

Comments *on* Resolutions

44th Dominion Convention
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE
VETERANS, WHICH INCLUDES
SERVING MILITARY AND
RCMP MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES, TO PROMOTE
REMEMBRANCE AND TO
SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES
AND OUR COUNTRY.





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VETERANS, SERVICE *and* SENIORS

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VETERANS, SERVICE *and* SENIORS

GENERAL

1. VETERANS REVIEW AND APPEAL BOARD COMPOSITION

VSS 1

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ensure that there is sufficient representation

RESPONSE:

needs will continue to be filled through the appointment of qualified candidates. All

LEGION'S POSITION:

2. OUTREACH TO RESERVISTS

VSS 2

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

it is often more difficult to connect them to

programs and benefits available to them;

WHEREAS

health benefits and services. This Project has

WHEREAS

Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU). Each

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

Force members is recognized by the JPSU

RESPONSE:

which are located in 32 Canadian, five US,

within the category specifically requires MFRCs

the benefits and services they might need.

LEGION'S POSITION:

LEGION'S POSITION:

3. EMPLOYER TAX CREDITS

VSS 3

WHEREAS

for their service and sacrifices to their country;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

often face significant physical and financial

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

private firms that hire wounded warriors or

RESPONSE:

4. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD/VETERANS FAMILY IDENTIFICATION CARD

VSS 4

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

Family Identification card (MFID) to spouses

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

Occupation Classification training successfully

WHEREAS

official recognition of both the military family

WHEREAS

identification card will restore this official recognition and pay tribute to the sacrifices

WHEREAS

programs offering significant discounts

to these benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Identification card for all CF Veterans and a Veteran’s Family Identification card to honour and pay tribute to the sacrifices of families

RESPONSE:

provide a Veterans Identification Card for

Until a comprehensive feasibility review is services and benefits for Canadian Veterans.

LEGION’S POSITION:

Veterans: a National Veterans Identification Card confirms the requirement to issue a single National Veterans Identification Card.

to benefits, while assessing their current and

DISABILITY BENEFITS

5. OFFSET OF VAC DISABILITY PENSION BY SISIP LONG TERM DISABILITY

VSS 5

WHEREAS

replacement benefits;

WHEREAS

disability benefits to compensate for pain and

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

I am unable to make specific comments at

is concluded and a final course of action is

and maintaining a system of identification

where senior officials from the Department

7. AGENT ORANGE APPLICATION

VSS 7; NB 1/C; NB 2/C

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

WHEREAS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

RESPONSE:

WHEREAS

to Agent Orange exposure - Update 2004

conditions in the IOM Update 2010:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
VAC remove the artificial deadline and

LEGION’S POSITION:

of retroactive benefits.

6. 10% ANNUAL REDUCTION IN PAID-UP DEATH BENEFIT UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY DEATH BENEFIT (SDB)

VSS 6

WHEREAS

the paid-up Death Benefit for Public Servants

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

exposure in the IOM Update 2010.

RESPONSE:

Our Government was the first to recognize

WHEREAS this disparity in benefits clearly

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Death Benefits be delayed until age 66 to bring

one-time payments. Our Government officially

RESPONSE:

LEGION’S POSITION:

LEGION’S POSITION:

remove the artificial application deadline to

8. ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

VSS 8

WHEREAS

beneficiaries were living, or had worked and trained in the Gagetown area during a specific time frame and within a specific area;

WHEREAS

will award disability benefits for direct exposure

of secondary exposure such as training in a field

WHEREAS

residues of Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition as a causal link to the award of disability benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Orange exposure and to DU as significant

RESPONSE:

benefit.

with Depleted Uranium and Agent Orange.

In January 2013, the Arms-Length Scientific released its report entitled Depleted Uranium

also conducted a study of Depleted Uranium

to monitor advances in scientific research.

LEGION'S POSITION:

The Legion remains unsatisfied with

Uranium.

9. ENSURE DISABLED VETERANS RECEIVE A FAIR, EQUITABLE INCOME FOR THEIR LIFETIME

VSS 9

WHEREAS

Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) 75% of pre-

WHEREAS

Earnings Loss Benefit until they reach age 65;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Benefit at 100% of earnings for life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

Supplementary Retirement Benefit to 6% of

RESPONSE:

Although the Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB)

benefits begin, the New Veterans Charter

payment of other financial benefits such as:

- The Supplementary Retirement Benefit (SRB). The SRB is an additional benefit

suite of benefits and services available under is therefore a taxable benefit.

