

Analysis of the current status of ACVA recommendations:

The New Veterans Charter: Moving Forward, House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs
(ACVA), June 2014

14 Recommendations (plus 3 sub-recommendations):

- 9 - implemented
- 1 - implemented but only partially meets intent
- 2 - partially implemented and only partially meet intent
- 5 - not implemented

5 Recommendations Not Implemented:

Families

- Financial support be provided to family members of seriously disabled veterans acting as “primary caregivers”...
 - The Family Caregiver Relief Benefit does not address this recommendation. It only provides an annual grant to cover respite care so that the family caregiver can take a break.

Vocational Rehabilitation

- SISIP Long Term Disability program be provided only to veterans medically released for a disability unrelated to military service, that all veterans released for service-related medical reasons benefit from the programs offered under the NVC...

Income Support / Lifetime financial security

- That VAC undertake a comprehensive review of the amount of the disability award to more adequately reflect awards in civil liability cases for personal injuries, implement a transparent and clear process for determining its value, and improve support for financial counseling throughout the process.
- *For the most seriously disabled (PIA), that VAC use a probable earnings approach to determine the amount of the benefit...
- *That Earnings Loss Benefit be nontaxable and set at 85% of net income...

*Included in Minister’s Mandate Letter

ACVA Recommendation	Status	Meets Intent
1. That military members, seriously disabled as a result of service, not be medically released until several conditions are met.	Implemented	Meets Intent
2. That the Veterans Bill of Rights be included in the New Veterans Charter (NVC) and the <i>Pension Act</i> , and that a modified version of section 2 of the <i>Pension Act</i> be incorporated into the NVC.	Implemented	Meets Intent
3. That the most seriously disabled veterans receive financial benefits for life, of which a portion should be transferable to their spouse in the event of death... ...that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) considers the use of a probable earnings approach in determining the amount of the benefits... ...and include better access to the three grades of the permanent impairment allowance, for which eligibility criteria must be clarified.	Implemented Not Implemented Partially Implemented (criteria clarified only)	Meets Intent Partially
4. That the earnings loss benefit be nontaxable and set at 85% of net income, up to a net income threshold of \$70,000, that it be adjusted annually to the consumer price index, and that for veterans who participate in a rehabilitation program, the disability award be paid once the program is completed.	Not Implemented	
5. Income support equity for Veterans who served as reservists and their families.	Implemented	Meets Intent
6. That the Canadian Forces (CF) work with VAC to make Military Family Resource Centres available to veterans and their families in order to support them in their transition to civilian life.	Partially Implemented	Partially (Pilot: medically releasing only)
7. That independent access to VAC's psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation services be given to spouses or common-law partners of veterans with a service-related disability, that access to psychological counseling be also given to parents and children of veterans with a service-related permanent disability... ...and that financial support be provided to family members of seriously disabled veterans acting as "primary caregivers" as defined under section 16(3) of the Veterans Health Care Regulations.	Implemented Not implemented	Partially (No treatment benefits for family members beyond increase to VAC Assistance Services.)
8. That VAC undertake a comprehensive review of the amount of the disability award to more adequately reflect awards in civil liability cases for personal injuries, implement a transparent and clear process for determining its value, and improve support for financial counseling throughout the process.	Not implemented	
9. That the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP) Long Term Disability program be provided only to veterans medically released for a disability unrelated to military service, that all veterans released for service-related medical reasons benefit from the programs offered under the NVC, and that the CF and VAC work together to eliminate overlap between SISIP programs and those provided by VAC.	Not Implemented	
10. That eligible vocational rehabilitation training programs be allowed greater flexibility, and be less strictly related to skills acquired during military service.	Implemented	Meets Intent
11. That VAC establish a more rigorous case manager training program, and review their current standards, to determine if the ratio is appropriate, and to provide necessary resources for its adjustment if required.	Implemented	Meets Intent
12. That VAC and the Department of National Defence (DND) build on their existing collaborative efforts by providing adequate resources for research of known and emerging manifestations of operational stress injuries.	Implemented	Meets Intent
13. That VAC consider moving towards a payment system that results in one comprehensive monthly payment that clearly identifies the source of funding, while ensuring the net benefit to the veteran is not reduced.	Implemented	Meets Intent
14. That VAC and DND, after they have tabled their official response to this report within the next 120 days, also table, by 30 January 2015 a report outlining the progress made on implementing the recommendations, and that the NVC, as a "living document", be amended to include a mandatory review of its provisions, undertaken by the appropriate parliamentary committees as required.	Implemented	Meets Intent