

What are Canadian Veterans' Goal in Petitioning the Federal Govt?

General. This Aide Memoire consists of two parts:

- Part 1 –VAC Objectives to Support Medical Release Veterans
- Part 2 - CAF Objectives to Support Medical Release Veterans

Purpose. This Aide Memoire is strictly to be used as a guide for *ALL* veterans. It is a 'field' manual for veterans' quick access to the outstanding issues.

Inclusiveness. This Aide Memoire is not all-inclusive. Rather, it lists primary outstanding issues that need to be corrected. Further reading is encouraged. A limited list of first references are listed below.

Recommended References:

Ref Title	Link
VAC Website	http://www.veterans.gc.ca/
Veterans Ombudsman	http://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/
CAF Ombudsman	http://www.ombudsman.forces.gc.ca/
CF Morale & Welfare	https://www.cfmws.com/Pages/splash.aspx
SISIP	https://www.cfmws.com/en/AboutUs/SISIPFS/Pages/default.aspx
Veteran Guerilla Radio	https://www.facebook.com/groups/853095038155250/
Sean Bruyeyea Website	http://www.seanbruyeyea.com
Veterans of Canada	http://www.veteransofcanada.ca/
Banished Veterans	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451658385158523/
VVi website	http://VeteranVoice.info
VVi CSAT Forum	http://csat.top-talk.net/
VVi online free database	http://www.veteranvoice.info/db/all_records.asp

Universality. It is accepted that a universal standard of fitness must be maintained by the CAF. However, if veterans are injured and wounded while conducting their duties and can no longer achieve the needed fitness levels resulting in their medical release, then universality, or 'Scared Obligation' must also be applied.

Legislation. Legislation needs to incorporate the universality principle that all medically released CAF members are treated as one veteran category. It must encompass mechanisms and processes that are non-prejudicial, coherent, transparent to all Canadians, subject to periodical review and inclusive of all primary issues. The Veterans' Bill of Rights, The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canadian Human Rights Act, and transparency in public forums should be the guiding principles in the implementation of an evolved veterans charter. Consultations must always include veterans who are clients of VAC and/or SISIP.

VAC Bureaucracy. By and large, upper management of the VAC bureaucracy has been and will continue to be belligerent to veterans' wellbeing. This warning must be the guideline when negotiating with VAC, be it the Minister or any representative of the VAC bureaucracy.

Part 1 –VAC Objectives to Support Medical Release Veterans

OUR OBJECTIVES for VAC service-related disability benefits and compensation for CAF members on medical release

Ser	Issue	Goal	Comments
1.	Replace lump sum payment	Resurrect life monthly annuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ To be based off the Pension Act (PA) policy and calculations ✍ Universal standard to all mbrs on medical release ✍ Non-taxable ✍ Indexed ✍ Non-deductible with an exception: ✍ Recoup past lump sum payments at a max of 5% per month of monthly annuity
2.	Ministerial Advisory Groups	Make AGs responsible to vets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Possess separate budget. Arms length from VAC. ✍ Elected by stakeholder vets. ✍ Reports to stakeholder vets.
3.	Transitioning on Med Release	Simplify med release to VAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Universal standard offer to all mbrs ✍ Reserve mbrs maintain Class C ✍ Mbr's option ✍ Retained for up to 3 yrs ✍ Non-combat positions included ✍ Once released schedule of pmts and svcs starts
4.	Medical	Full family medical for disabled released	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Life ✍ Universal standard to all mbrs on medical release ✍ Full health, incl eyes, dental, prescription ✍ Vet's option for family coverage, to pay premiums post-release ✍ Marry the two existing health benefit plans (Sun Life and Blue Cross). Consistent therapy treatments and without putting the vet in financial crisis. ✍ VAC to act in the capacity of general contractor providing medical rehab. VAC will not conduct its own in-house medical rehab.
5.	Veterans Review Appeals Board (VRAB)	Appeals Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Possess separate budget. ✍ Arms length from VAC. ✍ VRAB removed from the VAC portfolio

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ VAC must stop low-balling benefits. ✍ Composition of VRAB minimum 2/3rds vet ✍ Chair of each individual board must be a vet ✍ No political appointees to the Board ✍ VRAB medical decisions must go beyond definitions of Merck manual ✍ VRAB requires better access to independent med specialists ✍ Decision transparency
6.	Education	Trade or academic training and certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Universal standard offer to all vets ✍ Vet's option ✍ Trades trg ✍ Academic upgrade within vet's educational ability ✍ Spouses automatically qualify for education benefits ✍ VAC to act in the capacity of general contractor providing medical rehab. VAC will not conduct its own in-house medical rehab.
7.	Employment Preference		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Currently exists, however, it has not been successful on a larger scale. ✍ Universal standard offer to all vets ✍ Vet's option ✍ Expand priority hiring to provincial and private sector.
8.	Bureau of Pension Advocates (BPA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Possess separate budget. Arms length from VAC. ✍ Still acts on behalf of the client veteran ✍ BPA must have access to VRAB trg. ✍ BPA allowed access to VRAB database of decisions.

Part 2 - CAF Objectives to Support Medical Release Veterans

OUR OBJECTIVES for CAF service-related disability benefits and compensation for CAF members on medical release:

Ser	Issue	Goal	Comments
1.	Transitioning on Med Release	Simplify med release from CAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Universal standard offer to all mbrs ✍ Reserve mbrs maintain Class C ✍ Mbr's option ✍ Retained for up to 3 yrs ✍ Non-combat positions included ✍ Once released schedule of pmts and svcs starts
2.	SISIP Long Term Disability (LTD)	Maintain the SISIP LTD benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ This is an insurance policy and it should remain so. It is set up to include additional coverage for the serving member after hours and in an area of conflict. ✍ Held by the CDS on behalf of the CAF ✍ Premium payments are to remain the same ✍ Universal standard to all mbrs on medical release ✍ Indexed
3.	SISIP Rehab	Maintain SISIP Rehab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Greater coordination between VAC Rehab and the SISIP Rehab programs.
4.	Supplementary Death Benefit (SDB)	Boost SDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Universal standard offer to all vets ✍ Vet's option, choose to pay premiums post-release ✍ Non-taxable ✍ Inflationary adjusted ✍ Instead of SDB decreasing to zero at age 70 reduce it to half at 65 until death with premium pmts to death
5.	CFSA	CFSA Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Vets who have not reached their minimum CFSA requirement ✍ Indexed ✍ Taxable ✍ Surviving spousal pension
6.	Age 65 Clawback	Stop to Age 65 Clawback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Stop the Clawback of CFSA at age 65/66.