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Feature: **Liberals Fighting Veterans in Court a Losing Battle at the Polls**

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## **VeteranVoice.info**

VVi is for you, all veterans, regardless of whether you belong to a veteran organization or not. VVi is a distribution centre, a conduit for making sure that the information you need as a veteran is there for you in a timely fashion. Our aim is to provide a forum for *all* Canadian veterans, serving members and their families to have access to information pertaining to veteran rights.

VVi is an independent site, not associated with any governmental department, agency or veteran organization. VeteranVoice.info is maintained by independent contributions.



## **Liberals Fighting Veterans in Court a Losing Battle at the Polls**

By Perry Grey, Chief Editor VVi

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It was a Liberal campaign promise that has been broken repeatedly: to not fight veterans in court. Yet that is exactly what the Trudeau government has done.

During the last election campaign, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau marketed what would be the cornerstone of the Liberal platform paper “Real Change: The Future We Owe Our Veterans”:

We will demonstrate the respect and appreciation for our veterans that Canadians rightly expect, and ensure that no veteran has to fight the government for the support and compensation they have earned.

Contrast this with CBC’s reporting last year that the federal government has spent more than \$38 million “on legal proceedings involving Canada’s veterans over the past two years”.

Last year in an Edmonton town hall, a disabled veteran confronted the Prime Minister as to why the Liberals keep fighting veterans in court. The Prime Minister’s response will echo well after the upcoming election campaign. “Why are we still fighting against certain veterans’ groups in court? Because they are asking for more than we are able to give right now.”

They both were referring to one specific case wherein a group of veterans were suing the government to honour a covenant with veterans that has been in place for almost a century: the payment of lifelong pensions for pain and suffering to veterans and their families. In fact, this was another of Trudeau’s campaign promises: “to reinstate lifelong pensions”. Government argued that government has no special covenant with veterans. The Courts agreed and dismissed the case.

Veterans and serving members have since seethed with a sense of betrayal.

Liberals symbolically twisted the knife further in the eyes of many. In settling with Omar Khadr for \$10.5 million, the government claimed that it wished to avoid paying up to \$40 million to continue the legal fight.

Such cost-benefit analyses ring hollow with veterans and serving members, whether it is the misguided attempts to prosecute Admiral Mark Norman or the lesser known legal case involving well-known advocate for disabled veterans and their families, Sean Bruyea.

Ottawa has racked up a pretty taxpayer legal bill using crafty legal manoeuvres against Sean. In response to an article he wrote for the Hill Times which critiqued the justifiably maligned Liberal “Pension for Life” program, former Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O’Regan accused Sean of “stating mistruths” and making “numerous other errors” in his writing to suit his “own agenda”.

Sean sued O’Regan in small claims court for the modest sum of \$25,000. Meanwhile, the lead researcher for the House Committee on Veterans Affairs as well as the Parliamentary Budget Officer came to the same conclusions as Sean that the “Pension for Life” will save the government billions of dollars compared to previous lifelong pensions.

Even experts in Veterans Affairs Canada told the Minister and/or his staff that Sean's article was largely accurate.

Nevertheless, the Feds then successfully had Sean's case dismissed by employing a law meant to protect little guys like Sean from bullying by big guys like the federal government. The feds had the audacity to claim that Sean's lawsuit was putting a chill on public officials to speak out. The "chill" must have been downright tropical because Seamus O'Regan was simultaneously bragging repeatedly about his almost 50 public town halls he held across Canada to sell the Pension for Life to veterans.

As former Conservative Minister of Veterans Affairs Erin O'Toole stated in the House of Commons last fall, "Now Sean Bruyey is in court to clear his name". (Sean was once again in court on June 13 2019 in an attempt to overturn the dismissal).

And what did it cost Ottawa to defend against a \$25,000 lawsuit so far? We don't know because the Department of Justice refuses to divulge the numbers but in the first few months alone (we are now well into a year since this began), Ottawa spent \$59,039.85 of taxpayer's money. Sean speculates that the ultimate cost to defend Seamus O'Regan's attacks will be more than \$250,000. In comparison, Sean's GoFundMe campaign (Justice for Veterans Legal Fund) has raised \$6525. David is fighting Goliath.

Remember, Justin Trudeau is the Prime Minister who refused to respond to personal attacks from Jason Kenney. He also defended the media and press freedom. Meanwhile, he claims he is fiscally responsible.

Could someone please explain to me, other veterans and the rest of Canada why he allows his close personal friend, Seamus O'Regan to spend taxpayer's money to defend the Minister's personal attacks and false allegations against a well-respected veteran like Sean Bruyey who happens also to be a widely published columnist for the media?

It is clear to veterans, and to most Canadians, that the federal government will always fight veterans in the courts regardless of whether or not the government wins or loses. Is this how the government repays the sacrifices of veterans and their families?

*Perry Gray is a Regular Force veteran, serving as the Chief Editor of VVi. Perry has been with VVi for 18 years.*





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### You Can Help!

All veterans are encouraged to pass information, opinions, links to self-help sites onto VVi. VeteranVoice.info is a distribution centre and we are dependant on others to pass information. This is your site. Tell other veterans about your site.

Email: [info@VeteranVoice.info](mailto:info@VeteranVoice.info)

Facebook Messenger: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteranVoice.info>

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 <b>VVi CSAT Forum</b>	<a href="http://csat.top-talk.net/">http://csat.top-talk.net/</a>

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**Veteran's Aide  
Memoire**

[http://veteranvoice.info/archive/aide\\_memoire/Vet\\_Aide\\_Memoire.pdf](http://veteranvoice.info/archive/aide_memoire/Vet_Aide_Memoire.pdf)



**Equitas Society**

<http://www.equitassociety.ca/>



Marijuana For Trauma Inc.  
VÉTÉRANS HELPING VÉTÉRANS

**MARIJUANA For Trauma  
(MFT)**

<https://mftgroup.ca/>

**National (US) Gulf War  
Resources Center, Inc.**

<http://www.ngwrc.org/>



**PPCLI**

**Association  
Volunteer Patricia  
Program (VPP)**

<http://vpp.ppcliassoc.ca>



<http://seanbruyea.com>



<https://www.cfpsa.com/Splashpages/SoldierOn/>



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<https://www.veteranstelevision.com>

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**Veterans Emergency**  
**Transition Services**

<http://www.vetscanada.org/>



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