

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

*1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association
14th Canadian Field Regiment Association
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*

August 28, 2017

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Veterans Affairs
66 Slater Street, 16th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P4

Minister:

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the National Council of Veteran Associations and The War Amputations of Canada to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Veterans Affairs.

I have had the privilege of working with your predecessors over the last 40 years and look forward to collaborating with you to further the interests of our veterans and their dependants.

Minister, I must say that we were encouraged by the commitments laid out by your party in the 2015 Liberal election campaign platform in relation to veterans' concerns.

Many of the issues delineated during the campaign by the Prime Minister Mr. Trudeau reflecting the intent of his new Government represented longstanding grievances and inequities which have been identified by various Standing Committees of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Ombudsman's office and the multiple Advisory Groups which have studied these matters including our own NCVA Legislative Agenda.

Although a number of issues have been addressed over the last two years in whole or in part in furtherance of the Mandate Letter Mr. Hehr received from the Prime Minister, significant legislative and policy concerns remain outstanding. Indeed, the Ministerial

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Policy Advisory Group established by Mr. Hehr, which I co-chair, tabled a comprehensive set of proposals at the Veterans Summit in October 2016 which provided, in our judgement, a first step to remedying these voids and shortcomings in current veterans' legislation.

Over the last number of years, we have taken the position that previous Federal administrations have failed to fulfill the Government's fundamental obligation to provide financial security and appropriate compensation to Canada's disabled veteran in violation of the Social Covenant which has been established since WWI between the Canadian people and Canada's veterans and their families.

We look forward to continuing this important dialogue with you and addressing the next steps required to remedy the gaps and injustices readily apparent in the New Veterans Charter and other related veterans' legislation and policies.

Kind regards.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Forbes', written in a cursive style.

Brian N. Forbes, B.Com., LLB
Chairman of National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada
Chairman of the Executive Committee of The War Amputations of Canada