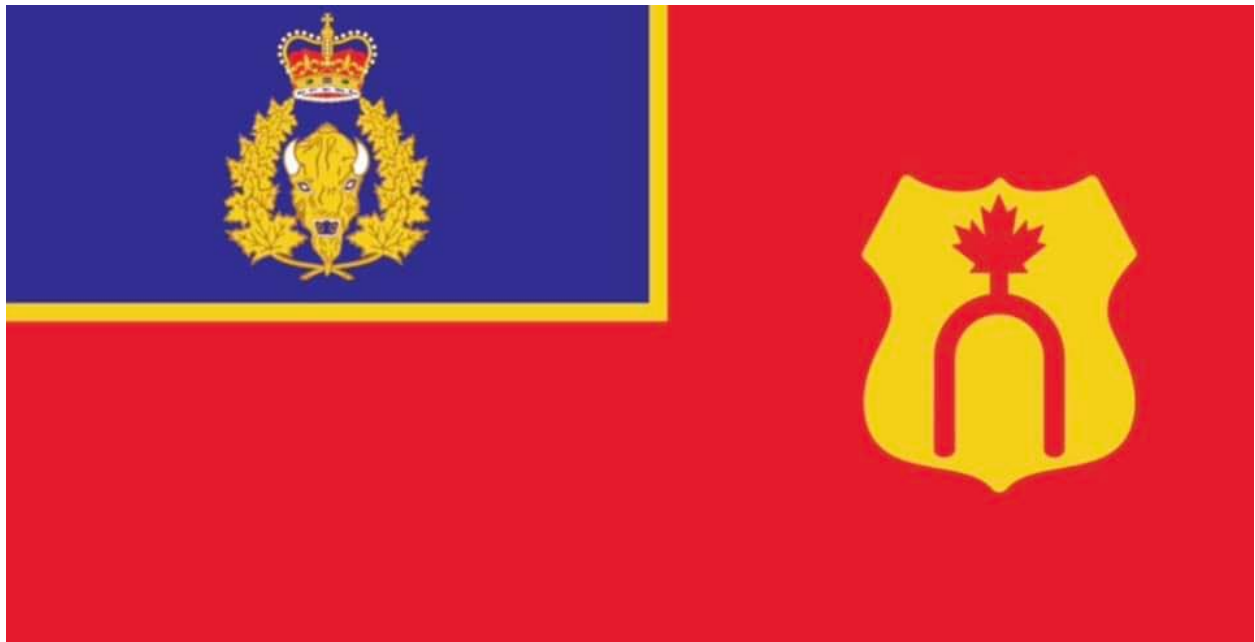


***RCMP Veterans Association
Saskatoon Division
July / August 2024 Newsletter***



President's Message:



I was recently honoured with attending at our 2024 AGM in Edmonton with three other members of our Executive Committee. I would like to thank Ed Miller, our director serving in the area of Support & Advocacy, for attending the Support & Advocacy workshops prior to the AGM at CFB Edmonton. The feedback from those workshops was positive and I know Ed has come back with numerous ideas on how we can improve our efforts in this, our primary function.

I had the opportunity to sit in on two days of meetings of the Association Council, which is a group comprised of the 30 division presidents. The Association Council, although mentioned in our Association Bylaws as that group which provides counsel to the Board of Directors, has not been formally used since we became a not-for-profit under federal legislation in 2014.

Recently, discussions have been had nationwide about how the Board represents our interests, and concern was expressed about who they were accountable to and how. Many divisions sought change as they were frustrated with some of the directions taken by the Board. These recent discussions of the Association Council centered around how the Division Presidents could better communicate their interests to the Board. It was decided that the Association Council would be that vehicle and that we would elect a chairperson and carry our wishes forward to the Board on behalf of the membership.

I can advise you that I was elected to that position and look forward to not only representing our interests at a national level, but forwarding the interests of all of the divisions to the Board. In my discussions afterwards with members of the Board, they expressed their excitement with this new working arrangement between them and the division presidents. They are eager to take our recommendations and operationalize them. I get the sense that we are moving in a positive direction which will have some immediate impact in many areas of mutual concern.

Stew Kingdon, our secretary, was there and will no doubt report on his observations of these meetings later in this newsletter. But I can say, that all of us were left with some degree of optimism as to what the future holds.

