

(Member of Parliament)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Insufficient Subsidies for Funeral and Burials for Canadian Veterans

Dear (Member of Parliament),

I am writing to support The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS) who have joined the campaign with the Royal Canadian Legion for improved funeral and burial benefits for our Canadian Veterans. I strongly urge you as a Member of Parliament to take necessary actions to restore reasonable funding to the Funeral and Burial Program for our Veterans.

As a Canadian I find the current benefits greatly lacking in fairness and find it a blight to our national heroes. Our Veterans deserve a dignified funeral and burial for the service and sacrifice they have made to our great country.

I am urging you to address the following inadequacies in the current benefits:

- The present amount of \$3600 has in no way kept pace with the average rising costs of funeral services and has not been increased since 2001. When will this government recognize this amount as severely insufficient and adjust to equivalent levels established for the RCMP & DND to \$14,320?
- The Survivor/Dependent Estate Exemption was reduced to \$12,015 from \$24,030 in 1995. The current amount is considerably less than the poverty level and is a contributing factor for the denial of benefits. When will this government restore estate exemptions to an amount not less than the poverty level?
- Funeral and burial benefits are not being offered to regular and reserve Canadian Forces Veterans who lack sufficient funds. When will this government recognize low income Canadian Forces Veterans and deem them eligible to receive funeral and burial benefits?

We cannot deprive our Veterans a dignified funeral and burial. I strongly urge the Government of Canada take necessary action to restore reasonable funding and eligibility requirements to the Funeral & Burial Program. I look to you, my Member of Parliament for answers and action on these inadequacies and ensure all Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Sincerely,

(Your Signature)