

**Dominion Command  
Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee  
23 November 2019, 0900 – 1200  
Record of Discussion**

**File: 65-1**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Tom Irvine</b>    | - | <b>Chairman</b>                           |
| <b>Ronn Anderson</b> | - | <b>Member</b>                             |
| <b>John Mahon</b>    | - | <b>Member</b>                             |
| <b>Dave Gordon</b>   | - | <b>Homeless Veterans</b>                  |
| <b>George O'Dair</b> | - | <b>Seniors Advisor</b>                    |
| <b>Larry Murray</b>  | - | <b>Ex-Officio</b>                         |
| <b>Jill Carleton</b> | - | <b>BSO Legion OSI<br/>Special Section</b> |

**ABSENT:**

|                     |   |                      |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>Bruce Julian</b> | - | <b>Vice-Chairman</b> |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|

**DOMINION COMMAND STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                        |   |                              |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Raymond McInnis</b> | - | <b>Coordinator</b>           |
| <b>Dwayne McCarthy</b> | - | <b>Assistant Coordinator</b> |

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

The opening ritual was conducted and the Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He mentioned where has the time gone, 2019 is almost over. Since our last meeting in September, we have a minority Liberal government and the PM announced his cabinet this week. Many familiar faces, no change in the Veterans portfolio; the Chair advised that he spoke with the Minister on Thursday and the plan is to get together early in the new year to go over our advocacy issues.

There is no change in DND either as Minister Sajjan retains his portfolio. However, there is a change in the Minister of Seniors; The Honourable Deb Schulte takes over from Minister Tassi, a short bio is included at Tab 5 in your meeting book.

The Chair mentioned that there are no seats in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Committee will reinforce our advocacy issues very early in 2020 to ensure support for veterans is a priority for this minority government.

## **2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The previous minutes of 18 September 2019 were reviewed. Some of the items will be updated during this meeting.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the members approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 18 September 2019.

**CARRIED**

## **3. CIMVHR GATINEAU UPDATE – SCHOLARSHIP – FUTURE YEARS**

The CIMVHR Forum 2019 was held in Gatineau, QC from 20-23 October 2019.

Comrades Tom, Bruce, Larry, Ray and Charls attended the Forum. The sixth Legion Masters Scholarship was presented to Ms. Kaitlin Sullivan from UBC. Her research is entitled “Identifying neuronal subpopulation participation across the stages of fear memory”.

Mr. Massimo Cau, our scholarship winner in 2019/2020 presented an extract of his research entitled: “Hemostatic Powder Sprayed through Tubing Halts Severe Bleeds: Towards Wearable Hemostatic Protection” at this Forum.

Comrade Tom advised that during his scholarship presentation, he highlighted the support and programs that the Legion provides to veterans and their families and advised the attendees that all would be welcome as new members in The Royal Canadian Legion.

The forum is also a great opportunity to network with the academic, CAF and Veterans Affairs Canada researchers. The workshops at this Forum were very informative and completely sold out.

The scholarship for 2020/2021 will be ratified at the DEC meeting tomorrow, it has already been approved in principle.

The next CIMVHR Forum will be held in Halifax, NS in October 2020.

Comrade John mentioned the program HiMarc and the University of Alberta and because of Legion involvement, placed wreaths at seven Remembrance Day ceremonies in Alberta.

Comrade Ronn advised of two research initiatives at Deer Lodge, one on Health Services and the other on Mental Health for still-serving members and veterans.

#### **4. OUTREACH AND VISITATION INITIATIVE**

The Legion signed the extension for year two of the renewal contract to visit 5,000 veterans a year. This contract will now end in October 2020; however, it is anticipated that a further two-year contract offer will be published in the summer of 2020.

The Chair advised that Comrade Gary Foster would not be returning to the Legion. All OVI activities have been coordinated between VAC/Director and Veterans Services/Assistant CSO Raquel Burrell until a new Service Officer is hired.

