

Homeless Veterans Report  
Dominion VSS Meeting  
December 13, 2022

Toronto Police Services gave a fantastic presentation regarding their Military Veterans Wellness program, at the DEC meeting, November 26, 2022. The report was well received by the committee and their objective now is taking the program across the country. I have since been in contact with TPS and have begun the process to make the program compatible with the Legion so it can be introduced to Legion Branches in each Command, emphasis was noted that all documents must be in both official languages. I do note there was a report by Global News regarding the program but there was no mention of the partners, VAC, OSSIS and the RCL, which was very disappointing. Stay tuned more to follow after the New Year.

Global News in a story November 11, 2022, that originated from Vancouver indicated “Across the country, a recent study found almost 3,000 veterans do not have a permanent home.” The story also indicated there were “more than 100 Homeless veterans living in Metro Vancouver. I have sent the story to BC/Yukon Command and they are following up with the City.

The study being referred to is the Point In Time Count, that was completed by all Municipalities across the country in late 2021. My concern is identifying the count results in major cities and I will be doing a follow up with VAC and also checking with major cities across the country to obtain further information. Hopefully local Branches will come on board as well, to work with the municipalities to address Veterans Homelessness once identified.

Prior to COVID, Comrade Ray McInnis and I attended the House of Commons where there was a motion put forward and supported by all parties to end Veterans Homelessness by 2025. Well Comrades, we only have 2 short years to meet this goal and in my opinion we are falling behind.

I have previously sent an updated Homeless Veterans Workshop that can be put in place by conducting seminars and introducing the program to the Branch level and having them in return introduce to the local municipalities and organizations.

Finally, Housing has been in the forefront for a few years and the lack thereof is not going away. We need to push for Veterans Housing and remind anyone that will listen our Veterans and their families are in need as well.

I would like to thank Comrades Carolyn and Alexa for their guidance and support. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dave Gordon  
RCL National Homeless rep