

Minister Hehr Announces Departmental Headquarters relocation from Charlottetown to Ottawa

Minister Hehr announces that Veterans Affairs Headquarters will be relocated from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Ottawa, Ontario. This move will save taxpayers millions of dollars and improve Veterans' access to services and benefits.

April 1, 2017 — Calgary — Veterans Affairs Canada

The Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence announced today in Calgary that the Department of Veterans Affairs Headquarters will be relocated from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Ottawa, Ontario.

The Minister stated that this move is consistent with his remarks at the Veterans Affairs Committee on March 8, 2017 when he emphasized that the Government is committed to delivering services to veterans “where they need them, when they need them”. Moving the Department to Ottawa will contribute to this objective.

There is a surplus of vacant Government owned office space and office buildings in Ottawa. The move will commence once a suitable site has been identified by Public Works Canada in cooperation with Veterans Affairs Canada.

Quotes

“Although the timing of this announcement is coincidental with April 1st I can assure veterans and their families that it is not an April Fool’s joke. I am extremely pleased to announce this relocation. It illustrates a continued effort by the Department to provide increased service and benefits to Veterans and their families.

“Although there will be short-term moving expenses, in the long run this move will save the taxpayers millions of dollars. This money can be redirected into programs and services where they will benefit veterans the most”.

Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of the Department of National Defense

“My father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, moved Veterans Affairs to Charlottetown in 1983. It seemed like the right thing to do at the time. Since then, we realized that it was a mistake. Serving the needs of veterans is a priority and moving Veterans Affairs back to Ottawa is part of accomplishing that. If my father can move Veterans Affairs to Charlottetown, then I can move it back to Ottawa, and that’s what we’re doing”.

Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

As Mayor of the City of Ottawa, I am delighted that the federal Government has decided to move Veterans Affairs back to the national capital. The move will be good for Ottawa and the local economy. This move occurs at an excellent time when Ottawa's state of the art rail transit system is being completed. Ottawa's new rail system will ensure that Veterans Affairs staff will arrive at work on time every morning and be sitting at their desks waiting to answer their phones when veterans call them for assistance".

Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa

Quick facts

- In 1983, the national headquarters of Veterans Affairs Canada was moved to Charlottetown as part of a nationwide federal government decentralization programme.
- No other government departments were moved outside the National Capital Region. This creates a cone of silence that feeds into a climate of secrecy and deception in the Department.
- The Minister of Veterans Affairs and Deputy Minister rarely visit their Department headquarters. The cost to the Canadian taxpayer of flying Veterans Affairs staff to Ottawa for meetings is astronomical.
- Moving Veterans Affairs Canada to Ottawa where all government departments are located will improve efficiencies and service delivery to veterans.

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