There will be an OVI training course in 2020 at Legion House in partnership with VAC. Dates to be determined early in 2020.

**Coordinator's Note:** A new Command Service Officer will commence employment on 13 January 2020.

#### **5. SENIORS**

Comrade George advised that the Legion used to provide annual funding for Gerontology Fellowships. This ended about 20 years ago as it was decided that it was no longer financially viable for the Legion to continue to sponsor. One wonders what the state of Gerontology would be if the Legion had been able to continue this initiative. Certainly, more practitioners that are qualified would walk among us.

Today, seniors and veterans are still experiencing, in many cases, poor quality of care and indeed, instances of institutional abuse in LTC facilities. I am certain that Comrade Gordon can illustrate that concern.

There is also concern about end of life care. Years ago, we were involved with and actively promoting the concept of Power of Attorney – especially for end of life decisions. We sponsored seminars, etc. and everyone seemed to be on board with the concept. Problem is - sometimes it works and sometimes it does not, dependent upon the jurisdiction and the medical hospital policies, doctor's call, and staff reluctance.

A short story – A female UK WWII Veteran in my Branch was dying of cancer and her wish was to die with dignity. She designated her two sisters from England as end of life Powers of Attorney and copied her closest friend. Her friend, armed with the document, took her to hospital and both knew she would not return. The friend notified the UK sisters who flew to Canada. Winnie, the patient, entered hospital on a Thursday and was treated with painkillers. Her pain got progressively worse over the next day or so and the sisters called for more treatment to keep her comfortable. This was refused because her doctor needed to approve the extra medication and he was gone for the weekend. Winnie died in agony on the Sunday – with the sisters, both travelling nursing sisters in the family tradition, trying to fathom the obvious inadequacies of the Canadian health system. One of them told me that in her travels to Africa and elsewhere, this type of lack of adequate care, is normal because of the scarcity of appropriate drugs. Never

in her wildest dreams did she think that Canadian healthcare would be that lacking. The hospital later made some excuse and assured that there were protocols to take care of these situations where the designated doctor is away. For some reason, the protocols were not followed and Winnie Nightingale died kicking and screaming – against her prescribed wishes. Moreover, yes, the Nightingale gals were relatives of Florence, who almost singlehandedly vastly improved both the field hospital and veterans pension systems in the UK and these started ours. Somewhat ironic.

How can we determine how End of Life Powers of Attorney are handled today in Canada? Should the Legion get involved and if so, should it be handled by the Provincial Commands as they have responsibility for healthcare?

At our meeting on 22 May 2019, I brought our Seniors Support Program/The Home Away Initiative to your attention and asked to have it made easier to find on our Dominion Command website. This was done and I would like to know if it has been accessed and if it was promoted and is it at all helpful.

The position of the CMA on healthcare for the elderly has not changed since our 18 September, 2019 teleconference. They did put out a circular suggesting a write-in campaign to politicians prior to the recent election. Understand that the response was around 80,000. Since CMA has a National Seniors Strategy and since it's similar to proposals that we have made, it might be worthwhile letting them take the lead - with our endorsement. Here are the CMA's most recent top priority policy recommendations to Government:

- *Commit to creating a Seniors Care Benefits program, which would directly support seniors and caregivers. Similar to the Child Care Benefit program, it would offset the high out-of-pocket health costs that burden caregivers and patients.*
- *Commit to implementing a new demographic-based top-up to the Canada Health Transfer based on the proportion of older persons in a province or territory. This would alleviate fiscal pressures, free up hospital beds, build better community care models, and ensure all seniors get the best care possible.*

Comrade George requested that we re-establish communications with the Executive Director, CMA. He also requested that the Committee research end of life care in Canada.

**Action:** Coordinator

## **6. VETERANS HOMELESSNESS – UPDATE**

Comrade Dave advised that since our last teleconference, he was contacted by BC/Yukon Command and Alberta/NWT Command and sent both information regarding the Homeless Veterans program. He will be doing a follow up to see if progress is being made in both Commands.

