

Coalition of Canadians for Veterans

14 Priorities

Part 1: Seriously Injured Serving and Retired Military-Income

- 1) Eleven prominent veterans groups have called for an increase to the lump sum to match court awards (\$355,000 as April 2014). We view this increase as a temporary measure. The goal is to ensure harmonization of pain and suffering payments so that all injured veterans are compensated for injuries at least equivalent to Pension Act lifelong pension payments or matching awards given by the United Kingdom, whichever is greater. A choice between monthly Pension Act equivalent or equivalent lump sum may be considered.
- 2) We along with these same veterans groups are urgently calling to increase the Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) to 100% of release salary keeping pace with both current military salaries as well as compensating for typical career progression and continue for life. ELB would top up SISIP LTD for service-related disability.
- 3) It is unjust to freeze the earnings and education potential of seriously disabled veterans. Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) veterans should be given lifetime access to vocational rehabilitation and education programs.
- 4) All deductions from ELB for employment earnings cease. This will encourage community participation of the seriously disabled as well as increase tax revenues, hence offsetting some of the costs of providing much-deserved benefits.
- 5) Permanent Impairment Allowance is granted automatically to TPI veterans according to level of disability pension and/or award.
- 6) Permanent Impairment Allowance Supplement is granted to recipients of the Exceptional Incapacity Allowance.

Part 2: Families of Seriously Injured Serving and Retired Military

- 7) Separate allowance given directly to spouses or primary caregivers of TPI veterans.
- 8) Childcare funded at 100% for TPI veterans.
- 9) Spouses of TPI veterans funded for vocational rehabilitation even when TPI veteran accesses same program (see #3 above)
- 10) All surviving spouses of members who became deceased as a result of military service should be provided ELB. (Certain Memorial Cross widows continue to live in poverty)

Part 3: Seriously Injured Serving and Retired Reservists

- 11) Reservists should be granted full Earnings Loss Benefit equivalent to regular force salaries, erasing this grossly unfair discriminatory practice of under-compensating reservists.

Part 4: Guaranteeing the Future of Our Veterans and their Families

12) Comprehensive biannual reviews of the New Veterans Charter by both House and Senate Committees should be enshrined in law.

13) Comprehensive nation-wide community-centered reviews of Veterans benefits should be carried out at least once every five years by either House or Senate Committees.

14) A clear and legally binding statement on Canada's obligation to care for her veterans and their families.