



THE  
CANADIAN VETERANS ADVOCACY

*one veteran, one standard*

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*CVA Press Release – Sunnybrook Hospital – VAC audit*

*The Canadian Veterans Advocacy is pleased to note that the Veterans Affairs Canada audit investigating family orientated complaints about neglect and substandard care has concluded and the recommendations will, if implemented, resolve some of these very serious issues.*

*“We must bear in mind that the complaints were restricted to a certain areas of the hospital where veterans, due to dementia issues, have been rendered completely dependent on the staff. Many of these complaints have been validated by Dr Veliji independent review and have been addressed within the opportunities of Improvement section of the report.”*

*The Canadian Veterans Advocacy is, however, very concerned that the recommendations presented through Doctor Veliji’s review or VAC audit will be ignored as the Hospital is under no obligation to implement policies the administration does not agree with or feels they cannot afford.*

*” Premier Wynne and the Ontario government's duty is clear, they must embrace their sacred obligation to these veterans, not ignore them under the misguided belief that the quality of their care is a federal responsibility,” declared Michael L Blais CD, president, CVA, from his home in Niagara Falls. “It is not. The VAC audit clearly defines responsibility, Ontario Health Minister Mathews was incorrect when she publicly claimed veterans at Sunnybrook is a federal responsibility, this situation occurred on her watch, she has an obligation to act responsibly.”*

*The CVA is encouraging the Ontario Government to, if necessary, legislate a mandate to ensure all veterans hospitals in Ontario are fully compliant of all Ontario LTC regulatory standards and that any recommendations put forth through review are implemented. We also recommend that the independent standards inherent with the Long term Care Homes Act be applied to Sunnybrook and all Ontario veterans’ hospitals to ensure objectivity, effective oversight and the very highest standards of care for those who have sacrifices greatly in this nation’s name.*

*Michael L Blais CD  
Founder/President, Canadian Veterans Advocacy*