LEGION’S POSITION:

that there is a significant income hardship

10. DEATH BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW VETERANS CHARTER

VSS 10

WHEREAS

not eligible for a death benefit;

WHEREAS

for a death benefit;

WHEREAS the death benefit is provided as

WHEREAS

earnings is provided in the Financial Benefits

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

service be granted a death benefit provided for

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

benefits be retroactive to 2006.

RESPONSE:

life; the Death Benefit is one component of this suite of benefits and services that aims to ensure

In addition to the death benefit, survivor,

Earnings Loss Benefit, educational assistance

LEGION’S POSITION:

The death benefit is provided as compensation

the Legion remains unsatisfied with the lack of

11. DISABILITY AWARD FINANCIAL COUNSELING

VSS 11

WHEREAS some Veterans and families find it difficult to manage a large lump sum of money wisely and would benefit from financial

WHEREAS

provides \$500 for financial counseling; this is not sufficient to obtain ongoing financial

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Veterans and families to engage qualified financial advisors.

RESPONSE:

The cost for financial advice may be covered

receive financial counselling up to \$500 for
has made 323 payments for disability financial

extent of the disability. Under enhancements

LEGION’S POSITION:

As \$500 for financial counseling is not
sufficient to obtain ongoing financial

Veterans and their families to engage qualified
financial advisors.

**12. EARNINGS LOSS BENEFIT DISPARITY FOR
PART-TIME RESERVISTS
VSS 12**

WHEREAS Earnings Loss Benefit is now

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Loss Benefit to Reservists and provide those
same benefits regardless of the nature of their

RESPONSE:

the Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) payable to

for benefits such as medical care, income
adaptations. The benefits and services vary
benefits and services under the applicable
Federal benefits and services.

LEGION'S POSITION:

The Legion is unsatisfied with this response.

income disparity of the Earnings Loss Benefit

the same benefits regardless of the nature of

**13. EXTEND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
VSS 13**

WHEREAS

provides financial assistance for post-secondary

WHEREAS

to their service lack the financial means to save

and face significant lifelong challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

lifelong challenges and financial limitations

Education Assistance Program benefits to the

RESPONSE:

receiving a disability benefit (pension, award

are entitled to other benefits from Veterans

- Death Benefit,

Loss Benefit.

LEGION'S POSITION:

Veterans, the Legion is unsatisfied with this

recognize the lifelong challenges and financial

benefits to the children of these families.

**14. ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE IN THE
NEW VETERANS CHARTER
VSS 14**

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

stress and financial difficulties with the lifelong

Veterans income declines significantly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (VIP) *and* HEALTH BENEFITS

15. RATIONALIZATION OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

VSS 15

WHEREAS

the delivery of Health Care Benefits are very complex and, for that reason very difficult

of those who administer these benefits;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS the Health Benefits provided, (VIP) and treatment benefits are insufficient to

WHEREAS

to even ask for benefits, let alone understand

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

eligibility criteria for Health Care Benefits.

In addition to these benefits, our Government

LEGION'S POSITION:

RESPONSE:

benefits and services have been provided to

Significant effort is underway at Veterans

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Veteran may receive benefits.

The Benefits Browser was developed in cooperation with the Office of the Veterans

tailored information about the benefits and

Available on the VAC Web site, the Benefits

In addition to the Benefit Browser, MyVAC

benefits available to them.

know what benefits are available, and how to

LEGION'S POSITION:

Specifically, this review should be based

allocated from the Solicitor General's fiscal

RESPONSE:

RCMP pensioners with benefits similar to

LEGION'S POSITION:

provided the services and benefits that will

their country should receive the same benefits

16. VIP FOR RCMP

VSS 16

WHEREAS

qualified as a result of their entitled condition;

WHEREAS

Solicitor General's fiscal envelope:

17. VIP BENEFITS FOR FRAIL VETERANS

VSS 17; SASK 4/C; NB 3/C

WHEREAS

Independence Program (VIP) benefits are often

WHEREAS

VIP benefits for frail Veterans is only considered

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

deemed eligible for VIP benefits based on

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

be deemed eligible for VIP benefits based

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

VIP benefits for World War II and Korean War

benefits irrespective of their having established

18. EXTENSION VIP BENEFITS TO SURVIVORS
VSS 18; ONT 1/C; SASK 5/C; NB 5/C; NB 6/C; NB 9/C

WHEREAS
Independence Program (VIP) benefits for
expanding the benefit over many years;

WHEREAS

eligibility criteria grid difficult for decision

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

eligibility criteria for VIP benefits and extend
the benefit to all survivors of World War

survivors of Allied Veterans. This benefit

RESPONSE:

are in receipt of these important benefits.

