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Appearance Details

Committee: Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs (VEAC)
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (12:00-13:00 ET)
Location: Senate of Canada Bldg., 2 Rideau St. Ottawa, ON, Room B45
Topic: Veteran Homelessness
Witnesses:

- Hon. Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Officials (TBC)

VEAC Committee Members

Committee Chair



Dawn Anderson
(C – Northwest Territories)



John M. McNair
(ISG – New Brunswick)

Deputy Chair



Tony Ince
(CSG – Nova Scotia)



Rebecca Patterson
(CSG – Ontario)



Jane MacAdam
(ISG – Prince Edward Island)



Judy A. White
(PSG – Newfoundland and Labrador)

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- Veteran homelessness in Canada is unacceptable; Veterans deserve a safe and affordable place to live.
- Veteran homelessness is a complex issue that requires a coordinated, sustained approach. The Government is actively working with communities and partners to reduce its occurrence and to prevent it whenever possible.
- The Government welcomes the opportunity to improve Veteran well-being through the programs that will be administered by Build Canada Homes.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is working closely with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and other stakeholders on initiatives to support Veterans experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.
- VAC is working at the local level to connect Veterans with community organizations and property developers/managers who build/administer affordable housing in their area.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES

There are an estimated 461,240 Canadian Veterans (Census 2021).

As of October 2025, there are an estimated 1,800 Veterans who experience homelessness across Canada over the course of a year (based on 2024 shelter information and Point-in-Time counts). This number is down from about 2,000 based on the previous data from 2023.

Overall numbers show a steady downward trend over several years (except during COVID).

Veteran Homelessness Program - Administered by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC):

- \$106.8M over 5 years
- Launched in 2023, began serving Veterans in 2024
- 1,460 Veterans have been served under the VHP (Year 1 results based on 93.5% of results reported, reflect Veterans served up until March 31, 2025)
- Funding is being delivered under two streams:
 - 28 organizations have received funding under the Services and Supports Stream which focuses on the delivery of rent supplements and wrap-around services
 - 6 organizations have received funding under Capacity Building Stream which focuses on research and improved data collection on Veteran homelessness, as well as increasing capacity of organizations
- Rent supplements + wraparound supports being provided to help Veterans stabilize and maintain housing once secured.
- Partnering with community organizations Canada-wide.
- Part of Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

Year 1 Results (2024-25): Based on 29 of 31 (93.5%) of projects

Total Veterans Served	1,460
Total served includes:	
Rent supplements Provided	200+
Veterans experiencing homelessness who obtained stable housing	233
Veterans at imminent risk of homelessness who received a prevention or shelter diversion intervention	1,053
All 1,460 Veterans served received wrap around supports through the program	

Funding:

\$106.8m	Total funding for program
\$72.9m	Program Funding for Services and Supports Stream
\$6.2m	Program Funding for Capacity Building Stream
\$27.7m	Administrative Costs for HICC (no admin funding for VAC)

BACKGROUND

Veterans Affairs Canada Supports

VAC provides case management to Veterans who have complex needs.

Case managers work with local partners, including the organizations receiving Veteran Homelessness Program (VHP) funding, to connect Veterans to housing and wrap around supports. Additionally, front-line staff members conduct **regular outreach** with local organizations.

- **Veterans Emergency Fund (VEF)** provides emergency financial support to Veterans, their families and survivors at risk due to an urgent and unexpected situation.
- **Veterans and Family Well-Being Fund** provides funding to organizations for research and initiatives that support Veteran well-being, including those helping Veterans experiencing homelessness.

VAC shares information about available supports through our **publications and social media** platforms.

VAC also engages community partners through initiatives such as the Military Veteran Wellness Program, which helps frontline professionals (e.g., police and first responders) identify and refer Veterans they encounter in their work.

First Report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, Moving Towards Ending Homelessness Among Veterans (2022)

The Government agrees with the Committee that homelessness is a complex issue for which the solution requires numerous, coordinated interventions. The Government is taking action through initiatives like the VHP, which provides rent supplements and wraparound services to Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

VAC continues to work with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada to deliver this program and collect data to better understand the issue. The Government also continues to collaborate with federal, provincial, territorial, and community partners to improve supports and services for Veterans.

