

***RCMP Veterans Association
Saskatoon Division
November / December 2024 Newsletter***



President's Message:



I would like to extend my greetings to our membership and reflect on some of the good things that have happened in recent months. In September we held our monthly luncheon and were lucky enough to have Supt. Grant St. Germaine as our guest speaker. Grant spoke about the many changes the Force has recently undergone and some of the recent challenges experienced in policing. I believe that he left many of us with the impression that the job has changed quite a bit since most of us wore a uniform. In October our member, Ed Miller, the director of our Support & Advocacy program, was awarded the King Charles III medal for his contributions to the wellness of fellow veterans. I'm sure that all of you will agree that Ed was a very

deserving recipient and was awarded the medal by our Lieutenant Governor, Russ Mirasty, former CO of F Division and a member of the Vets Association himself. Recently another of our members distinguished himself in the recent Provincial election. Hugh Gordon ran for and was victorious in winning a seat as MLA for the riding of Saskatoon Silver Springs. I believe it takes great courage to put your name forward for an elected position and hope you will join me in congratulating Hugh. He has a big job ahead of him as a member of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Soon we will gather for Remembrance Day on November 11. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force and will see some very senior RCAF members on parade. It is my hope that many of you will find the time to participate in the parade with us and gather for the group photo afterwards. This will be Russ Mirasty's last Remembrance Day as LG and he has chosen to spend it at our ceremony so it would be nice if we could give him a great Saskatoon send-off.

Next, on December 2, will be our annual Christmas Dinner at the Saskatoon Golf & Country Club. It is always a great night of fellowship and a great meal. We will be having prize draws and award presentations. I hope many of you are able to make it. Tickets go fast, so please get yours early.

I recently attended the RCMPVA Board of Director's meeting in Ottawa as a guest of the Board of Directors in my capacity as Chairman of the Association Council. The Association Council is the group comprised of the 30 division presidents from across the country. We had a series of video meetings before the BoD meeting and on behalf of the Association Council, myself and Vice Chairman, Wayne Jacquard (President of Ottawa Division), presented the interests of the presidents to the Board in their strategy sessions. Four themes were presented to the Board as priorities for the membership:

- 1. Support & Advocacy*
- 2. Affinity and Benefit Programs*

- 3. *Communication*
- 4. *Transparent Fiscal Management*

After two days of meetings, I came away with the belief that the Board was very receptive to the message that Wayne and I delivered and that they will be taking positive actions on these issues in the very near future. Stay tuned.

Lastly, I would like to extend the warmest holiday wishes for happiness and good health to our entire membership and their families. Please enjoy the holiday season with loved ones. I believe our Association is strong due to the support we provide to one another, and in that spirit, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Warren Gherasim

President - Saskatoon Vets

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News & Director's Reports:

Up Coming Events:

- 1. *December 2nd, 2024 – Christmas Social – Saskatoon Golf & Country Club. See page 14...for further details.*
 - 2. *Poppy Campaign Day: November 2nd & 3rd 2024*
 - 3. *November 11th, 2024 – Remembrance Day – SaskTel Center – Saskatoon.*
 - 4. *Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign Day: December 2024. Details of this event will be distributed at a later time.*
 - 5. *Monthly Luncheons: Our next luncheon will be held in January 2025. Details of this event will be distributed at a later time.*
 - 6. *Citizenship ceremonies are always on the horizon. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Murray Milne.*
 - 7. *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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Remembrance Day Parade – SaskTel Center:

We hope to get a "BIG" number of our members out to SaskTel Centre on Nov. 11th. Like other years, we will follow the Old Guard and chairs will be provided for seating on the parade square. If you are not comfortable marching, come out and sit in the stands and represent our Association in remembrance of this day. Parade members should arrive at 0930 hrs and can enter via main entrance and take "Section B" stairs down to arena level to go behind the curtains - or enter via "Ramp 4" - (outside SW corner of SaskTel). Following the service, we are invited to attend a lunch at the Nutana legion.

