

Disability Pension/Survivor Benefits – Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

I have received information from Sgt Kim Hendricken, RCMP Liaison Officer to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), and from the Royal Canadian Legion, that serving and former Members of the RCMP who have ALS should make an application to VAC for a Disability Pension.

Survivors of members or former members of the RCMP should similarly make an application for Survivor Benefits if the cause of death of the Member or former Member was ALS.

VAC has advised that if a person has ALS and served in the RCMP, a “presumption of service connection for ALS” may be applied if the person was exposed to certain physical and environmental factors during his or her RCMP service. This means that if a Member or veteran has ALS and experienced these physical or environmental factors while at work, VAC may presume that the onset of ALS is connected to the Member’s service which could give rise to a Disability Pension.

Physical and environmental factors include:

- **Blunt trauma** (motor vehicle accidents, blows to the head or body);
- **Strenuous physical effort and fatigue** (workouts for Tactical Troops/ERT/VIP, violent arrests, riots);
- **Exposure to toxic or corrosive materials; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) agents** (Ident duties, fires, drug labs, train/truck spills).

The VAC Adjudication Policy for ALS and the VAC Q&A for RCMP with ALS are attached.

RCMP veterans with ALS or their survivors are encouraged to contact a Royal Canadian Legion Service Officer for assistance in making an application. A list of Service Officers can be found below:

<http://www.legion.ca/we-can-help/contact-a-service-officer/>

If they have not already done so, all RCMP veterans and survivors should open a MY VAC ACCOUNT on the VAC website to facilitate applications in the future.

http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e_services

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