The most recent data sources indicate that the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness, including those experiencing hidden homelessness, has decreased to approximately 1,800 from 2,600 in 2019.

The government is taking a "whole-of-government, evidence-based, and collaborative approach" to end Veteran homelessness by:

- Investing in housing and supports
- Funding innovative community projects
- Improving coordination and service delivery
- Focusing on data and research
- Engaging stakeholders across Canada

EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS

- When Veterans leave the military, they can bring their valuable skills and expertise developed through service to a second career.
- Employment after service plays a key role in the well-being of Veterans, supporting financial stability, restoring purpose, and fostering social connection.
- The National Veterans Employment Strategy is an evergreen strategy designed to promote Veteran employment, support employers and make it easier for Veterans to translate their skills to build a post military career.
- The Department is working with certifying bodies to improve recognition of military training and skills, helping Veterans transition into civilian professions. This will allow Veterans to use their skills and their leadership across job sectors to help build Canada strong.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is currently reviewing the deliverables of the National Veterans Employment Strategy to identify the elements that can be effectively measured. This includes assessing indicators such as Veteran participation in services, programs, and engagement forums.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES

Employment Landscape

- On average 7,800 CAF members release each year, with about 2/3 seeking civilian employment after service.
- 65% of Regular Force Veterans are employed within their first 3 years post-release (2019 LASS).
- 28% of Veterans report experiencing difficulties finding civilian work, citing challenges such as credential recognition, health barriers, and lack of networks.
- Veterans had a slightly lower unemployment rate (8.6%) compared to the general population (10%) (2021 Census).
- The workforce availability for Veterans is 1.17% (Census, 2021).
- In 2024-25, 293 Veterans self-identified as new hires into the Federal Public Service under one of the provisions available (mobility, preference, priority).

The National Veterans Employment Strategy

- 1,200 consultations: Veterans, employers, and stakeholders engaged in shaping the National Veterans Employment Strategy.
- 4 strategic priorities: Improve services, create Veteran Ready employers, position the public service as leader, and build partnerships.
- 90% of Strategy roadmap items are underway, and 65% of actions have been implemented. This work is ongoing. Key achievements include enhanced Career Transition Services, expanded peer mentoring networks, improved recognition of military skills and accreditations, and strengthened partnerships with employers and community organizations.
- In the most recent (2024) Public Service Employee Survey, Veterans were given the opportunity to self-identify. The results from 186,200 respondents indicate that Veterans account for 4% of the public service and 6% of VAC's workforce.

Engagement and Partnerships

- 7,100+ registrations with over 400 employer presentations delivered through Career Webinars and Digital Career Fairs over the last three years.
- With over 6,900 members, the Hire a Veteran LinkedIn Group includes more than 600 employer representatives who regularly post job opportunities.
- Key partnerships built with stakeholders including Helmets to Hardhats, True Patriot Love, Treble Victor Group, Coding for Veterans and Soldiers in Tech.

Employment Programs and Services

- Career Transition Services: available to Veterans, survivors, and families –

providing job coaching, resume and interview prep, and direct job placement. Approximately 90-100 new candidates each month seek support from CTS averaging a steady state of 1,000 active candidates.

- Veterans Job Bank: centralized hub for job postings, developed with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) in 2020.
- *Veterans Hiring Act* amendment and the *Public Service Employment Act* (2015): amended to grant priority hiring status for medically released Veterans.

BACKGROUND

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is committed to ensuring that Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and Veterans are supported in their transition to life after service. Employment is a critical component to overall well-being, providing stability, a renewed sense of purpose, and social connection.

The 2021 Census showed Veterans had a slightly lower unemployment rate (8.6%) compared to the general population (10%). Data from Census 2026 will serve as a benchmark for us to know what is working and what is not working under the Strategy. VAC is now reviewing all NVES deliverables to identify what can be measured, including the Employer Recognition program and Veteran's participation in various services, offerings and forums.

