



Veterans *Dialogue* des vétérans

November 2010

The Ombudsman's Corner



The last three years have been a real roller coaster of victories and defeats, but I'm happy to say that some real headway is being made to improve the lives of Canada's Veterans and their families.

It has been a privilege to be the first Veterans Ombudsman and to have had the opportunity to meet and work with individuals throughout our communities dedicated to fighting for Veterans and their families.

Although my term as Veterans Ombudsman is coming to a close, I want to thank all of you for your support and tireless work in bringing issues facing Veterans to the forefront and making these a national priority.

Pat Stogran

October 20th, 2010 – The first recipients of the Veteran's Ombudsman Commendation Award are Honoured

Veterans Ombudsman Pat Stogran awarded the first ever Commendation Award to the following four individuals: Dennis Manuge, Peter Stoffer, John Labelle and Harold Leduc.

Awarded in recognition of their efforts towards challenging the status quo and their courageous and tireless work in identifying and advancing issues on behalf of Veterans and their families, this tribute serves to recognize those individuals who may go unnoticed for

their contributions towards lasting change in the Veterans Community.

"I congratulate the four recipients for their untiring efforts over many years to ensure that Canadian Veterans and their families are treated with the respect they deserve", said Col. Stogran. "This is but a small recognition for the many dedicated hours that these outstanding individuals have devoted to the Veterans' cause".



**Commendation Award
Recipients: Harold Leduc,
Dennis Manuge,
Pat Stogran (Ombudsman),
John Labelle and Peter Stoffer.**

Honouring sacrifice: A Blueprint for the Fair Treatment of Canada's Veterans

We have a historic time-honoured social covenant with those who accept the condition of unlimited liability in the Service of Canada:

Honouring Sacrifice:

A Blueprint for the Fair Treatment of Canada's Veterans.



We have committed to supporting them in their missions, honouring our Veterans and caring for those who are hurt and their families.

The Office of the Veterans Ombudsman proposes 10 principles of fair treatment that describe the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada:

1. One Veteran
2. Families
3. Peace of Mind
4. Respect & Empathy
5. Simplicity & Transparency
6. Health for Life
7. Well Being
8. Purpose and Meaning
9. Differentiation
10. National Resource

For more information, please visit the Ombudsman's website.

OVO PANEL DISCUSSION

October 19th, 2010

The OVO hosted a panel discussion on the **Blueprint**, and featured panelists Brian Lee Crowley, Bruce Henwood and Muriel Westmorland.

Moderated by the Ombudsman, Pat Stogran, members of the public were invited to participate and ask questions about the Blueprint by attending in person or by submitting their questions via the internet. The Panel discussion was streamed live and will be **available for viewing until January 19th, 2011** on the OVO website



On October 15th, the Minister announced that Canadian Veterans diagnosed with ALS will no longer have to fight for health and financial benefits.



Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honoured.

Daniel Webster

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Ombudsman



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Veterans Ombudsman Briefs House of Commons Committee on Veterans Affairs

On October 25th, Veterans Ombudsman Pat Stogran appeared before the House of Commons' Committee on Veteran's Affairs to brief the Committee Members on the activities of the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman and Veterans' issues.

In lieu of a briefing on the office's activities, he took the opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned from the Bryan Dyck case

and to offer a priority to-do list that would initiate enduring change.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Legislating the Veterans Ombudsman's position;
- Adherence to the Benefit of the doubt as it was intended;
- Publishing of decisions;
- Separate review and appeal members;

- Retroactivity to date of first application;

For more information on these proposed changes and others as well as Pat Stogran's speech at the House committee, please visit the OVO's website.

OUR VETERANS MATTER

The government of Canada has recently increased support for modern-day Veterans in need of services and care adapted to their reality.

These changes build on the existing support available through the New Veterans Charter such as rehabilitation services, payment to replace lost income, health care benefits and practical help finding a job.

To learn more about these programs and services for Veterans, please visit:

www.veterans.gc.ca

The Office of the Veterans Ombudsman's does not have information about these services and recommends that you contact Veterans Affairs directly to obtain more information.

VETERAN'S WEEK 2010, NOVEMBER 5-11

How will you remember?

Communities across Canada and even overseas will be holding commemorative ceremonies throughout Veteran's week to recognize the achievements of our Veterans and to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lest we forget...

However you choose to remember, be sure to tell a friend or a colleague as it is our duty to pass on the legacy and keep the memories of our Veterans alive.

MINISTER BLACKBURN ANNOUNCES NEW OMBUDSMAN

On November 5th, 2010, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture) announced that Chief Warrant Officer, Guy Parent has been appointed as Veterans Ombudsman for a five year term starting on November 11th.

"I am honoured to be appointed Canada's new Veteran's Ombudsman", said Mr. Parent. "It is a real privilege to work on behalf of our Veterans. I strongly believe they deserve the best support we can provide and I will work relentlessly to ensure they receive it."

More information on Mr. Parent will be available on our website as he begins his appointment.

For more information on these stories, please visit
www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca