moderated and controlled by Sylvain Chartrand, is surpassing expectations. We have provided a great deal of information about VAC services, DMD, the veterans ombudsman's office, events and issues directly concerning veterans and of course, team leader pages for those who are conducting local events at the Canadian Veterans National Day of Protest. I would encourage you to check it out if

you are searching for information or advice in reference to your treatment or in general.

<http://www.canadianveteransadvocacy.com/board/>

Our Facebook is over 4000 supporters draw and very active. For those who enjoy the Facebook community, please join us. We are always looking for new members. Our twitter account is also very active and a perfect forum to keep updated on information circulating through our information network. Once again, would encourage you to become a follower, one day, something will be posted that applies to you and the information could very well result in a hefty settlement or an appeal.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/CdnVetsAdvocacy/?id=226139874112574&notif\\_t=group\\_activity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CdnVetsAdvocacy/?id=226139874112574&notif_t=group_activity)

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**CVA Pennies for Veterans, Homeless Veterans Assistance, How to Donate**



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*The following poem was written by Mrs Trudi Kwakernaak about her son, who returned from Afghanistan seriously affected by the experience of watching his best friend die and others catastrophically wounded during an IED attack. The Canadians Veterans Advocacy's compassion for the parents and families is boundless and we encourage them to stand with us on November 5<sup>th</sup> on Parliament Hill and MP offices across the nation. Let us fight for Canada's Sons and Daughters as they have fought for us, not abandon them to a life of depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide*

I'm Not Me Anymore

Trudi Kwakernaak

I went over there anxious and willing to fight  
I came home beaten and far from alright  
They say I'm different, definitely not the same  
Some days I don't even know my own name.

I wore my uniform with overflowing pride  
Carried my rifle easily by my side  
Displayed the Maple Leaf for all to see  
I was exactly where I wanted to be

I did my job each and every day  
Didn't stay back, hide or shy away  
The enemy had weapons we had never seen  
They were heartless, relentless and downright mean

I was doing okay with days to go  
When my time was up, I could go happily home  
Of course I couldn't predict what was to come  
Now I'm someone my friends shy away from

One minute we were enjoying esprit de corps  
Then the scenery changed and we became victims of war  
Laughter receded and misery prevailed  
Only those involved will know what that day entailed

I lost my buddies, watched them die  
I was forced by the enemy to say goodbye  
I had a close call but they paid the price  
My life is forever changed because of an explosive device

You say I'm lucky because I lived  
I came home in one piece with nothing physically wrong  
You can't see my injuries, can't feel my pain  
I came home alive but I'll never be the same

I'm depressed and anxious, my head is quickly spinning  
I'm slowing dying inside, the demons are winning  
I was a soldier; dedicated, proud & gung ho  
Living each day in a fog is now the status quo

You say I've changed and you don't like what you see  
You tell me to get over it and start living again  
I'm trying but inside I feel numb, totally off track  
Depressingly unsure if the old me will ever come back

Forgive me for being a different person  
But you can't even imagine what I've been through  
Don't judge me or hate me or tell me my future's bright  
Life isn't the same, and I'm not alright.

Fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have addressed the confusion surrounding the Permanent Injury Award with our CVA Liaison officer at VAC HQ in Charlottetown. She has been very helpful and I would pass on this information to you with the hope that it will clarify and doubts you may have and encourage those who qualify but, under the impression that there was a percentage thresh hold, have not applied.

I think that you will be as surprised, and dismayed, at the low percentage levels of recipients in the sense, MY God, they qualify for a PIA yet there *awards were under thirty percent?????* Is that not a moral contradiction? How many others have been awarded a lower then logical award under the old system? Would you ever think that someone who is recieving less then thirty percent would be eligible after reading the qualifying conditions? (Attached)

The CVA believes there should only be one award, the max and that those who qualify through the Acts definition of a severe and permanent impairment should be compensated through the Acts definition, not the MINISTER'S DISCRETION.

