

Counseling Services Prior to a Disability Claim

November 2019



▼ OVERVIEW

2

- The Liberal Party of Canada has committed:
 - *“To help ease the stigma that many may feel about starting a disability claim, and to make sure that every veteran gets the help they need, we will give our veterans up to \$3,000 in free counselling services before a disability claim is required”*
- *redacted*
- *redacted*
- *redacted*

▼ BACKGROUND

- While serving, payment of health care for serving Regular Force members is the responsibility of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) / Department of National Defense (DND)
 - Members of the CAF are not insured persons under the *Canada Health Act*
- Following release, CAF Veterans may have access to multiple sources of health care coverage including:
 - Provincial/Territorial Health Care Plans
 - Public Service Health Care Plan (if a superannuate)
 - VAC
 - Private/employer coverage
- As of March 31, 2018, there were an estimated 649,300 Veterans in Canada
 - 48,300 War Service Veterans (17,078 were VAC clients)
 - 601,000 CAF Veterans (100,494 were VAC clients)
- As of March 31, 2018, there were 27,732 VAC clients in receipt of Disability Compensation for a Psychological Condition
 - 751 War Service Veterans
 - 21,872 Canadian Armed Forces Veterans
 - 5,107 RCMP

▼ CURRENT STATUS

There are currently three VAC programs through which Veterans may receive funding for counselling services:

- VAC Assistance Line
 - Free counselling service available regardless of disability entitlement
 - Available to:
 - any former member of the RCMP
 - any Veteran
 - family members
 - Provides up to 20 sessions of counselling services per issue/problem
 - 2,004 individuals utilized in 2018/2019 (1,426 Veterans, 406 spouses, 172 children)
 - Individuals can use the VAC assistance service multiple times per year if required
- VAC Treatment Benefits Program
 - “A-Line Treatment” – treatment for service related health conditions for which the Veteran has received entitlement for a Disability Pension, Disability Award or Pain and Suffering Compensation
 - “B-Line Treatment” – treatment for any health condition (few CAF Veterans have this level of coverage)
- VAC Rehabilitation Program – treatment authorized under the Veteran’s rehabilitation plan

▼ Platform Commitment- Counseling Services Prior to a Disability Claim

5

- The objective of this platform commitment is two-fold:
 - To ease stigma that many Veterans feel about starting a disability claim; and
 - To ensure Veterans get the help they need
- The platform commitment estimates that introducing “\$3,000 in free counselling services before a disability claim is required” would:
 - Provide benefits to as many as 20,000 Veterans per year; and that
 - Veterans would receive nearly six months of free support
- *redacted*
- *redacted*

▼ IMPLEMENTATION

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redacted

▼ CONSIDERATIONS

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redacted



ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

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redacted

▼ NEXT STEPS: CRITICAL TIMELINES

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redacted



DISCUSSION