LEGION'S POSITION:

criteria for VIP benefits and extend the benefit
Veterans. This benefit should be granted

19. PORTABILITY OF VIP SERVICES

VSS 19

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

Under the Veterans Independence Program

Canada provides other financial and service benefits to eligible Veterans to compensate

LEGION'S POSITION:

showing sufficient flexibility in addressing the financial needs of Veterans and their families.

20. \$2400 – VIP EXPANSION ALLOWANCE

NB 7/C

WHEREAS

times insufficient to meet their current

were insufficient funds remaining for the

WHEREAS

some financial difficulties for some low

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

amended to reflect the current prices being

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

experienced some financial difficulty that VAC financial assistance be provided to them by VAC.

RESPONSE:

Ultimately the amount of the grant takes into

the grant is insufficient, consideration may be

These important changes benefit over 100,000

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

**21. EXTENSION OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT
OF THE VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM
FRAIL VETERAN BENEFITS
ONT 3**

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

assistance; they are being refused the benefits

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

LEGION'S POSITION:

The Legion is satisfied with this response.

**22. EXPANSION OF LONG TERM CARE ELIGIBILITY
VSS 20; SASK 3/C; QUE 2/C**

WHEREAS

WHEREAS access to benefits and services

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

injured while fighting for their country should

WHEREAS

Canada is financially supporting over 8,500

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

LEGION’S POSITION:

qualified Veterans, or Veterans who may become qualified for cost sharing assistance

Specifically, this review should be based on

RESPONSE:

financially supporting over 8,500 Veterans in

**23. ASSISTANCE WITH THE COST OF ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE (ALC) FOR VETERANS
ONT 4**

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

LEGION’S POSITION:

The Legion is satisfied with this response.

CANADIAN FORCES/RCMP

WHEREAS

**24. DETERMINATION OF CFSA SURVIVOR PENSIONS
VSS 21**

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

accommodations could create a financial

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

When evaluating the benefits payable under the CFSA, the total benefits available to

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

qualifying children are entitled to benefits as

annually to reflect increases in the cost of

RESPONSE:

The pension benefits payable to members

survivor benefits under the PSSA, the Royal

contributor's basic pension benefits is reduced

cost of a survivor benefit that would be paid

their benefits are compared with benefits

benefit. By contrast, the CFSA does not require

to provide a survivor benefit.

When considering the level of benefits

Survivor benefits under the CFSA are

benefits are directly related to contributions. Therefore, any increase in the benefits would

benefits; however, this is not an accurate description in all cases. The benefit formula

Plan (CPP) benefits have become payable,

LEGION'S POSITION:

may result in a survivor's benefit that is more

was receiving at the time of death. Under the

25. ELIMINATION OF THE CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) OFFSET AT AGE 65

VSS 22

WHEREAS

Superannuation Act (CFSA) pension benefits are subjected to an abatement in these benefits

receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits;

WHEREAS

benefits when these benefits are most needed;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

to CFSA and CPP benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

benefits” similar to the benefits provided to

RESPONSE:

Upon retirement CAF members begin

“bridge” benefit which is paid from the day

“stack” contributions and benefits under the

contributions and benefits under the CFSA.

pension benefits payable to CAF members (CPP benefits paid on top of a continuous bridge benefit), the total amount of a member’s pension benefits would have been great but

been significantly higher, which would in turn

the bridge benefit permanent, having it continue even after CPP benefits start, thereby providing benefits beyond what can be

financial costs on the pension plan. You

used to finance this improvement. However,

this legislation was the long-term financial

bridge benefit permanent, having it continue even after CPP benefits start, would be in the

which most members also receive CPP benefits.

