

Submission to The House of Commons Standing Committee On Finance

Pre-Budget Consultation
in Advance of 2019 Federal
Budget: Canadian Institute
for Military and Veteran
Health Research (CIMVHR)
Funding Petition

January 2019

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National Council of Veteran
Associations in Canada



The National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada



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- 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association
- 14th Canadian Field Regiment Association
- The 400 Squadron Historical Society (Toronto)
- 435-436 & Burma Squadrons Association
- Air Force Association of Canada
- Airborne Regiment Association of Canada
- Aircrew Association
- The Algonquin Regiment Veterans' Association
- Armed Forces Pensioners'/Annuitants' Association of Canada
- The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada Association
- Bomber Command Association Canada
- Burma Star Association
- Canadian Airborne Forces Association
- Canadian Association of World War II Veterans from the Soviet Union
- Canadian Corps Association
- Canadian Fighter Pilots Association
- Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Association
- Canadian Infantry Association
- Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association Inc.
- Canadian Military Intelligence Association
- Canadian Naval Air Group
- Canadian Naval Divers Association
- Canadian Paraplegic Association
- The Canadian Scottish Regimental Association
- Canadian Tribal Destroyer Association
- The Chief and Petty Officers' Association
- Dieppe Veterans and Prisoners of War Association
- The Dodo Bird Club of Ex-RCAF Flight Sergeants
- Ferry Command Association
- First Special Service Force Association
- Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada
- Jewish War Veterans of Canada
- KLB (Konzentrations Lager Buchenwald) Club
- Korea Veterans Association of Canada
- The Limber Gunners
- Maritime Air Veterans Association
- Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council
- The Military Vehicle Hobbyists Association
- National Prisoners of War Association of Canada
- Naval Association of Canada, Montreal Branch
- Naval Club of Toronto
- Nova Scotia – Naval Association of Canada
- Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada
- Operation Legacy
- The Overseas Club - Canadian Red Cross Corps (Overseas Detachment)
- The Polish Combatants' Association in Canada
- The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association
- RCAF Prisoner of War Association
- Regimental Association for the Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Own)
- Royal Air Forces Escaping Society
- Royal Canadian Air Force Pre-War Club of Canada
- The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Association
- Royal Canadian Naval Association
- The Royal Canadian Regiment Association
- Royal Naval Association - Southern Ontario Branch
- Royal Winnipeg Rifles Association
- The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded
- The South Alberta Light Horse Regimental Association
- Submariners Association of Canada (Central Branch)
- Toronto Police Military Veterans Association
- The War Amputations of Canada
- War Pensioners of Canada
- War Veterans & Friends Club
- The Warriors' Day Parade Council
- White Ensign Club Montreal
- Wren Association of Toronto

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

The National Council of Veteran Associations is privileged to make this Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance as part of the Committee's pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2019 Federal Budget.

As a matter of background NCVA was founded in 1932 and today represents an umbrella organization made up of 66-member associations covering a wide and diverse segment of the veterans' community.

Our organization has been a leading advocacy group for many years pursuing legislative benefits and programs for veterans and their families in relation to both Traditional and Modern-Day veteran constituencies. Currently, it is to be noted that NCVA has representation on four of the six VAC Ministerial Advisory Groups and co-chairs two of these Committees.

Our Submission today, is made in support of a [Petition](#) that the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) is making to Parliament and the Government for further financial funding to ensure the continuation of CIMVHR's outstanding work and research in furthering the health and wellbeing of Canada's Armed

Forces members, veterans and their families. It is to be noted that Dr. David Pedlar, the Scientific Director of CIMVHR made a Submission to this Committee on October 4, 2018 in support of continued Federal funding to support CIMVHR's partners and to maintain its national network of world class research capacity and knowledge translation activities.

As Dr. Pedlar stated in his Submission this "...continued funding will also allow CIMVHR to maintain and strengthen its partnerships and its ability to be counted as a leading authority on evidence-informed, data-driven strategies and solutions to optimize the health and wellbeing of military members, veterans and their families and beyond."

In addition to the comprehensive and detailed information contained in Dr. Pedlar's submission to this Committee last Fall as to the Mission of CIMVHR we would draw to the attention of the Committee certain compelling elements of CIMVHR's mandate with regard to their Petition for budgetary funding as it directly impacts on the veterans' community and the member organizations which NCVA represents.