Back in June and July, he attended meetings of the OPP Inspectors meeting in June and the RCMP in July. Comrade McInnis also attended the RCMP meeting. Doing a follow up from both OPP and RCMP, he is invited to attend a meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, on December 11, 2019. He will give a presentation at this event. He will be seeking their support and endorsement of the Homeless Veterans program and if received, it will be nationwide meaning every police force in Canada will be endorsing this program. There is then the possibility of a Provincial Command Intake form being on the in-car computer of every police vehicle across the country.

He has a concern of the Case Management being offered to our Homeless Veterans. He recently read minutes from a meeting that was attended by a VAC staff member and it was noted that "VAC does not provide ongoing, enduring Case Management Services." There also was reference made to "VAC has National Homeless Case Management Guidelines, protocols and business processes external to local agency preferences." This is the first he has heard of this document and will make contacts to have a copy sent.

HRDC was gung ho to do a pilot project in five cities across Canada in 2014 but in his opinion, they failed in their efforts. The project was supposed to last two years and was cancelled after 18 months. In Toronto, there is a 10 room apartment building that has double occupancy with two veterans sharing an apartment. When HRDC walked away, they left the veterans hung out to dry and also Mainstay Housing. Mainstay is a landlord and has limited capability regarding Case Management and left this to VAC staff.

Since HRDC walked away; Ontario Command stepped in to assist with furniture, food cards and apartment kits for those who needed assistance. Caseworkers originally assigned to this facility have since left the employment of VAC and their replacements are providing a reduced level of services for the veterans. This concern was brought forward at a meeting with two ADM's and the Director General, however with the election being called all has gone silent and this past week we have again made contact and are awaiting a reply. He will update when he receives some answers.

Ontario Command has assisted 804 Homeless Veterans of which 85 are female, in 159 communities.

He asked that consideration be given to producing tri-fold pamphlets for the Homeless Veterans program for each Command with the exception of Ontario Command. He has provided a copy as a sample and of course the address information will change and show the respective Command. This tool is a great way to promote the program and is most helpful to Shelters in various communities. He also noted that Commands can purchase their own pamphlets with funds from their Homeless Veterans fund, as this was previously approved by Dominion Command.

Comrade Dave asked one final question, how would Dominion Command handle any donations made with specific use for the Homeless Veterans program. What would the money be used for or how would it be spent?

A discussion ensued and the result was that the Committee would send a recommendation to the Legion National Foundation to review Veterans Homelessness as an area of need for the Foundation.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that a recommendation be forwarded to the Legion National Foundation to review the Homeless Veterans Program as an area of need.

**CARRIED**

**Action:** Coordinator

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that a generic tri-fold Homeless Veterans pamphlet be produced for all Legion Commands.

**CARRIED**

**Action:** Coordinator

## **7. LEGION VETERANS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY – UPDATE**

Comrades Dave and Ray discussed the Legion Veterans Homelessness Strategy and after a very lengthy discussion, Comrade John volunteered to provide a first draft of a strategy or plan. Comrade Chair thanked Comrade John for volunteering to write the five-year plan using the draft VAC Homeless Veterans strategy as a guide and the Legion Strategy developed by Comrade Dave, along with the Legion Homeless Veterans Guidelines, the TORs for the Legion Veterans Homelessness Advisory Committee. Comrade Larry recommended that the plan should be developed in time for the Dominion Convention in 2020 and presented to the delegates.

Comrade Ray advised that we are currently looking at a homeless veteran's workshop at Convention and will work with the National Executive Director and the Convention Committee to schedule this important workshop.

## **8. HOMELESS VETERANS MONTHLY REPORT – UPDATE**

Comrade Ray advised that reporting was sporadic and a discussion ensued to continue the monthly report or go to a quarterly report. It was decided to commence a quarterly report in January 2020. Comrade Ray will amend the current report and forward to Command representatives in December.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the monthly homeless veterans report will be amended to a quarterly report in January 2020.

