



**Dominion Command
Direction Nationale**

86 place Aird Place, Ottawa, ON
Canada K2L 0A1

1-888-556-6222
Tel.: (613) 591-3335
Fax: (613) 591-9335

legion.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Legion Concurs with Veterans Ombudsman's Request for Broader Review of the New Veterans Charter

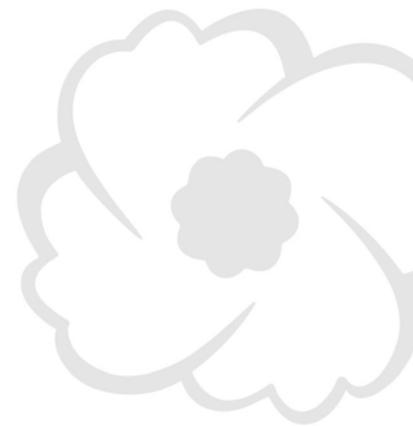
OTTAWA, ON, 05 APRIL 2013 – OTTAWA –The Veterans Ombudsman's Report, *Improving the New Veterans Charter: The Parliamentary Review*, calls on the government to broaden the examination of the New Veterans Charter. The Royal Canadian Legion applauds the report from Guy Parent and his team. "The Ombudsman's office has brought forward issues that are pertinent to all of Canada's veterans," says Gordon Moore, Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion. "These same issues have been at the forefront of Legion advocacy as mandated by the delegates at the Legion's Dominion Convention in 2008, 2010 and 2012," adds Moore.

"The Ombudsman offers us a timely discussion of the New Veterans Charter emphasizing priority areas for examination especially in the area of financial benefits after age 65, the complexity of the vocational rehabilitation programs and support to our families" says Moore.

The New Veterans Charter when introduced in 2006 was heralded with much fanfare and celebrated as a living document. While changes were introduced in 2011 to improve financial benefits, there still remain issues of dignity, fairness and equity. "The most important outstanding issue is ensuring fairness and equity in the availability of benefits, services and programs for our Veterans and their families who have been injured while in service to their country, no matter where and when they have served," says Moore. As well, the Legion is very concerned with the unfair and inequitable treatment of injured Reservists.

Today more than ever, our Reservists are serving alongside their Regular Force counterparts in operations or during training. They are being injured and cannot be treated differently because of the class of their service or the length of their contract. There is only one Veteran and they should all be treated with dignity, fairness and equity.

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ABOUT THE LEGION

Established in 1926, the Legion is the largest Veterans service organization in Canada with more than 320,000 members. Its mission is to serve all Veterans including serving Canadian Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members and their families, to promote Remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.

The Legion's Service Bureau Officers can assist and represent CF members Veterans, RCMP members and their families regarding disability claims or related issues with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB). In communities across Canada, it is the Legion that perpetuates Remembrance through the Poppy campaign and Remembrance Day ceremonies. With more than 1,450 branches, The Legion supports programs for seniors, Veterans housing, Long Term Care, youth leadership, education, sports, Cadets, Guides and Scouts. We will Remember Them.

The Legion shares the Ombudsman's request for a broader review of the New Veterans Charter and asks that the government commit now to the review and take the necessary action to ensure input from all Veteran stakeholders. The Parliamentary Review is to be undertaken by October 2013 and this deadline is fast approaching.

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For further information please contact Bruce Poulin at Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion, at 1-613-591-3335 ext. 241 or by cell at 1-613-292-8760 or bruce.poulin@legion.ca.



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