As always, I look forward to your feedback on these and other matters. Please feel free to contact me at anytime. I look forward to connecting with many of you at our annual golf tournament on August 21 and the social that follows at the Nutana Legion.

Please, enjoy your summer, and stay safe wherever you go and whatever you do.

Warren Gherasim
President - Saskatoon Vets

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News & Director's Reports:

Up Coming Events:

1. August 21st, 2024 – Memorial Golf Tournament – Holliday Park. **(See page 14 for details on registration, payment, etc).**
2. August 21st, 2024 – BBQ Social – Nutana Legion. **(See page 13 for details on meal, payment, etc.)**
3. December 2nd, 2024 – Christmas Social – Saskatoon Golf & Country Club
4. Citizenship ceremonies are always on the horizon. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Murray Milne.
5. Coffee Klatch:
 - a. Saskatoon: Nutana Legion, Friday's between 9:30-11:00am.
 - b. Battleford: A&W, 11401 Railway Ave E, North Battleford every morning for coffee, @ 07:00, except Sundays.
 - c. Rosetown & Humboldt: Awaiting response.

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Treasurer's Report – July 2024:

Annual dues for 2024 are \$65.00. You can pay your dues in one of the following ways:

1. E-transfer your payment to Saskatoon Division at email treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com
2. Mail cheque to the Saskatoon RCMP Vets Association at 400 Brand Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 5L6.
3. E-transfer your payment directly to National at email Chantal.renaud@rcmp-grc.gc.ca;
4. Mail cheque to the RCMP Veterans Association at the Canadian Police College, Box/CP 8900, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0R2, care of Chantel Renaud.
5. Log in to your membership profile at rcmpva.org and provide a credit card number, which can be automatically charged every year at renewal time.

Membership: Active Members: 173; Associate Members: 14; Honorary Members: 4; Life Members: 3; Total: 194. 23 members have not paid their 2024 dues: 15425,

21293, 21943, 23166, 25318, 27002, 27555, 27626, 28429, 29132, 31978, 32471, 34351, 35917, 37342, 37983, 46695, 46695, 46697, 50443, 51653, 65416, S00402

Affinity Credit Union Bank and Investment Account Balances: Chequing Account: \$17,294.89; cheques totaling \$4,510.06, need to be issued, which will leave a balance of \$12,784.83. Investment Accounts: \$23,005.04 (\$10K future AGM). Monthly Luncheons: Battleford Luncheon – loss of \$149.36

*Rick Whattam
Treasurer*

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Support, Advocacy and a Whole Lot More:



Update - Support Workshop, 2024 JUNE 4 & 5

*By now, many of you should have heard that Regina and Saskatoon Veterans jointly produced a glossy, 8 ½ x 11 pamphlet titled, “**The Saskatchewan Connection**.” Your executive previously parcelled out much of the information in easy to digest bits and bites. The whole document is now available on the Association Website <https://rcmpva.org/divisions>. **By the way, please check out that website as it continues to grow.***

For two days before the recent AGM in Edmonton, myself and 30+ support volunteers from all across Canada stayed at CFB Edmonton and participated in a workshop focused on caring and sharing. The RCMPVAC paid the cost of our meals and accommodations. Over the 2-days, I took 14-pages of notes. No, I am not going to regurgitate everything in this message BUT there are some themes and threads that are worth mentioning:

- 1. You/your family are not alone in your life’s journey. The RCMP Veterans Association is even more focused identifying whatever support systems that might assist the needs of members. Serving members are eligible for support and assistance. Many Veterans’ Divisions are actively engaging serving members as Associate Members knowing that the serving member from today is the veteran of tomorrow.*
- 2. Saskatoon and other Divisions do a “once-a-year” contact with members we have not seen for awhile. The Association is made up of volunteers from coast to coast. While one volunteer may not know the immediate answer to a veteran’s question, the core group can get the answer.*
- 3. Patience with the process seems to be the key. Veterans Affairs continues to work its way through a backlog of claims. Providing the best possible*

documentation, in the first instance, is the key. There is nothing preventing a resubmission, based on new information. There are appeal processes too.

