

# Service Health Records for Disability Benefit Application



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides disability benefits to those who have a service-related disability. To receive a disability benefit you must have a diagnosed medical condition or disability and show that the condition or disability is related to your service.

## VAC will obtain your health records

When we receive your application for disability benefits, we will obtain a copy of your service health records. Your records will be reviewed as part of your application. For Canadian Armed Forces personnel and Veterans, VAC has the authority to obtain these records directly from the Department of National Defence or Library and Archives Canada under the *Department of Veterans Affairs Act*. For Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members and Veterans, a Memorandum of Understanding allows providing VAC with documentation and medical files necessary to adjudicate a disability benefit claim.

## Service relationship

To be eligible for a disability benefit, your service health records should contain sufficient evidence to show that your disability is related to your service.

## You may request your service health records

The *Privacy Act* provides you the right to request a copy of your personal information held by a government institution. You may request a copy of your service health records from the institution that is the official holder of these records.

To do this, you will need to send your request to the **Access to Information and Privacy** section of the appropriate department:

- Department of National Defence (if you are still serving or recently released) [www.admfincs.forces.gc.ca](http://www.admfincs.forces.gc.ca)
- Library and Archives Canada (if you are no longer serving) [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca)
- RCMP Health Services (if you are still serving or have served with the RCMP) [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

The *Privacy Act* provides individuals with a right of access to their personal information and the right to request corrections or have a notation added to any recorded personal information. VAC has no authority to change or update your service health records. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's "Directive on Privacy Requests and Correction of Personal Information" provides additional information and is available at [www.tbs-sct.gc.ca](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca).

For more information:

**[veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca)**

**1-866-522-2122**

