

PENSION FOR LIFE

- Our Government is committed to supporting Canada's Veterans and their families, and ensuring that Veterans receive the respect, support, care, and economic opportunities they deserve.
- Pension for Life is a combination of benefits that provide recognition, income support and stability to members and Veterans who experience a service related illness or injury.
- Veterans themselves asked for a better system. They wanted:
 - More choice and lifelong financial recognition for the exceptional impacts and quality of life issues faced by those living with a service-related illness or injury.
 - One, easy-to-understand monthly benefit that provides short and long-term income support for themselves and their families; and
 - Financial compensation to account for the impact of having to re-establish in post-military life.
- Pension for Life represents an additional investment of close to \$3.6 billion to support Canada's Veterans. When combined with well-being programs already announced in previous budgets, the Government of Canada's investments since 2016 add up to over \$10 billion. These investments deliver what Veterans have asked for.
- Response from the Veteran community has been very positive.

BACKGROUND – PENSION FOR LIFE

Pension for Life is a combination of benefits that provides recognition, income support and better overall stability to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and Veterans who are living with a disability due to a service-related injury and/or illness.

The Pension for Life benefits package includes: Pain and Suffering Compensation, Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation, and the Income Replacement Benefit.

Pain and Suffering Compensation (PSC): This monthly, lifelong, tax-free payment recognizes pain and suffering experienced by Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members with a disability due to a service-related illness and/or injury. The choice between monthly and lump sum options give Veterans and members the flexibility to decide what works best for them and their families.

Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation (APSC): This monthly, tax-free payment is for Veterans experiencing barriers to re-establishing themselves after service because of their service-related severe and permanent illness and/or injury.

Income Replacement Benefit (IRB): The monthly, benefit is designed to provide income support to Veterans who are experiencing barriers to re-establishment resulting primarily from service. The benefit is available to Veterans, survivors and orphans, for life, should they need it.

Additional Monthly Amount (AMA): Monthly payment to Veterans who were previously paid a Disability Award but would have received a higher amount under the Pain and Suffering Compensation, had it existed prior to April 1, 2019. Each Veteran had their Disability Award situation considered and a one-time calculation was applied to determine if they were eligible for an additional monthly payment.

Pension for Life addresses concerns raised by military and Veteran communities and families. It empowers CAF members and Veterans living with a disability, caused by a service-related illness or injury, to choose the form of compensation that works best for them and their families.

The rationale and research behind this change: These changes combine what Veterans have asked for with the most up-to-date research and understanding on Veteran well-being.

Veterans have asked for:

- More choice and lifelong financial recognition for pain and suffering related to a service-related illness or injury;
- One, easy-to-understand monthly benefit that provides short and long-term income support for themselves and their families;
- Financial compensation to account for the impact of having to re-establish in post-military life; and
- Recognition of the exceptional impacts and quality of life issues faced by those living with a service-related illness or injury.
- VAC Researchers have conducted studies, and also reviewed extensive research from around the world to come to these conclusions on Veteran well-being.
- On April 1, 2019, approximately 80,000 Veterans and other recipients were successfully transitioned from the previous suite of disability and complex financial benefits to the new benefits.

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