

Overview of Litigation

Issue

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) recognizes and supports the right of all Canadians, including Veterans and their families, to pursue legal proceedings against the Crown in right of Canada or the Government of Canada.

The Department of Justice ensures that the federal government is supported by high-quality legal services, and the justice system is fair, relevant, accessible, and reflective of Canadian values.

Context

VAC has been subject to an increasing number of legal proceedings over the past decade. This increase is consistent with the trend across the Government of Canada. Although VAC is not a large department, it manages a high number of litigation files in comparison to other federal departments and agencies of its size, especially class action litigation files. These class actions are high profile with the potential for significant financial, public perception and reputational risks, along with benefit, program and service impacts.

Key Update

VAC is involved in over *redacted* legal proceedings at various stages, including *redacted* class actions. VAC is also an interested party in *redacted* class actions/mass torts involving CAF-DND, RCMP, and the Government of Canada.

The other legal proceedings in which VAC is involved are court actions, judicial reviews and human rights complaints. These are mostly about the merits of a particular client's case and generally have low financial, public perception and reputational risk.