

# Women Veterans

## Issue

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) recognizes the impacts of gender and sexual identity on the military and Veteran experience, and are committed to ensuring that Veterans are not experiencing inequities in systems, policies, programs, services and commemorations

## Context

Since 2019, the Women and 2SLGBTQI+ Team (the Team) has been dedicated to addressing Women Veterans priorities and has worked collaboratively with Veterans, key stakeholders, subject matter experts and other government departments to help identify and address systemic issues specific to sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation of under-represented groups within the Veteran population.

## Key Update

In March 2024, the Department hosted the Women Veterans Forum on March 7 and 8 in Montreal, Quebec. Ninety-nine people attended in person with 88 of those women Veterans. Another 70 participated online. The Forum focused on the unique lived experiences of women Veterans, where participants had the opportunity to engage with community partners working in areas such as life after service, women's health, homelessness and recognition. The information gathered at the Forum will help the Department gain a broader understanding of women Veterans' lived experiences, and challenges in accessing services. Many action items were taken away from this event that the Department [published a report in fall 2024](#).

VAC also established a [Women Veteran Council](#) in December 2024. The Women Veterans Council, guided by its members' lived experiences and expertise, offers insight to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence on all matters of importance to women (still-serving and Veterans).

VAC is proud to be a new implementation partner of Canada's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This partnership will strengthen VAC's relationship with like-minded departments and agencies like the Department of National Defence (DND)/Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and it will also provide VAC with the opportunity to influence the strategic direction of the third National Action Plan.

VAC participated in the ACVA comprehensive study on the experience of women Veterans in an effort to continue to strengthen the treatment, transition supports, recognition, and care of women Veterans from all backgrounds. The study concluded with 42 recommendation and VAC is now working on implementing the Committee's recommendations.