



Veterans Affairs
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Anciens Combattants
Canada

Speaking notes for
THE HONOURABLE

Notes d'allocution de
L'HONORABLE

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Thank you, Mr. Chair and members, for the invitation to appear before the Committee today to discuss Supplementary Estimates (B) for Veterans Affairs Canada.

This process is an essential part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability and to ensuring that the needs of Veterans and their families remain at the forefront of our priorities.

Canada's Veterans have dedicated their lives to protecting our values, our freedoms and our way of life. It is our duty to support them in return—with concrete actions and resources that reflect our gratitude for their sacrifices.

The investments we are making through the Supplementary Estimates (B) are critical to delivering the care, benefits, services and recognition that Veterans and their families deserve after their service to Canada.

Comme vous le savez, plus de 90 pour cent du budget d'Anciens Combattants Canada représente des paiements versés aux vétérans et vétéranes, pour des mesures de soutien et des services chèrement acquis par ceux et celles qui ont servi dans les Forces armées canadiennes et par les membres de leur famille qui les ont soutenus à la maison.

L'augmentation de 954 millions de dollars prévue dans le budget des dépenses inclut 942 millions de dollars pour des programmes et services qui garantissent l'accès aux avantages pour chaque vétéran éligible, peu importe le nombre de demandes.

Ce financement témoigne de l'engagement de notre gouvernement à offrir le soutien nécessaire, que ce soit pour la santé mentale, la réadaptation, l'aide financière ou d'autre services essentiels susceptible d'améliorer la qualité de vie des vétérans.

Such investments demonstrate this Government's dedication to honouring the sacrifices made by Veterans and ensuring their needs are met.

You will see, Mr. Chair, that the Estimates also include \$4 million in funding to commemorate significant Canadian military milestones, including the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the beginning of the Battle of Normandy.

One of our most profound responsibilities is to always remember the sacrifices that millions of Canadians made during the World Wars to defend global peace and freedom.

Our domestic and international events last June paid solemn tribute to the Veterans of these conflicts and to the hundreds of thousands of our fallen who gave their lives while serving our country.

At the same time, we must recognize the efforts that the growing number of modern day Veterans have made to safeguard peace and security in the world.

Whether that's through programs that meet their needs, or commemorative events that honour their service, we're taking more steps to be there for these Veterans too.

Last month, we supported a delegation of Canadian Veterans and their families to revisit Cyprus to mark the 60th anniversary of Canadian Peacekeeping there.

It was a journey that held deep personal significance for those who served in Operation Snowgoose. They were able to connect with fellow Veterans who served there over the years, and share stories of their service with Canadians.

Anciens Combattants Canada utilisera 2,75 millions de dollars du budget des dépenses pour poursuivre ses campagnes sur la commémoration, afin que les Canadiens et Canadiennes rendent hommage à ceux et celles qui ont servi, et ses campagnes de services, pour informer les vétérans des soutiens disponibles.

Le budget des dépenses prévoit aussi un montant supplémentaire de 2 millions de dollars pour le Fonds de bien-être des vétérans et de leur famille, qui s'ajoute au budget actuel du Fonds, qui s'élève à 3 millions de dollars.

This funding assist organizations and initiatives that support Veterans' health and employment, as well as women, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQI+ Veterans.

Allocating funds towards programs and services that address the needs of equity-deserving Veterans allows us to promote equality, dignity, and empowerment.

It also allows us to recognize their diverse experiences and challenges and preserving these chapters in Canada's military history.

Je tiens d'ailleurs à remercier les membres du Comité pour le travail qu'ils accomplissent afin d'étudier les expériences des vétérans noirs et autochtones. J'attends avec intérêt vos conclusions.

Au total, le Budget supplémentaire des dépenses (B) ajoute 954 millions de dollars au budget d'Anciens Combattants Canada. Ce financement additionnel représente un investissement nécessaire dans la santé et le bien-être des vétérans et vétéranes ainsi que de leur famille.

Je me ferai un plaisir de répondre à vos questions sur ces investissements.

Merci.