

# Disability Benefits



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides financial payments through the Disability Benefits Program to individuals who have a service-related illness or injury. To receive a disability benefit, you must have a diagnosed medical condition or disability and show that the condition or disability is related to your service.

There are two types of disability benefits, both of which are tax-free. The **Disability Award** provides financial support, in the form of a lump-sum payment or as annual instalments over a period of years. The **Disability Pension** provides this support through a monthly payment.

## Who qualifies for the Disability Award?

- Canadian Armed Forces members or Veterans who served between 1947 and today (excluding Korean War service).

## Who qualifies for the Disability Pension?

- Veterans who served in the Canadian Armed Forces or the Merchant Navy in the Second World War or the Korean War;
- **civilians** who served in close support of the military during the Second World War; or
- current and former members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

## How do I apply?

The staff at any VAC office, Service Canada centre or Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC) can assist you. To find one of these offices, to request an application form or to learn more about this and other benefits, visit us online at **veterans.gc.ca** or call us at **1-866-522-2122**.

If you are registered for My VAC Account, you can apply online. A checklist of everything you have to include with your application for disability benefits can be found under the “What you need to apply” page in the Disability Benefits section of our Web site. However, before you submit your full application, please visit one of our offices or call us to ensure you have everything we require.

## Important information

- Veterans’ organizations, such as the Royal Canadian Legion and The War Amps of Canada, can also help you apply for disability benefits.
- Additional benefits may be provided to disability pensioners with a spouse, a common-law partner or other dependants. Surviving dependants may also qualify to receive benefits.
- If you choose to receive a lump-sum disability award, we recommend consulting a financial advisor to help you invest the amount for your future. VAC can pay up to \$500 toward the cost of getting this advice.
- **Civilian** refers to individuals who served in support of the military during wartime, such as civilian air crew members, fire fighters, overseas welfare workers, etc.

For more information:

**veterans.gc.ca**

**1 866 522-2122**

This is one in a series of program fact sheets available through the Publications Hub on the VAC Website.



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