

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT DOWNLOADING COST OF VETERANS' LONG-TERM CARE TO PROVINCES

Nova Scotia expected to lose \$41 million annually for funding for veterans long-term care beds

HALIFAX, N.S. – Peter Stoffer, Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs and Gary Burrill, MLA for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley and Chair of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, slammed the federal government today for downloading the cost of veterans' long-term care beds to the provinces.

“Currently, the federal government provides \$41 million dollars annually in funding for veterans' long-term care beds in facilities throughout Nova Scotia,” said Stoffer. “This money will eventually dry up as the federal government washes its hands of the responsibility to provide long-term health care services for all veterans. The provinces will be the ones who are left to pick up the costs.”

“We are very concerned that the federal government is downloading the cost of long-term care beds for modern-day veterans to the provinces,” said Burrill. “Modern-day veterans, such as those who served in Bosnia, Afghanistan, or other conflicts should be provided the same federally-funded level of long-term care as veterans from World War II and the Korean War.”

Stoffer noted that the federal government will cease to provide long-term care funding after the last World War II and Korean War veteran passes away, except in very limited circumstances. He says that changes need to be made immediately to the Veterans Health Care Regulations so that modern day veterans and veterans' families are also eligible for long-term care beds.

“The federal government has a responsibility and moral obligation to provide these services to those who accepted the condition of unlimited liability in the service of Canada,” said Stoffer. It should be “One Veteran, One Standard.”

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For more information:

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