On June 28, 2024, VAC launched the National Veterans Employment Strategy (NVES). This evergreen strategy represents a major milestone in advancing Veteran employment outcomes, shaped by more than two years of research and consultation with over 1,200 Veterans, employers, and stakeholders across Canada.

The NVES is built around four foundational objectives:

1. **Improved Services and expand programs** for Veterans.
2. Create and recognize **“Veteran Ready” employers** committed to hiring, training, and retaining Veterans.
3. Position the **Federal Public Service as a leader** in Veteran employment.
4. Build **trusted partnerships** across public, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

Key Initiatives

Career Transition Services (CTS): Offers coaching, resume and interview preparation, job placement, and entrepreneurship support for Veterans, survivors, and families.

Career Webinars: Over 7,100 Veteran registrations and 400 employer presentations, with hundreds of direct employer connections facilitated.

Hire a Veteran LinkedIn Group: More than 6,900 members, including 600 employer representatives, with a wide range of new opportunities posted weekly.

Veteran Job Bank: A one-stop online hub for employers to post jobs directly for Veterans, developed with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) in 2020.

Skills Translation and Accreditation: Collaboration with certifying bodies and regulators to recognize military training and translate experience into the civilian workforce.

Partnerships: Ongoing collaboration with organizations such as Helmets to Hardhats, True Patriot Love Foundation, Treble Victor Group, Coding for Veterans, and Soldiers in Tech.

Veteran Employer Recognition Initiative: As outlined in the National Veteran Employment Strategy, VAC is working diligently to implement a Veteran Employer Recognition Initiative to recognize private sector employers who demonstrate leadership in hiring and retaining Veterans. Eligible employers who apply and meet the criteria will receive a digital badge—either “Veteran Friendly” or “Veteran Ready”—as a public “seal of recognition” for their commitment.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL (RFR) POLICY

- The Government of Canada is committed to the successful transition of Veterans from military to civilian life. This includes Veteran employment, a key factor in the overall well-being of Veterans and their families.
- The Right of First Refusal Policy has been providing employment opportunities for Veterans for over 80 years.
- It is a procurement preference that requires federal government departments to request guard services from the Corps of Commissionaires (the Corps) before seeking services from other security guard suppliers.
- On April 1, 2023, VAC implemented the *Policy on Procurement of Guard Services* to continue the RFR until March 31, 2026.
- During that three-year period, VAC completed a re-assessment of the policy and its requirements, engaged with stakeholders, and evaluated the RFR's continued relevance in supporting Veteran employment.
- The policy has been extended for one year, until March 31, 2027, after which regular competitive processes will be in place for federal guard services procurement.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES**Cost**

- The Government of Canada spends approximately \$350M annually through RFR contracts with the Corps.

Policy Requirement for Veteran-worked hours

- The RFR Policy requires that:
 - a minimum of 60% of all hours worked under RFR contracts in each fiscal year are to be worked by Veterans;
 - the Corps provide Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) with reports on its performance as it relates to Government contracts; and
 - VAC request a corrective action plan from the Corps if in non-compliance with the 60% requirement for Veteran-worked hours.

Challenges meeting the 60%

- Since 2013/14, the Corps has not been meeting the 60% Veteran-worked hours requirement.
- Despite attempts to improve performance in this regard, the percentage of Veteran-worked hours continues to decline and was reported as 27% nationally for Q1 2025/26.
- Of the Corps' total workforce of 22,000 employees, approximately 4,200 Veterans are working in various positions within the organization (according to the latest report provided by the Corps, 3,181 are working as guards under RFR contracts).

BACKGROUND

Original Policy

The Right of First Refusal (RFR) Policy was established in 1945 to provide employment opportunities for Veterans while also meeting the security needs of Government.

Initially, the RFR was the responsibility of the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) under the Common Services Policy with administrative responsibilities under *the Financial Administration Act*.

This policy was rescinded and archived on March 31, 2023.

Current Policy

In February 2023, Treasury Board delegated to the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, the authority under the *Financial Administration Act* to issue, administer, amend, or rescind an administrative policy to implement the RFR from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026.

