

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation

The Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation (APSC) provides additional recognition and compensation to you if you are experiencing barriers to establishment in life after service due to a service-related permanent and severe impairment. It compensates you for recognition, not for loss of earnings.

You can apply for this benefit beginning on 1 April 2019.

Eligibility

You may receive this benefit if you have a service-related disability for which you have already received a Disability Pension, a Disability Award, or a Pain and Suffering Compensation (PSC). In addition, that disability must be causing a permanent and severe impairment which is creating a barrier to re-establishing in life after service.

There is no time limit for making an application for this benefit.

Payment calculation

If you are assessed as being Grade 1, your benefit amount will be \$1,500 per month. If Grade 2, your benefit will be \$1,000 per month. If Grade 3, your benefit will be \$500 per month. These levels of payment are determined by the extent of your impairment and barriers to re-establishment.

The amounts will be indexed annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

Non-taxable benefit

This benefit is not taxable; similar to the Pain and Suffering Compensation.

Payment and delivery

Payments will be made on a monthly basis and continue to be paid for the duration of your life. This only changes if you notify us regarding an improvement in health which may make you no longer eligible to receive the benefit.

In the event of death

This benefit is only for Veterans who themselves have experienced severe and permanent impairments that have created barriers to establishment of life after service. Survivors and surviving children do not qualify for this benefit.

Other financial support

There are other non-taxable benefits available, such as the existing Clothing Allowance and Critical Injury Benefit, and the new Pain and Suffering Compensation. If you have a service-related injury and/or illness you can also receive the Income Replacement Benefit, a taxable benefit which is meant to compensate for loss of earnings. A wide range of benefits, programs and services in support of overall well-being—social, mental, physical and professional—are also available to you through Veterans Affairs Canada.

*Recipients of an Exceptional Incapacity Allowance are not eligible for this benefit.

Appeal options

If you are not satisfied with your Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation decision, you have the following options:

A REVIEW HEARING

A Review hearing with the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, which operates independently from Veterans Affairs Canada to provide a fair appeal process for Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation decisions.

B DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

A Departmental Review from Veterans Affairs Canada if you have new evidence to support your Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation application.

For help with these options, you can contact:

- The Bureau of Pensions Advocates, a free legal service within Veterans Affairs Canada (1-877-228-2250);
- A Veterans' organization, like the Royal Canadian Legion (1-877-534-4666); or
- A representative of their choice at your own expense.