

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Veterans' Association**



**L'Association des anciens de la
Gendarmerie royale du Canada**

August 30, 2017

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Affairs Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0P4

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Governors and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association, I congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

The RCMP Veterans' Association has been in existence since 1886. Its primary purpose has not changed: to promote the interests and welfare of former Members and Employees of the RCMP and their families.

At previous Veterans Affairs Summits, Ministers and senior departmental officials, as well as the Veterans Ombudsman, have underlined the fact that all honourably released Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been, are and continue to be, "Veterans." We are proud to be recognized as such for our service to Canada since its very beginnings as a nation. Our Association is almost as old as the Force itself. We are proud of our history, our heritage and our traditions.

And as Veterans, the Association is fully committed to assisting the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve its services to all Veterans, including Veterans of the RCMP. To that end, we have two members of the Association actively participating on Ministerial Stakeholder Advisory Groups.

Regular and Civilian Members of the RCMP have been Veterans Affairs Canada clients for the adjudication of disability pensions under the *Pension Act* since 1948.

In December 2002, Veterans Affairs Canada assumed full responsibility for adjudication, calculation of benefits and provision of life-long disability pensions to all current and former Regular and Civilian Members who have suffered a service-related injury or illness, and their survivors. The Members and Veterans receiving a life-long disability pension can also be granted three Special Awards based on need, namely, the Attendance; Exceptional Incapacity; and Clothing Allowances.

We were encouraged by the Prime Minister's 2015 Mandate Letter to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs which made the commitments to increase the veteran's survivor's pension benefit from 50 to 70 percent; and to eliminate the "marriage after 60" claw-back clause.

As Veterans, we expect that when these two commitments to Canada's Veterans are fulfilled, the changes that are necessary to increase the survivor pension benefit and to repeal section 19 ("marriage after 60" clause) will be made to the *RCMP Superannuation Act*.

Once again, Minister, we congratulate on your new appointment. We look forward to meeting with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Al Rivard
President