



# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON PTSD AND OTHER RELATED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

## Background

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is creating a new Centre of Excellence on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and related Mental Health Conditions.

The Centre of Excellence will work with existing Canadian mental health clinical and research networks and create new ones to increase Canadian expertise related to military and Veteran mental health, suicide prevention and substance-use disorder issues. By creating awareness of mental health conditions that Veterans and military members may experience, advancing research to support the development of new treatment approaches, the Centre will play a key role in improving outcomes for impacted Canadian military members, Veterans and their families. By continuously working on all of these, front-line medical workers across Canada will be better able to provide services to Veterans and their families.

The Centre of Excellence will conduct applied research, create and share newly created knowledge, and develop tools to support the assessment and treatment of mental health conditions that impact Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members and their families.

The Centre of Excellence is one of several key elements in a joint VAC and CAF approach in the area of mental health.

## Quick Facts

Over four years, \$17.5 million will be dedicated to the Centre of Excellence on PTSD and other related Mental Health Conditions to increase knowledge of mental health issues faced by Veterans and CAF members.



As of September 31, 2017, of all Veterans who received a benefit from Veterans Affairs Canada, 20% received a disability benefit for a mental health condition.

Seventy-three percent (73%) of Veterans, who received a benefit from Veterans Affairs Canada for a mental health condition, received it specifically for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Sixteen percent (16%) of members who deployed to Afghanistan, are in receipt of a pension or award from Veterans Affairs Canada for a mental health condition related to their service in Afghanistan.

Over the last 5 years, VAC has committed more than \$3 million in research projects designed to better understand and meet the needs of Canada's Veterans and their families. This includes the Life After Service Studies (LASS), studies on Mental Health, Psychiatric Service Dogs, Veteran Families, Equine Therapy, Identity and Recognition, Suicide, Employment, and Homelessness.

