

Government Initiatives and Budget 2015

Impact Analysis on Veterans and their Families

Item	Original Announcement	Value	Time	Political Bias
Enhancing Public Service jobs for veterans (Priority Hiring Act)	Bill C-27 Introduced - 4 Mar 2014 Royal Assent - 31 Mar 2015	No new money		Not relevant to this Budget: Clear affirmative action announcement to demonstrate Conservative support for vets adding nothing substantial.
Expanding the number of Operational Stress Injury Clinics	28 Nov 2014	\$200 million \$18.1 (6 years for 9 clinics) Balance spread over program life	2014 to 2064 (50 years)	This has been considered for nearly a decade and is long overdue. There is no justification for the delay in implementing this long over due increase to access and reduced wait times.
Improving online services	On-going	No new money		Clear affirmative action announcement to demonstrate Conservative support for veterans adding nothing substantial.
Improving access to funeral and burial benefits for younger veterans	Announced in 2014	No new money		Not relevant to this Budget. Clear affirmative action announcement to demonstrate Conservative support for veterans adding nothing substantial (possibly tied to Corporal Cirillo's murder) Likely aimed to help destitute veterans so that no veteran would be indecently laid to rest.
Hiring 100 more VAC case managers Temporary and Permanent	13 Apr 2015	New operational money – amount unknown		It is not clear how many full-time, permanent positions this represents.
Additional resources to improve service delivery - Tied to Case Mangers.	13 Apr 2015 Based on Auditor General's 25 Nov 2014 Report	\$34 million per year. Likely pays for the Case Managers	2015 to 2020	Veterans Ombudsman and the Auditor General requested more resources. A token amount for the sake of appearances that action is being taken to reduce long waiting times (over 1 year).
Streamline application decision times	13 Apr 2015 Based on Auditor General's Report - 25 Nov 2014			Not relevant to this Budget. Clearly an affirmative action announcement designed to demonstrate Conservative support for veterans adding nothing new or substantial.

Permanent Impairment Allowance	Mar 15, 2015			This has the appearance of a substantive improvement, yet it lacks specifics. Holding judgment on how much this closes the need gap.
Tax free, one-time additional benefit up to \$70,000 per person as a Critical Injury Benefit for severely disabled veterans	Mar 15, 2015			Aimed to ensure that the most affected veterans receive an additional benefit as compensation. Does not address issues related to one-time, lump sum award (vs. life-long compensation allowance) as compensation under the <i>New Veterans Charter</i> .
Tax Free Family Caregiver Relief Benefit	Mar 15, 2015	New money 7,238/year per eligible veteran's caregiver		Aimed to compensate primary caregivers who, by relationship, were not previously entitled to financial help. Has potential to satisfy a number of affected families. Can be used easily for election propaganda.
Earnings loss Benefit (income replacement)	Mar 15, 2015	Minimum guaranteed income of \$42,426/year. New money for Regular and Reserve		This addresses part of the evident injustice based on Regular/Reserve Force: It is one correction that helps the integrity of the philosophies of true total force and the "One veteran: One standard". (the result of Corporal Cirillo's murder).
Service delivery improvements (staffing and on-line services)		\$193.4 million	2015 to 2020	Over five years, not for the next fiscal year. Not significant when spread out so many years. Also easy to say as this should be an on-going quality management goal.
TOTAL BENEFITS: VETERANS AND FAMILIES		Total benefits: \$2.5 billion for veterans. \$85.5 million is new funding	2015 to 2020	Over five years, not for the next fiscal year. Not significant when spread out so many years. Also easy to say as this should be an on-going quality management goal.