



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

Canada

Veterans Survivors Fund

OCTOBER 2019



▼ BACKGROUND

- Long standing complaint that spouses who marry Veterans after the Veteran turns 60 are not entitled to automatic survivor pensions under the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act*.
- 2015 and 2017 mandate letter commitments to eliminate “marriage after 60” claw-back clause
 - Significant work by DND and VAC to address, no formal legislative amendments were ever advanced.
- Budget 2019 announced the Government would:
 - Commit \$150M over 5 years starting in 2019-2020 to better support Veterans who married over the age of 60 and their spouses.
 - Work with the community to identify impacted survivors, process their claims and ensure survivors have the financial support they need.
- Stakeholder reaction was largely negative – perceived not to fulfil the original mandate commitment.
- *redacted*

- The first phase of this commitment requires research as there is currently no data collected specifically on Veterans' survivors or their marriage records.
- To determine the size, characteristics and needs of this population, the Department is engaging in 2 research projects:
 1. Quantitative Study – Through a contract with Statistics Canada, this study will identify the population size and characteristics of survivors who married a Veteran who was aged 60+.
 2. Qualitative Study – Through a contract with the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR), this study will examine the financial well-being of these survivors to better understand the nature of their financial situation and what unmet needs they may have.

- The target for completion on both studies is Summer 2020.
- *redacted*

Questions