

Commander
Military Personnel Command



Commandant du
Commandement du personnel militaire

National Defence
Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de
la Défense nationale
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0K2

30 October 2025

Dear:

Re: Military Class Action
Court File No.: T-2158-16

As part of the Final Settlement Agreement in the *A.B. v. Canada* class action ("Canadian Armed Forces Racial Discrimination and Racial Harassment Class"), Canada agreed, in Article 5.04, to provide a standard form letter to inform Class Members about the link (if any) between Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) release items and a member's entitlement to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) benefits of any kind, whether medical or otherwise.

Canada confirms that the only VAC benefit for which eligibility may be impacted by a veteran's release item is the "Education and Training Benefit". To be eligible for the Education and Training Benefit, the former CAF member must be honourably released (ss. 5.2(1)b) of the *Veterans Well-being Act*, S.C. 2005, c. 21 and ss. 5.09 of the *Veterans Well-being Regulations*, SOR/2006-50).

The *Queen's Regulations and Orders*, Volume I, Chapter 15 (full text available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/corporate/policies-standards/queens-regulations-orders/vol-1-administration/ch-15-release.html>), lists all possible release items that may be marked upon a CAF member's file upon release. The release items are listed in the Appendix to this letter. The *Queen's Regulations and Orders*, Volume I, Chapter 15, Section 15.01(4), states that releases under Items 3 (Medical), 4 (Voluntary) or 5 (Service Completed) will bring the notation "Honourably Released". This is confirmed in ss. 5.09 of the *Veterans Well-being Regulations*.

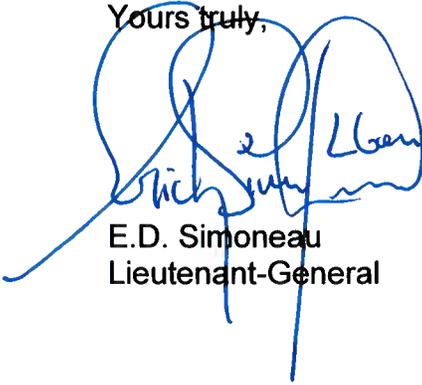
Apart from the "Education and Training Benefit", for which only a veteran with a Release Item 3, 4, or 5 is eligible, there is no other link that currently exists between the CAF release items and a member's entitlement to VAC benefits of any kind.

Although the manner of release may not be relevant to whether a member is entitled to VAC benefits, a member may not be granted VAC benefits in circumstances where the serving or former CAF member's physical or mental health problem or injury arose from willful, self-inflicted injury or improper conduct, as defined in the *Veterans Well-being*

Act and the Veterans Well-being Regulations. These facts are determined on a case-by-case basis.

For further information regarding eligibility for VAC benefits, please visit:
www.veterans.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E.D. Simoneau", is written over the "Yours truly," text. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to overlapping loops.

E.D. Simoneau
Lieutenant-General

Appendix – Queen’s Regulations and Orders Release Items

Item 1: Misconduct

- (a) Sentenced to dismissal
- (b) Service misconduct
- (c) Illegally absent
- (d) Fraudulent statement on enrolment

Item 2: Unsatisfactory Service

- (a) Unsatisfactory conduct
- (b) Unsatisfactory performance

Item 3: Medical

- (a) On medical grounds, being disabled and unfit to perform duties as a member of the Canadian Forces
- (b) On medical grounds, being disabled and unfit to perform duties in present occupation or employment, and not otherwise advantageously employable

Item 4: Voluntary

- (a) On request – when entitled to an immediate annuity
- (b) On completion of a fixed period of service other than a 20-year intermediate engagement or a 25-year intermediate engagement as defined in the Canadian Forces Superannuation Regulations
- (c) On request – other causes

Item 5: Service Completed

- (a) Retirement age
- (b) Reduction in strength
- (c) Completed service for which required
- (d) Not advantageously employable
- (e) Irregular enrolment
- (f) Unsuitable for further service