

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

*1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association
14th Canadian Field Regiment Association
435-436 & Burma Squadrons Association
Air Force Association of Canada
Aircrew Association
The Algonquin Regiment Veterans' Association
Armed Forces Pensioners' / Annuitants' Association
of Canada
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of
Canada Association
Bomber Command Association Canada
Burma Star Association
Canadian Airborne Forces Association
Canadian Association of World War II Veterans from
the Soviet Union
Canadian Corps Association
Canadian Fighter Pilots Association
Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association Inc.
Canadian Naval Air Group
Canadian Naval Divers Association
Canadian Paraplegic Association
The Canadian Scottish Regimental Association*

*Canadian Tribal Destroyer Association
The Chief and Petty Officers' Association
Dieppe Veterans and Prisoners of War Association
The Dodo Bird Club of Ex-RCAF Flight Sergeants
Ferry Command Association
First Special Service Force Association
Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada
Jewish War Veterans of Canada
KLB (Konzentrations Lager Buchenwald) Club
Korea Veterans Association of Canada
The Limber Gunners
Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council
The Military Vehicle Hobbyists Association
National Prisoners of War Association of Canada
Naval Association of Canada, Montreal Branch
Naval Club of Toronto
Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association
Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada
Operation Legacy
The Overseas Club - Canadian Red Cross Corps
(Overseas Detachment)
The Polish Combatants' Association in Canada*

*The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association
RCAF Prisoner of War Association
Regimental Association for the Toronto Scottish
Regiment (Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's
Own)
Royal Air Forces Escaping Society
Royal Canadian Air Force Pre-War Club of Canada
The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Association
Royal Canadian Naval Association
The Royal Canadian Regiment Association
Royal Naval Association - Southern Ontario Branch
Royal Winnipeg Rifles Association
The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded
The South Alberta Regiment Veterans Association
Submariners Association of Canada (Central Branch)
Toronto Police Military Veterans Association
The War Amputations of Canada
War Pensioners of Canada
War Veterans & Friends Club
The Warriors' Day Parade Council
White Ensign Club Montreal
Wren Association of Toronto*

**MEMORANDUM: Executive Officers
Representatives, Member-Associations**

DATE: April 2, 2014

**SUBJECT: Submission to Standing Committee on
Veterans Affairs**

I am enclosing a copy of my Submission on behalf of the National Council of Veteran Associations presented on April 1, 2014 to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs in relation to the reform of the New Veterans Charter.

It is to be noted that the substance of my Submission is based on the Legislative Agenda which we adopted at the NCVA Annual General Meeting last October in Toronto, vis-à-vis our position on this longstanding concern.

I might mention that the Submission was extremely well received by the Standing Committee, and I believe we are gaining significant traction insofar as impacting on the final report to be prepared by the Committee and delivered to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on reforming the Charter.

I continue to encourage the Minister to "get out in front" of the ongoing serious criticism of the lack of response by the Government in addressing

the voids and inequities readily apparent and identified in the Charter by the various advisory groups that have studied this matter over the last five years.

It remains my strong position that all relevant voices have been heard, and copious studies have been finalized as delineated in our Submission, and that it is clearly time to rectify the deficiencies in the modern day Charter legislation.

I would like to think, given the prospects of a balanced or surplus budget for next the fiscal period, that there would appear to be no further financial impediment to resolving this long festering problem in the veterans' community. In my considered opinion the Federal Government will, in all probability, be compelled to take appropriate action in the near future so as to not risk alienating the veteran constituencies vis-à-vis the pending election in 2015.

I will keep you apprised as to developments once the Standing Committee report is finalized and my anticipated further meetings with the Minister and senior levels of the departmental hierarchy are completed over the next few weeks.

Kind regards.

Yours very truly,



Brian N. Forbes

Chairman, National Council of Veterans Associations

Chairman, Executive Committee of The War Amputations of Canada

BNF/sc

Encl.