



THE CANADIAN VETERANS ADVOCACY

one veteran, one standard

MEDIA ADVISORY

Second Annual Canadian Veterans National Day of Protest
Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 11:00 am
Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario

The Canadian Veterans Advocacy encourages those who care about the fair and just treatment of Canadian veterans to attend the Second Annual Canadian Veterans National Day of Protest. We are calling on all veterans and patriotic citizens to publicly demonstrate their displeasure with the Canadian Government's lack of substantive reform and meaningful improvement to the New Veterans Charter (NVC).

Of primary concern this year is the Government's unwillingness to study the potential impact of budget cuts on the health and wellbeing of our current and future veterans. Without an open and transparent investigation, how can veterans be assured that their well-deserved benefits and services will not be affected by \$226 million in cuts to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) over the next two years, or be impacted by the 5-10% budget cuts required by the Government's "Strategic Review" which will result in an additional reduction in VAC funding of \$175-350 million? Last year, former Veterans Ombudsman, Colonel (Ret'd) Patrick Stogran, rightly characterized the Government's commitment of \$2 billion for veterans as "smoke and mirrors." The Government continues its sleight-of-hand with this current round of budget cuts and Bill C-55's "enhancements" to the NVC.

In light of the continued danger facing more than one thousand Canadian troops still in Afghanistan, now is no time for us to relax our vigil. The Government must be held to account and must respect the social contract that exists between our nation and each and every member of our military who has pledged their life in service to Canada.

Speakers will include:

- Dennis Manuge, lead applicant for more than 6500 disabled veterans in the class action lawsuit against the Government's systematic "clawback" of SISIP Long Term Disability Benefits;
- Louise Richards, a Gulf War veteran who was healthy when she deployed to the Persian Gulf only to start suffering mysterious neurological and digestive problems within months of her tour;
- Dr. Meg Sears, a scientist specializing in the effects of environmental toxins such as Agent Orange and Depleted Uranium;
- Eric Rebiere, retired RCMP member who served as a UN Police Officer in Croatia and Kosovo is the Director of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy's legal initiative and most recently submitted a formal complaint to the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman on behalf of all injured Military and RCMP veterans regarding the Veterans Review and Appeal Board; and
- Colin Pick, National President of the venerable War Pensioners of Canada.

Additional protests: Veterans Affairs Canada HQ, Charlottetown; Halifax; Gagetown; Montreal, Kingston; Trenton; Niagara Falls; London; Sarnia; Calgary, Chilliwack and Victoria.

INFORMATION

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