4. George MADDEN is the Chaplain for the entire country and many Association Divisions, like us in Saskatoon, are blessed with one or two Chaplains. We will be looking to build on our support team in Saskatoon.
5. Retired D/Comm Steve GRAHAM is the Benefit Trust Fund (BTF) expert. We received tips and clues about the process and entitlement is not necessarily pension dependent.
6. While it is said that charity begins at home there is a way to support the home cause and others too. I learned that the **RCMP Veterans' Association Foundation**, is a registered charity with CRA. Google that name and check out the web page. There are a couple of steps to set up the account. The great thing is that, as opposed to Go Fund Me which charges a commission and provides no charitable receipt, the RCMPVA Foundation is a registered charity. It is worth checking out next time we are approached for needed funds.
7. The Nova Scotia Model for veterans received some discussion. Nova Scotia is one Division with 8 Regions of representatives. Would this model work in Saskatchewan? More information is needed.
8. Lastly, the old adage of hard copy documentation remains truer than ever. Your medical file from 10, 20, or 30+ years ago may not be what you think it is. If you may need it, get a copy for your records.

Ed Miller - Saskatoon Division
306 230-2809
eamiller99@gmail.com

Guide to Health Benefits and Services:

A 2024 Guide to Health Benefits and Services, revised addition, has been posted. It was distributed to our membership. If you did not receive it and would like a copy, please let us know.

Battleford Luncheon:

With 89 people in attendance, we celebrated our 150 years of the Force’s history, 50 years of the first female troop entering Depot and the 66th year of the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association receiving their charter. Our guest speaker, Lieutenant Governor and Assistant Commissioner Retired Russ Mirasty spoke to us about his career in the Force and experiences he has had as the Lieutenant Governor. The importance of the ‘Force Family’ along with our mission statement of Member’s Helping Members was his theme in preparing for the role of the Lieutenant Governor. A number of our members received service bar for there years of service with the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association



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Gravesite Inspection Program:

Did you know....

One of the original 300 members, Cst. John Robert CLISBY, #265 is buried in the Nutana Pioneer Cemetery in Saskatoon. Since the time of his passing on December 23rd, 1909, the name on his headstone was incorrectly spelled as GLISBY. Through the

efforts of Shelley McEwen, Depot Support Services and others, a new headstone was put in place on September 8th, 2023. Photo attached.



Darrell McFadyen

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2024 RCMP Veterans Association Annual General Meeting & Conference:

In an effort to provide some background information leading up to this year's AGM, the following information is being provided.

In years past, frustration has been growing over the lack of productivity generated from the Annual General Meetings. As a result of last years AGM, the presidents of the 30 divisions identified as the Association Council (AC) formed a working group with an ultimate goal to give greater leadership role in the AC. Our president was part of the working group. In an effort to improve the working relationship between the Board of Directors and the AC, the working group looked at a number of structural models which would be permitted within the By-laws in place under the Canada not-for-profit Corporations Act. Five options were identified ranging from a regional, provincial and divisional models. With a quorum of the AC at this years AGM, a vote was held and the following option was voted in: **Operationalizing the Association Council as per the existing rules & regulations.** This option does not require a representative from the AC to be part of the Board of Directors, and the existing structural would not change. However, operationalizing the Association Council gives a much-needed critical advisory group to the Board, along with having the power by way of motions / resolutions, to hold the Board of Directors accountable.

As a summary of this year's AGM the following motions were made on a number of topics:

1. That MMS [Membership Management System] will continue to be the Data Management tool for the Association, and that the Association develop needed and timely training, and that the Data Management group make further recommendations to the Association Council on improving MMS, and that it be reported on by October 31, 2024.
2. That a higher level of detail in the Association's finances be reported to the Presidents of the Association Council, and to empower the board to investigate any cost savings in the audit process.
3. That the association counsel seeks further clarification from the Board of Directors on whether a needs assessment is required to assess the workflow of the Association's secretariate, to be reported on by October 31, 2024.
4. That the Association Council recommend to the Board of Directors to adopt Option Number 5 [Operationalizing the Association Council], as presented by the [Governance} working group, and request that the Bylaw amendments associated to that option be ratified by the board.
5. In the event that the operationalization of the Association Council be accepted (Motion #4), that the Chairman nominated and accepted for the day (Warren Gherasim – Saskatoon Division) be extended for the coming year, until the next AGM.

As noted, above President Warren Gherasim was elected as the Association Council Chairperson for the upcoming year. We congratulate President Gherasim and with our support and encouragement, we look forward to anticipated progress that will be made during his tenure. For further information, open the June newsletter at following link in the National Communications Update.