The current RFR Policy is being implemented in the same manner it has been implemented historically with VAC being responsible for its administration. There is a requirement that VAC request a corrective action plan from the Corps to explain how progress will be made towards improving performance as it relates to Veteran hours worked. This has resulted in the Corps submitting a “Sustainable Employment for Veterans” report in October 2024 to outline the role the Corps plays in supporting Veterans as well as the challenges and issues being faced in the current employment landscape. Although the report outlines various steps the Corps is taking to overcome these challenges, it confirms that the number of Veterans working under the RFR is well below the 60% Veteran-worked hours requirement.

As the Government of Canada’s central purchaser, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) continues to be responsible for contracting guard services on behalf of federal organizations in accordance with the requirements of the RFR.

The RFR has been extended for one year to March 31, 2027. On 1 April 2027, guard services contracts will be procured via regular competitive processes. This allows time for Veterans, the Corps, the guard service industry and federal departments to adjust and prepare for the competitive procurement process. The Corps will be able to compete for guard services under the competitive process.

In 2024, VAC launched the National Veteran Employment Strategy (NVES) which is designed to address existing gaps and leverage opportunities that may exist for new and improved supports for Veterans. Veteran employment within the guard services industry will continue to be supported through the NVES, which offers tools and resources more closely aligned with the employment needs of today’s Veterans.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFIT POLICY

- The Education and Training Benefit (ETB) was implemented in 2018 and provides full support for the costs of up to four years of college, university, or technical education for Veterans after completion of their service.
- This benefit includes up to \$101,139.94 (annually indexed to Consumer Price Index (CPI)) of formal funding for post-secondary programs.
- To be eligible for formal funding, a program must lead to the completion of a degree, diploma, certification or designation from an educational institution on Employment and Social Development Canada's Master List of Designated Institutions, and run at least twelve weeks within a fifteen-week period or full-time equivalent.
- A short course funding stream up to \$6,321.24 is also available for those who are interested in completing courses or programs of personal interest that do not meet the criteria noted above.
- The Department is currently reviewing program eligibility criteria and stakeholder recommendations to determine any potential program improvements. This includes enhancements recommended to VAC through a CAF-VAC Joint Steering Committee policy task force examining joint education initiatives.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES

Uptake and Expenditures .

- VAC completed 2,455 eligibility applications in 2024-25. 96% of the applications were completed within the 4-week service standard.
- 1,726 Veterans received ETB payments in 2024-25.
- The forecasted ETB expenditures for 2024-25 were \$32.9M.

Eligibility

- ETB funding may be provided to a Veteran who has:
 - (a) served for a total of at least six years in the regular force, in the reserve force or in both; and
 - (b) was honourably released from the Canadian Forces on or after April 1, 2006 or was transferred from the regular force or another subcomponent of the reserve force to the Supplementary Reserve on or after that date.

Formal Programs

- Formal program funding of up to \$101,139.94 (annually indexed to CPI) may be provided for post-secondary program training that would lead to a degree, diploma, certificate or certification.
- The funds are intended to cover education costs such as tuition, required course materials as well as materials or fees that are part of the program.

Short Courses

- A short course funding stream of up to \$6,321.24 is also available to enable Veterans to complete courses that relate to personal interest and career development.

Evaluation and Reviews

- In 2022, VAC's Audit and Evaluation completed an evaluation which found that the ETB is working well.
- Eligibility was determined to be appropriate, and based on Veteran feedback, it was determined to be meeting expectations.

BACKGROUND

VAC created the ETB in 2018 to help Veterans successfully transition to post-military life, achieve their education and future employment goals, and better position them to be more competitive in the civilian workforce.

The ETB was implemented in 2018 and includes up to \$101,139.94 (annually indexed to CPI) in formal program funding for post-secondary program training that would lead to a degree, diploma, certificate or certification. The funds are intended to cover costs such as tuition, required course materials and materials or fees that are part of the program.

A short course funding stream is also available to Veterans who are interested in completing courses of personal interest. This stream of funding includes up to \$6,321.24 (annually indexed to CPI) which may be used for short courses designed for self-fulfillment and career or personal development.

The ETB has evolved consistently since 2018, VAC has been positively reactive in accommodating reasonable requests from stakeholders.

