Veterans Affairs Canada
Funeral and Burial Program

The Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program is delivered by the Last Post Fund, a not-for-profit organization, on behalf of the Department. Through Economic Action Plan 2013, the Department has more than doubled the compensation provided to eligible Veterans’ families, who can now receive up to $7,376 towards the cost of their funeral as well as receive the full costs for burial and gravemarking. This program provides support to ensure Veterans in financial need receive funeral and burial services that meet the standards established by the Veterans Burial Regulations. Not all Veterans are eligible. The Program is for:

- Veterans whose death was related to their military service, or
- Veterans who have service eligibility and whose estates cannot pay for some or the entire funeral and burial costs. In this case, the Veteran’s estate must meet certain criteria to be eligible for financial assistance. A means test looking at assets and liabilities is done at the time of death to determine if there is a financial need.

In addition to being financially in need, the Veteran must have been:

- a Canadian Armed Forces or Merchant Navy Veteran of the Second World War, or
- a Canadian Veteran of the Korean War who served in the theatre of operations, or has been part of special forces designated to go to the Republic of Korea before October 31, 1953, or
- an Allied Veteran who served with Allied Forces in the Second World War or Korean War. He or she must have lived in Canada for at least 5 years, or lived in Canada prior to enlisting and must have been living in Canada at time of death.

Not all Veterans are eligible for the Program. Veterans and their families should contact the Last Post Fund to see if they are eligible.

Applying for the Program

An application for funeral and burial assistance may be made only following the Veteran’s death. When this occurs, the person responsible for funeral arrangements should contact the Last Post Fund to complete an application. If the Last Post Fund is contacted and the deceased Veteran’s eligibility is determined before firm funeral arrangements are made, the Last Post Fund will deal directly with the funeral home to provide standard services.

If the Last Post Fund is contacted after funeral arrangements have been made, the eligible Veteran’s family or estate may be reimbursed for eligible costs.

Please note there is a one-year time limit after the Veteran’s death to apply for assistance.

To apply, call the Last Post Fund Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the following toll-free number: 1-800-465-7113.

Requesting a review

Anyone who applied for financial assistance has the right to request a review of the decision. To request a formal review, applicants must contact the Last Post Fund in writing within 60 days of the original decision. For more information on requesting a review, please call the Last Post Fund at 1-800-465-7113.

Unmarked Grave Program

This Last Post Fund program provides a permanent military-style marker for eligible Veterans who lie in unmarked graves. The Program is available to Veterans who have been buried for at least five years and whose grave is unmarked.

Contact us

For more information on the Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program or the Last Post Fund Unmarked Grave Program, visit lastpostfund.ca or call 1-800-465-7113.

This publication is available upon request in other formats.