Lastly, we wish to acknowledge the team of the Edmonton Division, led by President Kees Kikkert, who hosted the 2024 AGM. The tireless work and countless hours of all those involved did not go unnoticed. Thank you, and well done. It should also noted President Kees, was very appreciative of President Gherasim and his team from the Saskatoon Division contributing to what he felt was a successful and productive outcome of the 2024 AGM.

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National Communications Update:

In our newsletters we endeavor to keep the membership of the Saskatoon Division updated with news and events that are happening in our Division. Donna Morse, is the RCMP Veterans Association Communications Director. Donna disseminates monthly newsletters to all Divisions and the full membership of the Veterans Association. These newsletters provide information on a national perspective that impact us all, no matter which Division we are in. The information contained within the Communications Updates are very informative, and we encourage our membership to continue to stay informed.

[20240617 June Newsletter Final E.01.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

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Red Blazer for Sale:

One of our members donated a red blazer to our Division. We have a size 40 regular blazer for sale. \$150.00

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Birthday's:

We have a number of people who are celebrating birthdays in the next couple of months. If you have the opportunity to cross paths with any of the following people, I am sure they would appreciate a friendly acknowledgment that they are looking a year younger...

July: Greg Todd (1); Hugh Gordon (1); Tom Maley (6); Craig Inkster (9); Dave Hamilton (10); Colleen Lyons (12); Mike Chatwell (13); Dave Henderson (14); JP Marr (16); Dave Noga (19); Bob Harvey (24); Murray Milne (25); Stewart Kingdon (26); Logan Barker (26); Jim Trout (29); Phil Wilson (30); Ken Downie (30).

August: George Bozek (1); Wally Bednar (3); Len Wegner (3); Neil Matheson (4); Fran Stevenson (4); Phil Johson (5); Lionel Rutten (6); Dom Corbett (8); Val Blum (10); Al Knibbs (10); Al McDougall (11); Darrell McFadyen (16); Bev MaGillivary (16); Ken Homeniuk (18); Jim Palmer (19); Richard Whattam (23); Bob Saunders (26); Russ McEwen (27); Francis Collen (30)

We are getting to age that every birthday is a special day. Pick up the phone and wish a friend, a fellow Veteran best wishes. We acknowledge the following person for celebrating a milestone birthday: Phil Johnson

Happy Birthday to all mentioned above.

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Last Post:

Sadly,.....

On July 7th, 2006, Cst. Robin Cameron (48795) and Cst. Marc Bourdages (48100) were killed in the line of duty at Midred Saskatchewan, while responding to a domestic disputed.

“ We will remember them.”

The executive of the Saskatoon Division wish to acknowledge the work done by Ralph Mahar (31117) for his volunteer work in posting obituaries of personnel connected with the RCMP. We receive a number of these obituaries on a weekly basis and only distribute those who served in FDiv. We endeavor to forward the obituaries where the regimental numbers are close to those members of the Saskatoon Division. However, we are aware that many of our members served in other Divisions across the Force and know a wide range of members who served in these Divisions. For those who wish to conduct their own research, the following is a link for the Last Post database. Have patience as this is big database and will take time to load...

[RCMP Vets Net | Last Post "Recent"](#)

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Health & Wellness of our Membership:

We wish to acknowledge one of our members of the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association.



Hal Hepting, Reg. # 18457, of Unity Saskatchewan is one of the charter members who established the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association in 1958. Hal joined the Force on November 30th 1953 and left on October 8th, 1956 to obtain a law degree. After receiving his degree, Hal set up a law practice in Unity Saskatchewan where he has been practicing law to this day. Betty, Hal's wife, health has declined and she currently resides in a care facility in Maklin. At the age of 89, unfortunately Hal's

has had health issues and has recently had a stay in the Unity hospital. On June 3rd, 2024 President Warren Gherasim and Past President Terry Drover paid Hal a visit and present him a Certificate of Achievement for his 66 years of service to the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association. We, the membership, also want to acknowledge the continued dedication Hal Hepting has had toward the veterans and serving members of the RCMP. Hal is a Life Member of our Association. Congratulations Hal, and thank you for your continued service. As a side bar to this story, when Warren & Terry went to visit Hal, he was busy in his hospital bed working on client files from his law practice. Hal, you are an inspiration, 'of keeping the pony saddled up and tied to the hitching post outside your detachment'. Wishing you all the best.

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After being transferred from the Battleford's hospital, Elmer Tetz (S0402) of North Battleford is presently in Room # 3069 at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Elmer is in good spirits but is not certain on how long they plan on keeping him. Elmer would appreciate a visit to help him pass the time away.

Karl Kaslor (C1047), of Battleford Saskatchewan has been encountering health difficulties for some time and was admitted to the Battleford Regional Care center in Battleford. For those considering paying Karl a visit, it is recommended they contact his wife, Irene.

As we all know, being hospitalized could happen to any of us, so we encourage our members to keep in touch with each other and when the opportunity arises, pay a visit to those especially in our care facilities.

We send Elmer and Karl well wishing and a speedy recovery.

Notice for the Saskatoon Division RCMP Veterans Association Summer Social – Aug 21st, 2024:

Date: August 21, 2024

Place: Nutana Legion, 3021 Louise Avenue, Saskatoon

Start: Legion opens at 2:00 PM for socializing

Meal served: 4:30 PM

Meal Cost: \$10.00

Includes chicken or beef burger with all the fixings, 2 salads and dessert.

Register as a single, couple and bring some friends

Name Meal – Beef or Chicken

This social event is being held in conjunction with the annual RCMP vets golf tournament so we are expecting a large turnout. Please ensure you return this completed registration form and applicable meal fees early. This event is our 16th year golf tournament and August social so let's make them both a success!

Payments:

E- transfer: treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com

State "August Social" in remarks field

Mail: Cheque payable to Saskatoon RCMP Veterans

Send cheque to: Warren Gherasim - 563 Maguire Lane, Saskatoon, SK S7W 1A4

Completed Registration forms: E-Mail to saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com

Notice of 2024 Saskatoon Division RCMP Veterans Association Golf Tournament:



Date: August 21, 2024

Golf Course: Holiday Park Golf Course, Saskatoon

Registration at the course: Starts at 9:00 AM

Tee times: Start at 9:30 AM

Cost: \$90.00 per person that includes green fees and power cart \$80.00 per person for seniors aged 65 and over

Meal Cost: BBQ burger meal at Nutana Legion is \$10.00 extra Includes burger with all the fixings, 2 salads and dessert.

Total cost: \$100.00 for non-senior for golf and meal

\$90.00 for senior for golf and meal

Register as a single, couple or full team of four

Name	Senior? Y or N	Meal – Beef or Chicken	Team contact e-mail address
Ex: Ed Miller	Yes	Beef	Eamiller99@gmail.com

Please ensure you return this completed registration form and applicable golf/meal fees early. We have tee times booked for 20 X 4 person teams so only the first 80 paid golfers can be entered. This is our 16th year golf tournament and also our August Social so let's make both a success!

Payments

E- transfer: treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com

State "golf tournament" in remarks field

Mail: Cheque payable to Saskatoon RCMP Veterans Send cheque to:

Warren Gherasim - 563 Maguire Lane, Saskatoon, SK S7W 1A4

Completed Registration forms: E-Mail to saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com You will be contacted and advised of your tee time by Friday August 16th.

Division Executive:

President: Warren Gherasim; warren_gherasim@yahoo.ca 306-291-1373

1st Vice President: John Hiebert; John.hiebert@sasktel.net ; 306-380-8020

2nd Vice President: Boyd Godfrey; bbgodfrey@sasktel.net 306-371-4399

Past President: Terry Drover; tjdrover1@gmail.com Ph: 306-651-0703

Secretary: Stewart Kingdon; Stewart_kingdon@hotmail.com 306-260-0907

Treasurer: Richard Whattam; rwhattam@hotmail.ca Ph: 306-381-3235

Directors:
Bill Briscoe wgb@sasktel.net Ph: 306-292-6569
Darrell McFadyen: dfmcfadyen@sasktel.net Ph: 306-220-2843
Tony Shumilak; shuma@sasktel.net Ph: 306-250-2903
Garth McLean: biggerfish@shaw.ca Ph: 306-260-4889

Advocacy & Support: Ed Miller; eamiller99@gmail.com Ph: 306-230-2809

Chaplain(s): Right Reverend Rod Andrews; rod.andrews@sasktel.net Ph: 306-270-5370
Rev. Marvin Mountney: allmou924@gmail.com C: (306) 220-2956

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Links & Contact Information:

RCMP Veterans Association: <https://rcmpva.org>

Survivor's & Executors Guide: [Guide for \(rcmpva.org\)](#) and Checklist [2020-Association-Survivor-Executor-Checklist.pdf \(rcmpva.org\)](#)

Canada Life PSHCP:

Affective July 1st, 2023, if a member maintained The Public Service Health Care Plan, the plan is covered by Canada Life (1-888-415-4414).

