



Daryl Kramp, MP  
Prince Edward-Hastings

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Working with you. Working for you!*

### ***MP Kramp welcomes increased support and care for Veterans and their families***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***September 23, 2010***

**Belleville, Ontario** – Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward-Hastings welcomes the recent announcement by the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, that the Government of Canada, over the next several weeks, will announce improvements in support and care for our modern-day Veterans and their families.

The first improvements announced this week, provide a total of \$2 billion to ensure that Veterans who have been seriously injured in the service of Canada have access to the support they deserve. These improvements include:

- increased financial support for seriously injured Veterans
- enhanced monthly income for severely injured Veterans who are unable to return to work; and
- a boost to the minimum annual income for Veterans released at lower salary levels.

“We owe solid, unfailing support and eternal gratitude to all of our men and women in uniform, our Veterans and also their families”, said Mr. Kramp.

Details of the new measures can be found in the attached backgrounder.



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# *Background*

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## **New Veterans Charter Services and Benefits\***

**Case Management:** Veterans Affairs Canada area counsellor (case manager) works with the Veteran to develop his or her personal “case plan” based on the individual specific needs.

**Rehabilitation Program:** Helps disabled Veterans who need support to re-enter civilian life. It includes:

- medical rehabilitation to stabilize physical and psychiatric conditions and restore basic function (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychiatric and addictions treatment);
- psycho-social rehabilitation to restore independence and adapt to disability (e.g. pain and anger management, life skills for independent living); and
- vocational rehabilitation to identify and achieve vocational goals (e.g. vocational counselling, help finding a job, possible support for training and other costs related to training such as child care). Survivor or spouse may qualify if Canadian Forces member died or cannot benefit due to level of disability.

### **Financial Benefits:**

- **Earnings Loss Benefit** - Monthly benefit up to 75 percent of pre-release salary while taking part in the Rehabilitation Program or until age 65 if unable to work. Government proposed changes in September 2010 to increase the benefit to ensure a minimum annual income of approximately \$40,000. Survivor and orphans may qualify if the death of Veteran is related to service.
- **Permanent Impairment Allowance** - Monthly benefit, payable for life, to compensate for lost job opportunities as a result of permanent and severe impairment (three payment levels dependent on level of need: \$536.40, \$1,072.79 and \$1,609.18). Government proposed changes in September 2010 to increase this monthly benefit by \$1,000. Proposed changes will also improve access to the program. More than 3,500 additional Veterans are expected to be eligible for this allowance within the next five years.
- **Supplementary Retirement Benefit** – One-time, lump-sum benefit, for those totally and permanently incapacitated, that compensates for the lost opportunity to contribute to a retirement fund. 2% of the gross Earnings Loss Benefit payable. Survivors may also be eligible if the death is related to service.
- **Canadian Forces Income Support (CFIS)** – Monthly tax-free benefit for those who completed the Rehabilitation Program and are able to work but have not been able to find a job or have a low-paying job. Also available to those receiving the Earnings Loss Benefit when their eligibility ends at age 65 if they are low income. (Maximum monthly income levels: single Veteran, \$1,277.70; Veteran with a spouse/partner, \$1,943.50; each

dependent child, \$309.88; survivor, \$1,277.70; orphan, \$664.24).

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**Disability Award:** Tax-free, lump sum payment which provides immediate financial help in recognition of pain and suffering. Maximum award is \$276,079.70 (2010 rate). Amount of award depends on the extent of the disability. Examples:

- 5% disability (mild hearing loss) – \$13,803 (2010 rate)
- 40% disability (10% hearing loss and 30% lumbar disc disease) – \$110,431 (2010 rate)
- 60% disability (post-traumatic stress disorder) – \$165,647 (2010 rate)
- 100% disability Complete loss of function of lower limbs (confined to wheelchair) - \$276,079 (2010 rate)

**Financial Counselling:** Up to \$500 for those receiving a lump-sum payment of 5% or more (\$13,803).

**Health Benefits Program:** Access to the Public Service Health Care Plan for Veterans and families who would not otherwise qualify for benefits after they release. Includes items such as prescription drugs and vision care.

**Death Benefit:** Tax-free, lump sum payment paid to a spouse or common-law partner, and dependent children, if a Canadian Forces member is killed in service; or injured while in service and dies within 30 days of the injury (\$276,079.70, 2010 rate).

**Clothing Allowance:** For Canadian Forces members or Veterans who receive a disability award due to an amputation or other disability that causes wear and tear on clothing; or a disability that requires specially-made clothing (ranges from \$20 to \$180 per month depending on the level of need).

**Family Support:** Families may benefit from family coverage under the Public Service Health Care Plan, individual or family counselling, rehabilitation services, financial benefits, case management and educational grants up to \$6,700/year for surviving children.

**Career Transition Services:** Canadian Forces members and Veterans (Regular Force and certain Reservists) who do not have a disability can receive practical help to find civilian employment through workshops, individual career counselling and job-finding assistance.

**Detention Benefit:** Tax-free lump sum payment for Canadian Forces members or Veterans detained for a minimum of 30 days.