

Aging in the Right Place

Context

Canada's Veteran population in aging. According to the 2021 Census, more than 25% of Canadian Veterans are between the ages of 55 and 64. VAC anticipates a surge in age-related health challenges among this group and is examining program and policy options to meet the evolving needs of Veterans.

VAC's Aging in the Right Place initiative aims to provide a continuum of services across the life course of a Veteran, with a focus on ensuring that appropriate benefits are available to Veterans whose health needs are related to their service-related disability.

This initiative will determine how to modernize the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and the Long Term Care Program in order to (i) better meet the diverse care needs of CAF Veterans into the future; (ii) better integrate VAC health care programs with the supports available through other government and community supports; (iii) improve consistency in the application of health care decisions to ensure equitable access to benefits; and (iv) ensure VAC has the requisite authorities in place to support its programming.

As of March 12, 2025, VAC is supporting more than 72,000 clients through the VIP program, including more than 53,000 Veterans, 17,000 Primary Caregivers, and 750 Survivors.

As of February 28, 2025, VAC is supporting more than 1,800 Veterans in 650 long term care facilities across Canada.

Key Update

VAC is engaging with provincial and territorial ministries responsible for seniors and persons with disabilities in relation to home care and long-term care to gather information on their current and planned supports for aging populations, including aging Veterans. The focus is on understanding home care and long-term care services, including eligibility, application process, funding models and waiting periods in each jurisdiction. This engagement will identify opportunities for integration and alignment between VAC programs and provincial and territorial supports for Veterans.

In 2025, VAC will be working with staff in Area Offices to identify inconsistencies in the application of the VIP program in order to ensure Veterans are receiving equitable access to benefits across different jurisdictions. VAC is also planning to speak with selected Veterans from each province and territory to understand their experiences in aging in place including "joys" and "gaps/pain points" in home care services and/or facility-based long-term care programming. This will allow VAC to consider Veterans' lived experiences along the continuum of care throughout the strategic policy development process.