Chaplain:

To contact the **Depot Division Chaplain**, contact Chaplin Tom McCullagh, tom.mccullagh@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or at 306-737-0535 for further information.

Saskatoon Division: Right Reverend Rod ANDREWS 306-955-1750 (cell)306-270-5370
rod.andrews@sasktel.net and Rev. Marvin Mountney: allmou924@gmail.com C: (306) 220-2956

Advocate: Association Advocate: Mike DUFFY (Lethbridge Division) Chief (403) 381-8200 (Office) (403) 866-8200 (Cell).

Division Advocate: Ed Miller: 306-230-2809

Our Pension is administered by Public Works Canada to make inquiries you must supply your Pension Number. Toll-Free: 1-800-561-7930
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (your local time) www.rcmp.pension.gc.ca

RCMP Group Life Insurance Center c/o SEB Administrative Services Inc. --Telephone: 1-877-778-8084 RCMP-GRCGrouplife.com

Veteran's Affairs Liaison Grame Shaw_(902) 370-4908; (902) 388-7592 (cell)

Call Veterans Affairs Canada; 1-866-522-2122; www.veterans.ca To speak to a Mental Health Professional call VAC Assistance Services at 1-800-268-7708.

RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre:

As of the July 1st, 2021, the RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre moved from Morneau Shepell to Smart Employee Benefits (SEB) Administrative Service Inc. The RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre will solely handle: Life Insurance and Accidental Death / Dismemberment Insurance enquiries. Updated contact information is as follows:

RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre
c/o SEB Administrative Service Inc.
395 boul, de Maisonneuve West 3rd Floor
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1J6
Telephone: Toll Free: 1-877-778-8084 (Monday to Friday: 0730-1800 EST)
On-line: RCMP-GRCGrouplife.com

Common Contact Information

Agency	Phone #	Website
RCMP Pension Office	1-855-502-7090 1-855-502-7088 (EX-01/C/Supt. and above)	www.rcmp-grc.pension.gc.ca
Canada Pension Center	1-800-561-7930	www.canada.ca/pension-benefits
CPP, OAS GIS, Survivors' Benefit	1-800-277-9914	www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits.html

& Disability Payments		
Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC)	1-866-522-2122	www.veterans.gc.ca
SEB Administrative Services – RCMP Group Life Insurance Centre	1-877-778-8084	https://fp.seb-admin.com/fpconnect/#/rcmp-grc
Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP)	1-855-415-4414	Welcome Public Service Health Care Plan (canadalife.com)
Pensioners' Dental Service Plan (PDSP) – Sun Life	1-888-757-7427	https://www.sunnet.sunlife.com/signin/csi/pdsp/e/home.wca
Notify Federal Government of a Death		https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/notify-government-death.html
Social Insurance Number (SIN)	1-866-274-6627	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/contact/sin.html
Passport	1-800-567-6868	https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-passports/help-centre/general.html
Bureau of Pension Advocates (BPA)	1-877-228-2250	https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/veterans-rights/how-to-appeal/bureau-pensions-advocates
Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	1-800-959-8281	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/corporate/contact-information.html
Programs & Services for Seniors – Government of Canada		https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/seniors.html
Veterans Ombudsman	1-877-330-4343	https://ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en
Saskatchewan – Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage, Death, etc.)		https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces
Saskatchewan Health Card	1-800-667-7551 (306)787-3251	www.eHealthSask.ca

Contact Equifax or TransUnion to Obtain a Free Credit Report, you are allowed one report per year. Requesting a report does not affect your Credit Score. There are various methods to request reports ranging from on-line to mail to phone – be certain you are obtaining the free report. Follow their instructions explicitly or you will not receive your report.

Equifax	1-800-465-7166	https://www.consumer.equifax.ca/personal/products/credit-score-report/
TransUnion	1-800-663-9980	https://www.transunion.ca/product/consumer-disclosure

Updated: 2023-10-19