



News Release

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Harper Government Announces Enhancements to the New Veterans Charter Are Now in Effect

Ottawa – The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and Eve Adams, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, announced today that significant enhancements to the New Veterans Charter take effect this week and will help thousands of seriously ill and injured Veterans who require additional financial support.

“Our Government promised that the New Veterans Charter would evolve with the needs of the men and women it serves. With our latest enhancements, we’re delivering on that promise,” said Minister Blaney. “With the *Enhanced New Veterans Charter Act*, an immediate \$189 million has been set aside over the next five years to ensure that seriously injured Canadian Forces Veterans receive adequate financial support. This will grow to \$2 billion over the life of the program.”

The *Enhanced New Veterans Charter Act* provides additional monthly support for Veterans who are seriously ill and injured, as well as flexible new payment options for recipients of a disability award. It is estimated that a minimum of 4,000 Veterans will qualify for the enhanced financial support over the next five years alone.

“We understand that the needs of today’s Veterans are often complex—whether these men and women served our country here in Canada or overseas in such troubled places as Bosnia or Afghanistan,” said Ms. Adams. “The enhancements to the New Veterans Charter are a tangible example of how we are changing to meet these needs of our Veterans and our men and women in uniform.”

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

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- 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).

For more information on the changes at Veterans Affairs Canada, visit **veterans.gc.ca**.

Backgrounder – Additional details on the *Enhanced New Veterans Charter Act*.

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