It is one of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy's main objectives to ensure veterans have updated information and an opportunity to participate fully with any VAC sponsored programs. Many veterans are unaware of the programs that are available or are confused as to the per-requisites, as such, I would ask you to forward this message to any one you feel might be out of the loop! You might be doing them a great favour, one that will result is support and relief from financial burdens.

**What is a permanent and severe impairment?**

***Permanent Impairment Allowance***

40. For the purpose of section 38 of the Act, a permanent and severe impairment is:

- (a) an amputation at or above the elbow or the knee;
- (b) the amputation of more than one upper or lower limb at any level;
- (c) a total and permanent loss of the use of a limb;
- (d) a total and permanent loss of vision, hearing or

- speech;
  - (e) a severe and permanent psychiatric condition;
  - (f) a permanent requirement for the physical assistance of another person for most activities of daily living; or
  - (g) a permanent requirement for supervision.
- SOR/2009-225, s. 10(F).

I have copied our response from VAC HQ CVA's Liaison officer as I feel that it is comprehensive for our immediate needs and demonstrates the positive relationship the Canadian Veterans Advocacy has established with Veterans Affairs Canada. I believe that we share a mutual desire to ensure that veterans have accurate information, resources and tools to access programs that will improve the quality of their lives,

All veterans! One of the primary reasons the CVA is encouraging veterans and all Canadians to rally on November 5th on parliament Hill and MP ridings across the land is the discriminatory practices of Bill C-55, which excluded veterans from WW2, Korea, the Gulf War, UN and NATO operational theatres across the globe from the enhancements provided through the Bill.

These men and women bleed and suffer the same as do those who served today, they deserve the same level of respect. Stand with us! Stand for the living, the wounded, the widows, the children and the rights of those who serve today.



Veterans Emergency Transition Services

Follow up questions and answers to telephone meeting with Mike Blais, Canadian Veterans Advocacy:

**1. Can you send me the numbers you provided re: percentage awards?**

Yes – this is accurate as of August 11, 2011

VAC total assessed disability (disability award + disability pension if applicable)	Percentage of total PIA recipients
5 – 27%	8%
28 – 52%	16%
53 – 77%	18%
78 – 97%	18%
98 – 100%	40%

**2. Can you tell me how much is paid out on each of the three grades of assessment?**

**2011 Rates:**

- Grade 1 - \$1631.71
- Grade 2 - \$1087.81;
- Grade 3 - \$543.91

These rates increase each January 1<sup>st</sup> in accordance with the cost of living index

**Note – Permanent Impairment Allowance is taxable and is paid for life.**

**3. Can you describe the (application) process?**

- Client and his/her Case Manager discuss Permanent Impairment Allowance and client's potential eligibility;
- Permanent Impairment Allowance Application and Checklist (attached) completed by the Case Manager or other appropriate member of the Client Service Team;
- Application, checklist and any required supporting documentation (such as the Area Counsellor Assessment, Specialists' reports) forwarded to Adjudicative Services in Head Office;

- Adjudicative services reviews and makes the decision on both eligibility for the allowance and the applicable grade;
- Client receives decision letter with review rights (if dissatisfied with decision); and
- If approved, client begins to receive monthly payment.

**4. Can you define “Minister’s discretion?”**

Section 41 of the regulations state that the Minister shall determine the extent of the impairment taking into consideration the factors outlined in a-f.

*What this statement means, in plain language, is that there are three grades of Permanent Impairment Allowance. Using criteria that are defined in policy, VAC staff will, using the evidence provided, determine which level of Permanent Impairment Allowance is most appropriate for the individual.*

**5. Can you provide a brief definition of the conditions pertaining to the additional \$1000 supplement, inclusive of the award and the review process?**

The permanent impairment allowance supplement is payable to a Veteran who: a) is in receipt of permanent impairment allowance; and b) has been determined to be totally and permanently incapacitated.

Veterans who have been approved for rehabilitation services may be determined to be “totally and permanently incapacitated” means that the veteran is unable to perform any occupation that would be considered suitable and gainful. “Suitable and gainful” means employment at which a Veteran would earn 66% or more than their salary at release.



*“ Pro Patria ”*