**CARRIED**

**Action:** Coordinator

## 9. BSO LEGION OSI SPECIAL SECTION

Comrade Jill attended the meeting via teleconference and provided the following report.

### BSO LEGION OSI UPDATE

The Section continues to refine and implement its strategy. Significant activities that have occurred since the last update include:

#### Membership Review

A review of Section membership was completed as an annual manual review of membership is required to ensure existing members have renewed their Legion Membership. This is a tedious process and the support of Legion House staff is appreciated. The process for accepting new members is also by confirmation of Legion Membership status with staff. Current membership is as follows:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Dominion Command | 11  |
| BC at large      | 5   |
| BC/YU            | 24  |
| AB/NWT           | 23  |
| SK               | 5   |
| MB/NWO           | 8   |
| ON               | 76  |
| QC               | 9   |
| NB               | 13  |
| NS/NU            | 18  |
| PEI              | 1   |
| NL               | 12  |
| USA              | 1   |
| TOTAL            | 206 |

#### Elections

Biennial elections of the Section Executive will occur during winter 2020 using the online election runner platform which was trialed for the election of our current Chair during summer 2019. Attempts to fill interim vacancies in the past 18 months have not resulted in significant interest from Section members as many already volunteer in multiple positions within the Legion. The first post to the Section Facebook page has gone up advising members that elections are forthcoming.

## **OSI Section Website**

The website remains under development, delayed due to personal circumstances of the website developer. I am hoping it will be up and running (bilingual) in late January.

## **OPERATION VETBUILD**

Implementation of this popular program continues across Canada. Comrade Craig Hood received a Certificate of Appreciation from the President for his efforts in this area. We will continue implementing the program, understanding that as we move forward, it provides a blueprint for just about any hobby or group activity which has the potential to bring Veterans together for a positive, relaxing experience with like-minded individuals.

The program has rolled out across the country, however we are missing locations in both the East Coast and the West Coast. Interested Branches may contact me or Craig Hood directly.

## **Mental Health First Aid for Veterans Training**

MHFA for Veterans serials were assigned to the RCMP (12 with 7 having been held) and DND (2 for each MFRC), as well as the RCL (16) this year. Of those assigned to RCL, 8 have been held. Four serials were planned and cancelled last minute so that the full price of the course was paid and cannot be rescheduled (2 in NS, 1 in NL, 1 in ON). We have 3 or 4 serials left to schedule for this year, with a moratorium on Ontario serials remaining in place to encourage training to happen outside ON (this will be reviewed in December). We have one course tentatively schedule for Borden in conjunction with CAF Rangers training that will take place at the same time. We will find out in January about next FY – there remains a one-year option on the contract. Ideas for a sustainable program starting in 2021 are being sought.

## **Provincial Representatives Changes**

NL - former rep wants to assist; new rep pending and hopefully confirming in Winter  
NS/NU - existing rep leaving to focus on multiple Veteran-related projects, new rep has been identified, in progress

QC – former rep no longer Legion Member, replacement identified but changed mind due to Branch duties.

ON – Provincial Rep is double-hatted as Vice President and multiple other Legion positions

MB/NWO – Provincial Rep is double-hatted as Vice President and other Legion positions

SK – no rep

AB – no rep

One Command has taken the step to make their OSI Rep part of the PEC as well as on the Provincial VSS Committee (ON) with two other Commands indicating interest in doing this (NB, MB/NWO).



## **New Projects**

- In discussion with Comrade Owen Parkhouse about his End Suicide program and having it run under the OSI Section banner
- In preliminary discussion with Comrade Jamie Underhill about development of a OSI Group at his Branch (NB)

New National Chair is Crystal Cook.

## **10. RESOLUTION – MANITOBA & NWO COMMAND**

A resolution was received from Manitoba & NWO Command for consideration by the Committee. The resolution and the research conducted on the resolution is attached to the minutes. After discussion, the Committee did not concur with the resolution.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the resolution be non-concurred.

