



GOVERNMENT HAPPENINGS

The needs of Veterans are changing. It is happening now, and it is happening quickly. On October 6, 2011, our Government responded by announcing that enhancements to the New Veterans Charter are now in effect—improving financial support for thousands of Canadian Veterans.

To date, Veterans Affairs Canada has helped more than 20,000 Veterans, Canadian Forces members and their families through programs and services under the New Veterans Charter. The Charter offers the financial help Veterans need while providing full physical and psychological rehabilitation services, vocational assistance, health care benefits, and one-on-one case management—all aimed at helping Veterans make a successful transition to civilian life.

Our Government promised that the New Veterans Charter would evolve with the needs of the men and women it serves—and these latest enhancements follow through on this promise. Over the next five years, an additional \$189 million dollars has been set aside for Veterans most in need. It is estimated that a minimum of 4,000 Veterans will qualify for this enhanced financial support during this time.

Enhancements to the New Veterans Charter:

- A minimum pre-tax income of \$40,000 a year for Veterans who are in rehabilitation or, if they are no longer able to be gainfully employed, until age 65;
- Expanded eligibility for additional monthly allowances (worth up to \$1,632 per month, payable for life) for seriously injured Veterans;
- A new \$1,000 monthly supplement to the Permanent Impairment Allowance (payable for life) to help our most seriously injured or ill Veterans who are unable to return to suitable, gainful employment; and
- New payment options for Canadian Forces members and Veterans receiving a disability award. While these men and women still have the choice of a lump-sum payment, they are also now able to receive a disability award as either an annual payment (with interest) over any number of years they choose, or as a combination of a partial lump-sum payment and annual payments (with interest).

These enhancements are just one example of how our Government is changing to meet the needs of today's Veterans. In the following weeks and months, Veterans will see the positive impact of how Veterans Affairs Canada is cutting red tape and working to offer the hassle-free service Veterans have asked for.

2012-2013 HOUSE OF COMMONS PAGE PROGRAM

In the Chamber and around Parliament Hill, Pages live and breathe the history and action of one of Canada's oldest political institutions. House of Commons Pages are selected from high schools and CEGEPS across Canada every year. These students work in the House of Commons while beginning their studies at a university in the National Capital Region and make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Pages play a key role in the communications network on Parliament Hill. Delivering important messages and documents to Members, linking Members to their Hill offices and serving House officials in various capacities, House of Commons Pages are always on the go. Professional, non-partisan, prompt and efficient service has become a hallmark of the House of Commons Page Program. The 2012-2013 Pages will be contracted to work at the House of Commons for one year beginning in late August 2012. They will work a minimum of 15 hours a week and their work schedule will be coordinated with their university schedule. Information and application details are available on the Parliament of Canada website and must be submitted online at www.parl.gc.ca/hocpage. This year's deadline for application is Thursday, December 22, 2011.

OUT & ABOUT THE OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP, OCTOBER 2011



One of the favourite parts of my job is to welcome new citizens to Canada. This photo is from a recent Citizenship Ceremony held at the Schubert Centre in Vernon.



This month, we celebrated the completion of the Vernon Hwy 97/Hwy 6 upgrade. It was a pleasure to witness the success of this project in the City of Vernon.

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