LEGION'S POSITION:

stacked approach to pension benefits. This is

26. EXTEND LEGACY OF CARE PROGRAM

VSS 23

WHEREAS

benefits;

WHEREAS

Benefit, the Care Giver Benefit and the Spousal Education Upgrade Benefit was

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

have access to the same benefits, regardless

benefits should be available to all those who

RESPONSE:

operations. Right now some of the benefits, spousal education upgrade benefits, apply to

the benefits approved by the Treasury Board

majority and most important benefits, such as home modification, vehicle modification, and home assistance benefits, are provided to all

potentially expand Legacy of Care benefits.

and endeavour to find alternative means of

LEGION'S POSITION:

same benefits and services regardless of where

FUNERALS *and* BURIALS

27. IMMEDIATE INCREASE OF FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

VSS 24

WHEREAS the funeral and burial benefit for

WHEREAS

benefit for funeral services has not kept pace with annual inflationary increases since 1995;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS many Veterans lack sufficient funds and are being denied a dignified funeral

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

Plan 2013 proposes to double the financial benefit available to a Veterans' family from

of war, armed conflict or peace, are entitled to

families have benefited from the Funeral and

LEGION'S POSITION:

year achieved this significant milestone on

28. VAC FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS

VSS 25

WHEREAS funeral and burial benefits may

who qualify for Earnings Loss Benefits or the

WHEREAS

benefits are likely to be very restrictive since

WHEREAS

for funeral and burial benefits because they have not qualified for Earnings Loss and Income Support Benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Last Post Fund funeral and burial benefits

who have insufficient financial means

RESPONSE:

Plan 2013 proposes to double the financial benefit available to a Veterans' family from

they are in financial need and are in receipt of a Veterans Affairs Canada disability benefit, Earnings Loss Benefit or Canadian Forces Income Support benefit.

LEGION'S POSITION:

eligibility to the Funeral and Burial Benefits to dignified funeral and burial.

29. INCREASE OF SURVIVOR/DEPENDANT ESTATE EXEMPTION

VSS 26

WHEREAS

or denial of funeral and burial benefits for

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

funeral and burial benefits during the past

WHEREAS

financial support for funeral and burial benefits although the estate is valued at less

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

applying for funeral and burial benefits has

financial resources but are above the estate

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

financial need, the survivor's primary home,

Action Plan 2013, to double the financial benefit and to cut red tape plaguing the

LEGION'S POSITION:

Benefits.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

30. FUNDING FOR VETERAN TRANSITION PROGRAM TREATMENT

VSS 27

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

and benefits including case management, rehabilitation and financial benefits.

LEGION'S POSITION:

**31. SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF INJURED
OR DECEASED CANADIAN FORCES AND
RCMP MEMBERS**

VSS 28

with the standards of the clinical scientific

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

- Family Liaison Officers are available to

Program is a voluntary and confidential

- Confidential, bilingual information, referrals,

who provide confidential peer support to

various services and benefits available to them

trained, confidential peer support by volunteers

Loss Benefit.

LEGION'S POSITION:

SENIORS

32. LEGISLATION FOR PENSION PROTECTION

VSS 29

WHEREAS

financial trouble and individual pensions are

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

confidential counselling service, available to

CAF personnel and their families with difficult

and specifically mandated to meet the needs of

POPPY *and* REMEMBRANCE

34. POPPY & REMEMBRANCE WASHROOM FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ATLA-NWT 2/C; NB 8/C

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Year preceding the expenditure, to cover the

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

35. TAXES CHARGED ON WAR MEMORIALS

SASK 8

WHEREAS

other conflicts many Canadian Servicemen
paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

36. USE OF POPPY FUNDS FOR DAY TRIPS

MAN&NWO 4/C

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

37. USE OF POPPY TRUST FUNDS FOR BRANCH WASHROOM FACILITIES

NB 8/C

WHEREAS

LEGION'S POSITION:

**207. POPPY FUND – INCLUSION OF VETERAN
TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

BC/YUKON 10/C

WHEREAS

by installing or retrofitting the branch's main

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

WHEREAS

RESPONSE:

WHEREAS

LEGION'S POSITION:

38. SUPPORT TO CADETS

NFLD/LAB 3/C

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

leadership and physical fitness;

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

WHEREAS

movement by financial support but more

current Poppy manual to reflect this change:

RESPONSE:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

DEFENCE *and* SECURITY

218. VOLUNTARY SERVICE MEDAL

MAN&NWO 5/C

WHEREAS

2 September 1945, which poses a significant challenge with regard to the five-year

WHEREAS

five years back from the proposed date of its creation. This five-year rule has generally been

WHEREAS

and was officially entrenched in policy in 2005

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

RESPONSE:

LEGION'S POSITION:

CONSTITUTION *and* LAWS

RESPONSE:

41. REVIEW ARTICLE III OF THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

ALTA-NWT I/C

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

finding the complaint was trivial or vexatious.

LEGION'S POSITION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

review Article III and rewrite same to reflect