**CARRIED**

## **11. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS / ROUNDTABLE**

Comrade Chair mentioned that the next RCL-Bilateral meeting is re-scheduled for end January 2020 with the DM and the VAC Executive. We will request an update on the Service Dog Standards and the Homeless Veterans Strategy.

Comrade Ray advised that the next Command Service Officer course is scheduled from 9-13 March 2020 at Legion House. The Service Officer Professional Development training is scheduled from 27-29 October 2020 in Charlottetown, PE.

Comrade Ray advised that DEC approved Legion participation in the new MissionVAV (Vétérans Actifs/Active Veterans) program at McGill University. Their team of health professionals and researchers have developed a health promotion program for veterans.

The following information was disseminated to all Commands:

Launched in September 2019, MissionVAV is a web-based program designed to help veterans, their families and supporters of veterans by promoting healthy lifestyle habits, improving physical and mental health, and supporting social connectivity with other veterans. They have been awarded a 5-year grant from VAC (The Veterans and Family Well-being Fund) to develop a customized program available to veterans free of charge. Also, note, **no charge to The Royal Canadian Legion.**

Teams are created in three ways. After registering, a new user can:

- 1) Start a team and become the Team Captain. This is the best option because it's the simplest. Captains then add e-mail addresses for everyone they want to invite to join their team and e-mail invitations are automatically sent out.
- 2) Join an existing RCL team. This would rely on the user putting in a legion branch number during registration for a legion branch that already has a team started. The team must already have assigned a Captain to it.
- 3) You ask MissionVAV to put you on a team. Here they could have RCL Command teams and if you indicate you are a RCL member and put in your Command (or branch number) during registration, they automatically put you on the RCL Command team.

MissionVAV will also collect age, current physical activity level and whether you have a disability that affects your physical activity. You will have to sign a Consent Form to participate in MissionVAV. Please visit the MissionVAV.com web page <http://missionvav.com/> for registration and information on the website privacy policy.

**Coordinator's Note:** The first challenge started on 30 September and the team from Dominion Command Veterans Services (Comrades Ray, Charls, Dwayne and Denis) won the initial mission. The next mission starts in January 2020 and veterans, family members and friends of veterans are encouraged to participate.

Comrade Ray advised that the Chair sent a letter to the PM requesting that the government adopt the Veterans Independence Program for all seniors in Canada, so that seniors can stay in their own home vice long-term care facilities. Comrade Ray was concerned that the Legion is recommending this to the government; however, our own Poppy Fund regulations preclude poppy funds from being used for VIP like services. He has requested that the Committee discuss Chapter 5 The Do's and Don'ts of Poppy Fund Trust Funds, specifically paragraph 501 iv c that states, "home care, housekeeping services or grounds keeping, such as grass cutting, leaf raking, snow removal, etc. (Contact VAC regarding the use of the VIP Program)". Comrade Ray stated how we could be requesting the government to adopt a similar type program when we do not support the program within the Legion Poppy Fund regulations. Also, not all veterans and/or their families are eligible for the VAC VIP. The Committee reviewed and the decision was made to send it to the Poppy & Remembrance Committee with the recommendation to review and remove this paragraph.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that a recommendation be forwarded to the Poppy and Remembrance Committee to review paragraph 501 iv c of the Poppy Manual to consider the deletion of this paragraph.

**CARRIED**

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Comrade Bruce spoke on the excellent work being done on veteran's homelessness and Op Vet Build.

Comrade John asked about attendance at CIMVHR from the Legion and was advised that members can register and attend at their own expense.

Comrade Dave asked about the recent media articles and the increased payments the provinces are charging the CAF members for health services. Comrade Ray advised that the CAF Surgeon General would be working with the provinces on an appropriate fee schedule.

Comrade Dave provided information on recent developments in Ontario on long-term care (Priority Access Beds, Contract Beds, and Preferred Admission Beds). There has been no information from the province on the new health care hubs to replace the LHINs.

Comrade Larry thanked Ontario Command and District G for their support of the new Veterans House in Ottawa.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the VSS Committee will be on 26 February 2020 via teleconference/GoToMeeting. Meetings are also proposed for 20 May, 30 Sep and 21 Nov 2020.

## **13. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – PROPOSED MEETINGS IN 2020**

The Committee determined that a meeting would be scheduled in March-April 2020 timeframe, confirm the date at the next VSS teleconference on 26 February 2020.

## **14. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair thanked all for their input today, your knowledge and experience is invaluable to the Committee and to the Legion.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

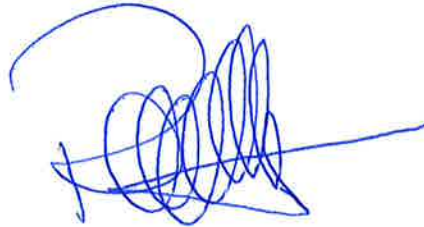
## 15. CLOSING RITUAL

Comrade Tom concluded the meeting with the closing ritual at 1200.



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Tom Irvine  
CHAIRMAN



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Raymond McInnis  
COORDINATOR

Dated 23 December 2019

## RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION

2020

| COMMAND   | BRANCH                  |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| MAN & NWO | Charleswood Branch #100 |

**SUBJECT: VAC Rounding Disability Claims**  
**DOMINION COMMAND NO: MAN & NWO 2/C**

**WHEREAS** it is a stated policy of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) that when there is doubt when awarding a Disability Claim, VAC will find in favour of the Veteran;

**WHEREAS** VAC in determining the percentage value of a disability award uses a "rounding up" or "rounding down" system which results in some Veterans getting more or less than others;

**WHEREAS** an example would be VAC awarding a 7% disability and rounding it down to 5%, leaving 2% not awarded. That 2% could be of significant dollar value to the Veteran. The 2% may be added to a future disability claim or may simply otherwise ignored; and

**WHEREAS** the current state of computer technology can easily determine percentages in dollar amounts to several decimal points and make very exact percentages.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The Royal Canadian Legion Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command make representation to Dominion Command to implore Veterans Affairs Canada to enact legislation to abolish the rounding system and replace it with actual percentages.

## **Research for resolution from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command on VAC Rounding Disability Claims:**

### History:

- Prior to the start of World War I, there was a four-degree militia-era rating system in place which contained very minimal benefits, in many cases a very meager pension and perhaps a plot of land.
- At the onset of the World War I, this rating scale was abandoned and a six-class scale measure was created which was paid in increments of 20 per cent and came into effect in September 1914.
- As wounded soldiers began to return back to Canada from the war front, they found the six-class rates of pension were lacking as they tried to re-establish themselves at home. For example, there were many complaints regarding the 20% increment as a veteran may be 35% disabled but would still only be paid at 20% until he reached the 40% disabled class, and similarly would stay at that rate until reaching the 60% class.
- A review was conducted in 1916 and the Government decided to discontinue the six class pay system, amending the Pension Regulations to create 21 classes of disability. The 100% was divided into classes of 5% with the 1st class being a 100% pensioner, and the 21st being a gratuity that was created for the class below 5%. The 21 classes now allowed for this same Veteran who was 35% disabled to actually be paid at 35%, a 15% increase over the 20% he was previously able to receive under the six classes system. This represented a vast improvement in the amount of pension for many Veterans. These 21 classes have remained in place ever since. This was the main reason for changing the Scale of Pensions for Disability to increments of 5%. It was a far more favourable scale for the Veterans, and was in a format that could be implemented in a similar administrative and manageable manner.
- When the 5% pay scale was initially implemented, until the client reached the next full five percent, similar to the 20% scale, you stayed at the same rate. For example, the increment for five percent ranged from 5 to 9%. You were not paid at 10% rate until you actually reached 10% disability rate. The 10% increment went from 10 to 14%. So you then had to get to 15% to be paid at 15% and stayed there until reached 20% etc.
- In 1968, the pay scales were slightly altered so that they were simply staggered over a 5% grade level rather than having the client wait until they reached the next five percent level. There is a perception that the current Scale of Pensions is rounded up or down but technically, there is no rounding. There is simply a