CIMVHR

- is an innovative organization that engages existing academic research, resources and facilitates the development of new researchers' capacity and effective knowledge translation.
- represents a network of academic researchers from across Canada serving as a focal point for 43 Canadian universities who have agreed to work together in addressing the health research requirements of the Canadian military, veterans and their families.
- liaises with all Canadian stakeholders interested in military and veteran health research and acts as conduit between the academic community, government organizations, (example, National Defence, Veterans Affairs Canada and Health Canada) industry and similar international organizations.
- addresses health and wellbeing issues over the life course of individuals and families of those who serve and have served as related to occupational exposures, experiences and environment. These include health consequences – physical mental and social – that are unique in their nature, magnitude, long term effects, delayed presentation and transgenerational implications.
- considers through its research the unique context of military service including battlefield medicine, the imperative to maximum fitness for high performance duty and the unlimited ability to respond to Canadian

government direction for operations around the world in aid of our nation's security.

- utilizes effective knowledge translation, as evidenced by the relevance of the research conducted, and the application of knowledge generated, which is key to the success of CIMVHR.
- continues to sustain and create long term committed partnerships with key stakeholders and develop new partnerships as the institute grows.

From the date of the establishment of CIMVHR in 2010 NCVA member organizations have actively engaged with conferences, events and various research studies conducted by the institute. Throughout we have been extremely impressed with the quality of work and research being carried on and its direct application to the physical, mental and psychological concerns impacting Canada's veterans and their families.

One of our major longstanding organizations The War Amputations of Canada (of which I am Executive Chair) is particularly interested and actively involved in the ongoing work of CIMVHR in relation to the innovative and life changing developments in the field of prosthetics and the comprehensive evaluation of the sequelae of amputation insofar as improving the capacity of amputees to cope with their disability and their activities of daily living.

In conclusion, we would support CIMVHR's formal request to this Committee insofar as their specific recommendations for further Federal funding:

Recommendation 1

That the Government provides continued investment in military, veteran and family health research with extension to the RCMP and other first responder populations to improve the health and wellbeing of these Canadians through a Federal funding commitment to the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) in the amount of \$25M over ten years.

Recommendation 2

That the Government recognizes CIMVHR as a leader in collaborative co-ordinated research and knowledge translation efforts in support of the Strong Secure Engaged Policy and other policies during military service, transition to civilian life and in life as a veteran.

Recommendation 3

That the Government continues to invest in science and innovative research more specifically using the Industrial and Technological Benefits Program to further advance areas of military veteran and family health research with extension to the RCMP and other first responder populations.

It is NCVA's overall position that the Federal funding request from CIMVHR be given the highest priority for consideration and approval in relation to the 2019 Federal Budget, in order to ensure that Canada is able to maintain its leading-edge stature with respect to this vitally essential program for our Nation's veterans and their families.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



Brian Forbes, B.Comm., LL.B
Chairman of National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada
Chairman Executive Committee
The War Amputations of Canada

Brian N. Forbes, B.Comm., LL.B., Chairman

Brian Forbes holds the position of Chairman of the NCVA. He has been the Association Solicitor for The War Amputations of Canada since 1975. In addition, he has also taken on the responsibilities of Chairman of the Executive Committee of The War Amps in relation to the governance and administration of the charitable programs of the Association.



Brian graduated from the University of Ottawa in 1971, Magna Cum Laude, a recipient of the Law School Gold Medal. He was a founding partner (1973) of the Ottawa law firm of Forbes Singer Shouldice. Much of his law practice has been devoted to veterans' matters and to representing disabled individuals, with particular emphasis on war amputees and civilian/child amputees.

As a leading expert in veterans legislation, Brian has extensive experience in making presentations to the various adjudicative tribunals and appellate bodies which govern the Pension Act, the New Veterans Charter and ancillary legislation dealing with veterans benefits and entitlements. He has made numerous submissions to Parliamentary Committees and has taken a number of successful appeals to the Federal Court of Appeal of Canada, which have had significant relevance to the interpretation of the Pension Act as affecting the pension entitlement of Seriously Disabled Veterans and a substantial expansion of the definition of "Exceptional Incapacity Allowance."

In furtherance of his specialization with regard to international human rights law, he has made a number of appearances before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and has presented petitions to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on behalf of Canada's Hong Kong veterans, Canada's thalidomide children and Canada's Aboriginal veterans. In addition, he was instrumental in obtaining a Non-Governmental Organization status for The War Amps in regard to the United Nations human rights system.

He was a long-standing member of the Board of Directors of the Perley Hospital and the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian War Museum and a member of the Veterans Ombudsman Advisory Committee.

In relation to the development of veterans health care reform and the New Veterans Charter, he has sat as a member of the Gerontological Advisory Council, the Canadian Forces Advisory Council, the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group and various veterans consultation groups established by Veterans Affairs Canada to advise the Department on the need for new legislation to address the concerns of traditional and modern-day veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. He is presently Co-chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Policy established in 2016.