- 2019: legislation was updated to make Supplementary Reservists eligible for the benefit.
- 2021: policy revised to include technical education programs of shorter duration under formal program funding. Programs falling into this category are career-focused, intensive, and many involve a combination of classroom and hands-on learning.

Audit & Review

An evaluation of the ETB and the Career Transition Services (CTS) program which was published in October 2022.

- It found that the ETB was meeting Veterans' expectations, eligibility requirements were appropriate, and the program did not seem to be incentivizing CAF members to release.
- The evaluation recommended that VAC undertake efforts to review the regulated maximum amount available for ETB short courses and consider whether costs of licensing exams and fees should be included.
- VAC conducted internal policy analysis on the matter and is considering options in the context of various recommendations made by stakeholders, including the VAC Ministerial Policy Advisory Group.

The ETB regulations were reviewed in 2024 as part of VAC's Regulatory Stock Review Plan 2024-2026. No amendments were recommended.

VAC and DND/CAF established a Policy Task Force – Joint Educational Initiative in 2024, which studied each organization's educational programming. The task force made several recommendations, which were presented and endorsed by the CAF-VAC Joint Steering

Committee in December 2025, including proposals to enhance the ETB, which are currently under consideration within the Department.

TRANSITION SERVICES

- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) works hand in hand with the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP to ensure Veterans are supported through every stage of their transition to life after service.
- On average, 7,800 military members release from the Canadian Armed Forces each year. Our goal is simple: deliver a transition experience that's standardized, personalized, and professional—empowering CAF and RCMP members, Veterans, and their families at each step of their journey.
- VAC has improved how we connect with Veterans including: enhancing digital tools, promoting early registration on My VAC Account, and raising awareness of the supports available.
- These initiatives and more are making it easier throughout the process to focus on what matters most – supporting the well-being of those who've served and their families.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES

2024 Canadian Veteran Health Survey

- 17.7% of Veterans described the transition to life after service as difficult.

VAC 2024 National Client Survey

33% of Veterans experienced difficulties transitioning to civilian life.

CAF Release Statistics

- On average, 7,800 military members release from the CAF each year (10-year average)
 - 2,000 are medical releases
 - 5,800 are non-medical releases
- In FY 24/25, 8,918 military members released from the CAF.
 - 2,486 were medical releases
 - 6,432 were non-medical releases
- In FY 23/24, 6,132 military members released from the CAF.
 - 1,700 were medical releases
 - 4,432 were non-medical releases

Transition Interviews

- Transition Interviews Finalized in FY 25/26: 4,667
- Transition Interviews Finalized in FY 24/25: 5,569

Transition Centres

- VAC staff has a full or part time presence in all 28 CAF Transition Centres and 4 satellite locations, located on Bases/Wings across the country.
- Provision of transition support through transition interviews for more than 20 years.
- Integrated presence since 2009
- Enhanced Transition Services for medically releasing implemented in 2015
- Military to Civilian Transition process for non-medically releasing implemented nationally in 2024.

BACKGROUND

Veterans Affairs Canada began providing a form of transition assistance on Canadian Forces Bases and Wings in 2003. Since that time, we have continued to develop and improve our service delivery model in response to the needs of transitioning Canadian Armed Forces Members and their families.

A Transition Interview with wellness screening is available to all releasing Regular and Reserve Force CAF members, RCMP and families of both groups. A transition interview is administered to members up to six months prior to release. The Transition Interview provides an opportunity to:

- Screen for potential risks and/or barriers which may impact a member's successful transition to life after service;
- Determine the level of support/intervention required from VAC and other community support systems to address identified unmet need(s);
- Provide members and their families with information about or access to the full range of VAC, programs, services and benefits

During the interview, a screening tool is used and can be administered again at various points in time to identify potential risk levels, unmet needs and concerns. This tool was developed using the domains of well-being and is evidence-based. Low risk clients typically are able to self-manage and do not require ongoing support. Many clients identified as moderate risk may benefit from guided support and ongoing monitoring for a brief period of time. High risk clients may benefit from some type of further assessment (ie. case management or health professional) and more intensive and ongoing monitoring and follow up.