disability percentage range. Now, in Schedule I, for example, the disability rate of 10% included the percentage range from 8% up to 12%. Once the client reaches the 8% rate, the client is paid at 10%. The percentages of 8%, 9%, 10%, 11%, and 12% are paid the same amount of money. Again, once the percentage reaches between the 13% to 17% disability ranges, the client is paid at the 15% disability rate, which is an advantage for the client. **(It all comes out in the wash, as the saying goes)**

**Recommendation: Not to concur with resolution.**

**I also requested information for the following question in case it comes up in the future. It took 18 months of research to finally get these responses.**

**How was/is the Class 21 - 1% to 4% disability pension calculated?**

- When first introduced in 1919, Class 21 pensions (less than 5%) were considered to have no discernable, assessable disability and were considered to be practically negligible. A distinction was made at that time between disabilities assessed at less than 5%, which were considered of a temporary nature, and those considered to be permanent. As a result, a final lump sum payment was authorized to address these cases.
- The authorization of payments up to \$100.00 for these was to provide an acknowledgement of a detriment suffered by the member of the Forces, however slight. Should the disability increase so as to cause an appreciable loss or lessening of an ability, i.e., 5% or over, a continuing award of a monthly pension became payable.
- Despite considerable research into departmental records and the departmental library, we were unable to find any references as to the basis on which the amount not exceeding \$100.00 was arrived at.
- The Pension Regulations as amended to October 1917, provided that temporary disabilities due to service and of an extent of less than five percent shall be considered negligible. Permanent disabilities of less than five percent in extent are entitled to the following amounts of money:
  - One percent = \$25
  - Two percent = \$50
  - Three percent = \$75
  - Four percent = \$100;
- It was not intended that the final payment amount represent the actual 1% to 4% of the full basic pension rate nor that it be paid as anything other than a lump sum.

- Once established, this amount was eventually increased. From 1947 to 1971, an adjusting formula based on the cost of living and Consumer Price Index was used to effect annual increases to the basic rate of pension. Prior to the introduction of annual adjusting of pension amounts in 1972, the amount of Class 21 final payments had to be adjusted by statute, as per the increases from \$100 in 1919 to \$344 by January 1971.
- Class 21 pensions are established under Schedule "A" of the Pension Act and the maximum amount payable for a Class 21 pension is indexed annually. Schedule "A" formed part of the text of the law in that the Pension Act contained no provision to allow for the increase in pension rates unless Parliament specifically repealed the old schedule and passed a new one.
- In 1971, Parliament enacted Section 58 of the Pension Act which provided for automatic indexing of pensions, thereby no longer making it necessary for Parliament to repeal an old schedule and replace it with a new one in order to increase the rate of pension.
- In February 1985, Parliament provided a formula for determining the basic pension based on the average annual gross composite wage of categories of unskilled members of the Public Service designated by the Minister. As a result, Schedule "A" is no longer an integral part of the Act, but is updated each year for internal use by the Department.
- At 2019 rates Disability Pension amounts at the 1-4% are as follows:  
1% = 922.38; 2% = \$1844.70; 3% = 2767.10; and 4% = \$36890.43.
- Class 21 was carried over to the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act (CFMVRCA) (now the Veterans Well-being Act or VWA) from the Pension Act.
- The amounts were changed in the CFMVRCA in Budget 2017 so that 1-4% will represent the percentage of the maximum Award amount ie. 1% = \$3600.00. Essentially, the VWA now has 24 classes of award.