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Treasurer’s Report – November 2024:

Membership fees for 2025 are \$70.00 which are due on January 1st, 2025. Payment can be made 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.*

Current Membership: Active Members: 173; Associate Members: 17; Honorary Members: 4; Life Members: 2; **Total:** 196 (includes 3 new Associate members)

Unpaid Member’s 2024 Dues: 15425, 21293, 21773, 21943, 28429, 28894, 31978, 32471, 37983, 46695, 46697, 50443, 51653, 65416, S00402

Affinity Credit Union Bank and Investment Account Balances: Cash: \$585.00; Chequing Account: \$14,435.61 – no outstanding cheques. Investment Accounts: \$23,005.04 (\$10K allocated to a future AGM)

Monthly Luncheons October luncheon: profit of \$386.66

Richard Whattam
Treasurer

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Support, Advocacy and a Whole Lot More:



What Keeps You Grounded? *A few Saskatchewan RCMP Veterans and friends are soon off on a Caribbean Cruise this December. We will travel to a number of island communities and perhaps become a community of travellers in the process.*

The saying, no man is an island, expresses the opinion that humans do badly when isolated from others. Humans do best when part of a community starting with our families and extended family and friends. For those who joined the force at an early age out of high school or a short time in the work force, the RCMP quickly became our extended family.

This week I experienced firsthand, just how long lasting the force's extended family can be. Those of you who read MP Mates may have read a post from Bonnie REES, widow of retired S/Sgt Gary REES, one of our former DSRR representatives. We lost Gary in a tragic car collision on Vancouver Island going on 6-years ago. The criminal court case remains unresolved but, maybe this year.

I reached out to Bonnie on MP Mates. We relived some stories from Melfort, circa 1973/1974 ... good times for sure. As the only single and young recruit in Melfort, Saskatchewan I grew to appreciate the hospitality of Gary and Bonnie REES and the rest of Melfort's force family.

Time marches on and we are now living in the present. One goal of support and advocacy is to keep current our friend and family connections. We are a moderately sized Division in Saskatoon and need your help to stay abreast of persons who may need a hand up. Please and thanks for reaching out to me or any of the executive with a question or concern.

Your Executive hosts events with a broad spectrum of speakers; no, I do not mean every Friday coffee at the Nutana Legion from 0930 to 11:00. Our next major event will be the Christmas Social on Monday, 2024 DEC 02 at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club. Look for your joining instructions very soon. Invite a family friend or member who you have not seen for a while.

Hop aboard that boat, come off the island and join the community.

*For more information, please contact our coordinator, Ed Miller - 306 230-2809
eamiller99@gmail.com*

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Health & Wellness of our Membership:

Please keep in mind our fellow Veterans who are alone or experiencing some health issues and spend a lot of time in-doors. They would gladly welcome a phone call or a short visit to let them know we are thinking about them.

Lin Siple (19888) is 89 years of age and has mobility health issues. As a result Lin has moved into Diamond House care home in Warman. His phone number is 306-229-1952. He may not answer due to his health issues, so try again. Lin would appreciate visits &/or phone calls.

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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.

[Board of Directors Meeting 2024-07-10 / Réunion du conseil d'administration 2024-07-10 - saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com - Gmail \(google.com\)](mailto:saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com)

[Communications Update September 2024/ Mise à jour des communications septembre 2024 - saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com - Gmail \(google.com\)](mailto:saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com)

[Board of Directors Meeting 2024-10-08 / Réunion du conseil d'administration 2024-10-08 - saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com - Gmail](mailto:saskatoonrcmpvets@gmail.com)

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VAC Class Action Law Suit - Miscalculation of Disability Pensions Class Action Settlement:

As a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or their spouse, common-law partner, survivor, dependent or executor of their estate, who received disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) between 2003 and 2023, this information may apply to you. A VAC class action member who is qualifiable, may be entitled for compensation from a class action settlement related to alleged miscalculations of

disability pensions and benefits. As a former member of the RCMP who had been collecting disability pension payments would know whether this would apply to you. However, we wish to inform the surviving spouses of our members who may also be able to make a claim in VAC Class action suit for miscalculation of disability pension payments from 2003 forward. The following link will provide more information and how to submit a claim. The deadline to make a claim is March 19th, 2025.

[Miscalculation of Disability Pensions Class Action Settlement \(kpmg.ca\)](https://www.kpmg.ca/miscalculation-of-disability-pensions-class-action-settlement)

The following email message dated 2025-10-25 summarises the a/n information:

Dear valued member,

Earlier this year, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) settled a class action lawsuit called *Manuge v. Canada*, [2024 FC 68](#). The settlement concerns miscalculation of CAF and RCMP disability pension benefits paid payable to veterans, dependents and survivors between 2003 and 2023. There are more than 300,000 class members, and the settlement amount is was significant: \$817 million. Living class members will receive their settlement payments automatically from VAC later this year and consequently there is no action required on their part.

However, there are many **Estates of deceased veterans, family members or survivors of deceased veterans** who **are required to make a claim** to receive their entitlement. Most claims are under \$5,000, but there are currently approximately 2,000 unclaimed amounts of more than \$10,000. All amounts are tax-free.

Claims are being administered by KPMG. **A claim can be made by a surviving spouse, child, grandchild, parent, sibling, niece/nephew, or next of kin to a deceased class member** through the website here: <https://veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca/>.

The website also includes a section with Frequently Asked Questions. Should you have any questions, you may call the Claims Administrator at KPMG, who has set up a dedicated call center at **1-833-839-0648**. Alternately, you may contact any of the five law firms representing the class.

Sincerely,

CFMWS

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New Members to our Division:

Recently three (3) Associate Members have joined our membership:

Pat Dustan (Widow of Wayne Boskill #32204); Anne Lameront (Widow of Kin Lameront #26624); and Solange Sibilleau (spouse of Bert Sibilleau #28866)

Brian Brennan (38757) and his wife Carolann have recently returned to the Saskatoon area and have joined the Saskatoon Division of the RCMP Veterans Association. Brian is remembered by many of us as a young Constable on the Saskatoon Integrated Drug Unit. Brain went on to eventually be a Deputy Commissioner and Commanding Officer of HDiv. Welcome Brian & Carolann.

The Saskatoon Executive Committee welcomes Pat, Anne, Solange and Brian as Members to our Division of the RCMP Veterans Association.

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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...

November Bill Ormshaw (1); Rod Leakey (6); Rick Swanson (6); Rod Andrews (11); Brian Fehr (13); Bill Schramm (15); Gord Wellar (19); Ray Ruiters (19); Kevin Weber (21); Kristine Lacelle (23); Elmer Tetz (25); Ian Skinner (25); Mario Degagne (25); Eugene Shwydiuk (28); Jason Roberts (28); Bryan Heigh (30).

December: Wally Turk (4); Wayne Marcella (5); Sandra High (7); Ross Tylor (7); Ernie Fast (22); Warren Ulrich (25); Warren Gherasim (26); Kathy Forbes (27); Bruce Irwin (31).

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 celebrating a milestone birthday: Wally Turk.

Happy Birthday to all mentioned above.
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Last Post:

Sadly,.....

We remember Al Hammond; Reg # 25528; who died in Regina Saskatchewan on September 20th,2024. Al was often a visitor to the Saskatoon Division and had joined us for a coffee shortly before his passing.

“ We will remember him.”

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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Member Recognition:

The Saskatoon Executive Committee wish to acknowledge one of our members. Congratulations to our member, Ed Miller, who on October 3rd, 2024 received the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty presented Ed the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our province. Ed was nominated by our Vets Division for his outstanding support to the health and welfare of RCMP Veterans in his role as our Director of Support & Advocacy. Ed has been a member of the RCMP Veterans Association Saskatoon Division for 26 years. He is a Past President, a treasurer and has held numerous directors’ position within our Division. Ed is also an active member of the Masons & Shrine Associations. Please extend congratulations to Ed the next time you see him! Congratulations Ed.



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Hugh Gordon (45786) - Saskatchewan MLA:

Congratulations to Hugh Gordon a member of the RCMP Veterans Association Saskatoon Division, who was recently elected as the MLA for Saskatoon Silversprings. Please join me in congratulating Hugh as he represents his community's interests at the legislature.



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In Recognition of Jerry Forst (24851) - A member of the Edmonton Division of the RCMP Veterans Association:

The following message was received from Jerry Forst, by one of the members of the Saskatoon Division. Jerry's message exemplifies many admirable qualities of not only his character but foremost the importance keeping in contact with one another.

"Yesterday several members of the K Division Vets attended the Funeral of Bridgette Hardy-Crytes. Bridgette was a civilian member of the Sherwood Park Detachment and the longest serving member of the K Division Pipes and drums. Bridgette also was beloved Barney the bear at the detachment and attended many schools, events during her career. Her mission in life was to make someone day better and that she did.

After the service Jason Pertson (Bills son) who had travelled to Calgary to attend the funeral as he worked with Bridgette when he was stationed in Sherwood Park gave me a wonderful hug and shook the hand of Tom Dunlop and thanked Tom for his work on our book Faces of the Force.

Jason said he wanted to thank the member's C Troop and their families , writers of the book, families and friends of his fathers for sending cards, phoning , sharing memories with him and his dad during Bill's end of Life Journey. Jason said his dad and he were so uplifted by his troop and others like Jim Mundle who reached out to them during this time and that his dad was so excited to receive a note, phone call.

Jason said he was taken aback when two members of the "F" Division Vets came to the grave site when his dad was interned. Jason said it made it so special for the family.

Jason thanked Tom and I asked we pass along his thanks for the many vets who attended the funeral. He told us that seeing the vets made him feel like people do care about the work he and others members do every day and that care extends to the detachment staff. Jason said he intends to join the Vets when he retires to extend that feeling to others.

As I listened to the Pipes and drums yesterday and the wonderful mission of Bridgette to make someone day better even it was just to say hello, how are you? I thought of the many troop mates and friends who reached out to me as I travel through my cancer journey to encourage me and how with each call, note, email I got made me thinking of the good times I had with so many troop mates and friends over the year. Those thoughts took me away for the moment from my worries.

Yesterday we heard that Bridgette being Scottish loved to drink Guinness and she heard many times from others that drinking would put hair on your chest. During her last days she shared that she was glad that wasn't true.....living with joy is one thing passing that joy on is that much more. Rest in Peace Bridgette and know that others will carry the torch for you.....

Send a note, email a friend or buy them a coffee you have no idea how that might impact or change them today. Carry on C 66- 67 Troop."

Well said Jerry, and thank you.

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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.

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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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RCMP Veterans Association

Saskatoon Division Christmas Social

- WHEN:** Monday, DECEMBER 2nd, 2024
- Cocktails 5 pm [cash bar]
- Dinner 6 pm
- WHERE:** Saskatoon Golf & Country Club, 865 Cartwright Street, Saskatoon
- DRESS:** Smart Casual
- Red Blazer for executive. Optional for other members.
****Note:** Please wear your name tags, if you have one.
- MENU:** A turkey dinner, prepared by their Chef
- COST:** \$50.00 per person, payable in advance

Deadline: Monday, November 25th, 2024. Payments required in advance. E- Transfer payments: treasurersaskatoonvets@gmail.com Cheques can be mailed to RCMP Veterans Association Saskatoon Division, 400 Brand Place S7J 5L6. Guests are welcome, bring your friends and family. The more, the merrier. Come and celebrated the Christmas season. We need a head count for the caterers, please let Stewart Kingdon know if you plan to attend. His phone number is 306-260-0907, email stewart_kingdon@hotmail.com

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 Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP):

The Public Service Health Care Plan, is now covered by Canada Life, contact # 1-888-415-4414.

Pensioners' Dental Service Plan (PDSP):

PDSP Member Contact Centre within North America (toll-free) - 1-855-415-4414, Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, local time.

Chaplains:

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 & Disability Payments	1-800-277-9914	www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits.html
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
<p>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.</p>		
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