Enhanced Transition Services is a joint CAF-VAC process to support medically releasing CAF members and their families. It provides joint case consultation and coordinated case planning to support a successful and seamless transition to civilian life. This was implemented in 2015.

The new Military to Civilian Transition process addresses the gap within the CAF between medically and non-medically releasing members, and provides a standardized, personalized and professional transition process for non-medically releasing members and their families. VAC staff, CAF transition advisors and Military Family Services staff support the transitioning members by jointly offering assistance and transition planning. National implementation is complete as of March 2024.

EMERGING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENTS FOR VETERANS

- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) reimburses treatments that are backed by scientific evidence and clinical guidelines. The Department works closely with Health Canada and Canadian Institutes for Health Research to monitor emerging treatment.
- Research into psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy is ongoing, but evidence remains limited.
- The Department is aware that people diagnosed with military or combat-related PTSD may respond to varying degrees of psychotherapy or antidepressants.
- Health Canada will assess new-drugs' safety, efficacy and quality before regulating them under the *Food and Drug Act*.

QUICK FACTS & FIGURES

Scientific Evidence

- Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy (PAP) research is in early stages with small, inconsistent studies.
- No long-term safety data, standardized protocols or clinical guidelines currently exist for PAP.
- Risks remain uncertain for individuals with psychosis, dissociation, suicidal risk, or related disorders.

Research and Trials

- Health Canada's Clinical Trials Database lists multiple psilocybin clinical trials authorized at various stages, with most studies in Phase I or Phase II, focused on safety, dosing, and early efficacy. Health Canada does not publish an official aggregate count of psilocybin trials or licensed producers.
- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research have funded a limited number of non-Veteran-specific trials in alcohol use disorder, treatment-resistant depression, and end-of-life distress in cancer.
- Veterans Affairs Canada, through the Joint Federal Research Funding Program, has funded a review of novel, emerging, and alternative mental health interventions for women Veterans, which includes consideration of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.

Ketamine

- Ketamine is not approved for use in PAP.
- VAC funds ketamine (infusion, oral, nasal spray, and compounded cream) for treatment-resistant depression and chronic pain.

Policy and Oversight

- VAC works with Health Canada and Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) to monitor emerging therapies.
- Senate subcommittee (VEAC) recommended large-scale research into PAP for Veterans; government response emphasized need for more evidence before adoption.

BACKGROUND

Mental Health care for Veterans is grounded in safety, efficacy, and scientific evidence. VAC funds evidence-based treatments but does not regulate drugs, conduct pharmacological research, or provide direct health care. Instead, VAC works closely with Health Canada, which regulates clinical trials and approved drugs, and with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which funds research.

Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy (PAP) involves using substances such as psilocybin, MDMA, LSD, or ketamine to induce an altered state during therapy. Proponents believe this may enhance therapeutic outcomes, particularly for PTSD or treatment-resistant depression. However, clinical evidence remains limited: studies often have small sample sizes, inconsistent findings, and lack long-term safety data. Guidelines and standardized protocols for PAP do not currently exist.

Ketamine is a general anesthetic which can cause changes in mood, perception, and consciousness, especially with higher doses. VAC reimburses ketamine as a pharmacological treatment for treatment-resistant depression and chronic pain, but not for psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. Health Canada has approved Spravato (esketamine nasal spray) for major depressive disorder but no other psychedelic therapy has been authorized for mental health conditions.

Internationally, some jurisdictions (e.g. Australia, and United States) have moved on permitting psychedelic therapies, though critics argue decisions were premature given weak evidence. The Government of Canada has adopted a cautious approach, emphasizing Veteran safety.

The Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs (VEAC) supports a large-scale research into PAP for Veterans. The Government's 2024 response reaffirmed its commitment to evidence-based care, noting that PAP research is ongoing and VAC will continue to monitor outcomes with Health Canada and CIHR.

Until there is sufficient scientific evidence to demonstrate safety and effectiveness, VAC will not reimburse psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. Veterans continue to have access to proven, first-line PTSD treatments, including cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy.