

# Life after Service Studies (LASS)

How are Canadian Forces personnel doing after transition to civilian life?



Military service can be both physically and mentally demanding, yet there is little information available about the health consequences after release. Life After Service Studies (LASS), a partnership between Veterans Affairs Canada, the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces, and Statistics Canada, is a program of research which addresses that knowledge gap by examining many aspects of health over the life course of military Veterans.

Overall, the LASS is a groundbreaking program of research which will help alleviate the gap in international research related to transition and re-integration. Early LASS results will provide key information for VAC's evaluation of the New Veterans Charter. Ultimately, this research program will enable VAC and DND to develop mitigation strategies related to identified issues, thereby more effectively meeting the changing needs of Veterans as they age.

Study results will be released as they become available.

## Research Questions

**Re-establishment:** How are Canadian Forces personnel doing after transition to civilian life in terms of income, health, well-being, disability, and other determinants of health?

**Program Reach:** Are existing transition/re-establishment programs reaching those in need?

**Unmet Needs:** Are there unmet needs that call for new/revised programs?

**Program Effectiveness:** How do VAC clients and non-clients compare in terms of income, health (well-being), disability and other determinants of health?

## Current Studies

**Income Study:** describes income and sources of income over time, by linking released personnel (both Regular and Reserve Force) with Statistics Canada's historical income data based on tax files.

**Survey on Transition to Civilian Life (STCL):** a telephone survey of released Regular Force members, conducted by Statistics Canada in February/March 2010, describing health, disability, social and economic status of Canadian Forces Veterans.

**Canadian Forces Cancer and Mortality Study (CF CAMS):** a linkage of Canadian Forces personnel files with Statistics Canada's national mortality and cancer databases.

## Contact:

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