

Re: Meeting RCMP Veterans' Association and Office of Veteran's Ombudsman

On 19 October 2011 I met with Mr.-Paul Woods, Investigator / Enquêteur Office of the Veterans Ombudsman (OVO) at the RCMP Veterans' National Office. Paul is a retired member of the RCMP and member of the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division.

This was an information session regarding the Canadian Forces as the RCMP does not have any entitlement to Veterans Independence Program (VIP) or Long Term Care (LTC) at this time. I will now list a few facts that I learned from Paul.

Paul wished to speak with me regarding VIP and associated LTC.

Paul advised me he is working on the VIP and LTC benefits for the Canadian Forces (CF).

Paul went on to tell me that the Federal Government is trying to download the responsibilities of LTC to the Provinces. There appears to be a disconnect here between VIP and LTC and he is uncertain what is going on here but Paul is working on this for the CF.

Paul said in his opinion the RCMP does not wish to pay for VIP or LTC, and that any increase to Attendance Allowance(AA) would have to be sanctioned by the RCMP as they end up paying for all benefits paid from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC).

The difference with CF is the government sets aside monies to pay VAC and the dollars for VAC do not come from the CF budget, unlike the RCMP wherein the money does originate for our Veterans from the Force.

Paul also informed me that VIP with the CF does not automatically entitle you for LTC as there is now an entire new criteria involved. As RCMP has no such entitlements I had nothing to comment on in this regard.

Paul in referring to CF said, "Why can't elderly CF retirees reside in an LTC home partially paid for by VAC and possibly topped up by the individual veteran?" (This statement appears important to me if we ever have this entitlement as a way and means for our RCMP Veterans).

Paul then told me he is just starting to look into the VIP and LTC for the CF and that he will keep us informed on how this develops.

Bill Gidley
Executive Director
RCMP Veterans' Association.