

CANADIANS FOR VETERANS

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January 20, 2016

Kate Malloy
Editor, Hill Times

Dear Editor:

Canadians are, again, left wondering what is going on at Veterans Affairs. In the last week, two documents have been released – one with respect to homeless veterans and the other indicating that Veterans Affairs Canada has the tools necessary to improve the lives of veterans as they transition to civilian life. The previous government let both of these documents languish in the bowels of the bureaucracy, while our veterans struggled to keep a roof over their heads.

The President of the United States realized that it is a national disgrace to have homeless veterans and issued a challenge to elected state and municipal officials to end veterans' homelessness. In Canada, the City of Medicine Hat announced, in May 2015, that it had ended homelessness in that City.

What was wrong with our federal government? Were they so determined to "balance the budget" that they ignored the fact that some of the men and women, who honourably served Canada, were in dire straits or did they even care?

It is time for all Canadians to stand up and say "Enough is enough!" Canadians are a caring, compassionate people. We believe in fairness and justice. We pride ourselves in our ability to show these traits to the world.

Some veterans' advocates have suggested that there is a need to set up a Task Force. We do not need more studies or reports. Now is the time for action.

If the Americans can do it and Medicine Hat can do it, isn't it time for the rest of Canada to do it?

We believe that we can do better and solve this problem. In the words of Justin Trudeau, at the Brampton rally "*This is Canada. And in Canada, better is always possible.*"

We trust that the new federal government will move quickly on the issue of homelessness, especially for our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot Doey-Vick".

Margot Doey-Vick
Committee Chair
Canadians for Veterans