

ACCESS TO REHABILITATION SERVICES AND INCOME SUPPORT (POST APRIL 1, 2019)

Pension for Life is a combination of benefits that provide recognition, income support and stability to members and Veterans who experience a service-related illness or injury. The New Veterans Charter contained multiple economic benefits, each with its own complex eligibility and application processes. Having Veterans and their families apply for multiple separate financial benefits related to income replacement was unnecessarily complex. That's why we have consolidated the six benefits into a single monthly payment—the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB).

If you are a releasing Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) member, changes coming on 1 April 2019—as part of Pension for Life—may affect how you receive your income support benefits and medical, psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation services.

What are the changes?

As of 1 April 2019:

- A.** If you medically release due to health problems that result primarily from service:
 - you will continue to have access to vocational rehabilitation, vocational assistance, and income support through the CAF LTD plan as first provider/payer;
 - you will continue to have access to medical, psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation services through VAC; and
 - you will have access to the new Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) through VAC.
- B.** If you medically release due to health problems that do not result primarily from service:
 - you will continue to have access to vocational rehabilitation, vocational assistance and income support through the CAF LTD plan only;

- you will continue to have access to medical and psycho-social rehabilitation services through VAC as an interim measure only, until these services are available under the CAF LTD plan, which will be no later than April 1, 2024; and
 - you will not have access to the new Income Replacement Benefit (IRB).
- C.** After your release, if, later in life, you develop health problems primarily resulting from service you can access support from Veterans Affairs Canada. You may continue to access needed rehabilitation services, vocational assistance and income support through Veterans Affairs Canada.

A successful transition

The CAF and VAC are committed to supporting your successful transition to post-service life. We are working together to ensure you receive the supports and services you need through both VAC and the CAF. Our goal is to simplify and consolidate our supports and services so that you receive the best care possible for your individual situation.

More information

If you are medically releasing on or after 31 March 2019 due to non-service-related reasons, or if you are uncertain of your status, please contact the nearest Integrated Personnel Support Centre. Staff will arrange a meeting with you. We encourage you to bring your spouse, partner or a person to support you when you meet with Integrated Personnel Support Centre and VAC staff. To contact the nearest Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC)/Transition Centre, go to the link: www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/benefits-military/health-support/casualty-support/ipsc.html.