

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
CORPORATE POLICY AND PLANNING OFFICE
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
and MLA Linda Reid, Deputy Speaker
FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE:

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Page 2 redacted for the following reason:

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Attachment:

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Pages 4 through 6 redacted for the following reasons:

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**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
CORPORATE POLICY AND PLANNING OFFICE
INFORMATION NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE:

Meeting with Dave Sinclair of the Royal Canadian Legion regarding expanding eligibility criteria for BC's Veteran Licence Plate Program.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2004 the Province directed ICBC to implement a Veteran Licence Plate Program (VLPP) for vehicles, light commercial trucks, motor homes, and motorcycles.
- The BC Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA), a lead stakeholder, worked closely with ICBC and government to develop the program and set the criteria.
- Three approving organizations were designated to receive applications: the BCVCA, the BC/Yukon Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), and the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA).
- Applicants submit military documentation and a \$5 fee to an approving organization, which confirms eligibility as per the established criteria. The organization informs ICBC if an application is successful and plates are issued to the applicant.
- To date over 39,000 plates have been issued at an approximate cost of approximately \$1 million. ICBC basic premiums have covered these costs.
- The current criteria only apply to honourably discharged members of the Canadian military or a Canadian police force.
- RCL President (BC/Yukon) Dave Sinclair has made several requests to BCVCA President (Ret. Lt. Col. Archie Steacy) over the past 2 years to expand VLP eligibility criteria to include actively serving members of the Canadian military.
- BCVCA has been unwilling to consider a change. Recently, Col Steacy agreed to expand the criteria but is not willing to consider input on the definition.

- BC is the only jurisdiction that applies more restrictive criteria for veteran plates – all other provinces accept actively serving military members as eligible. See Appendix A "Veteran Plates Eligibility: Canadian Jurisdictional Scan"

DISCUSSION:

- Applications from actively serving military members continue to be submitted to the approving agencies. In some instances, actively serving veterans from other provinces (who previously had veteran plates) are being denied BC veteran plates upon relocation to BC – an ongoing source of frustration for these military members.
- The Royal Canadian Legion has provided letters of support from all the major veterans associations and the Rear Admiral of the Maritime Forces Pacific to expand the criteria to include active serving members with more than 3 years of service. See attached Appendix B letters from Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada; Korea Veterans Association of Canada; Maritime Forces Pacific; Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association.
- Expanding eligibility requirements will align BC's veteran plate program with that of other provinces, and addresses the ongoing concerns of the other agencies. Expanding eligibility can be accomplished simply through a policy change.

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- Unlike the Royal Canadian Legion which represents thousands of veterans across the country, the BC Veterans Commemorative Association is a small veterans group representing approximately 70 members.

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- It is estimated that there are approximately 5,000 active serving members in BC. It is expected that no more than 3,000 would be eligible and request a plate.
- ICBC estimates costs at approximately \$21 each (plate and broker costs). The total cost is estimated at approximately \$70,000. Funding for this increase will need to be determined.
- ICBC requires approximately 2 months to amend the forms and advise brokers of the change.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A - Veterans Plates Eligibility: Canadian Jurisdictional Scan

Appendix B - Letters of Support from:

1. Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada
2. Korea Veterans Association of Canada
3. Maritime Forces Pacific
4. Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association

APPENDIX A:
Veteran Plates Eligibility: Canadian Jurisdictional Scan

Province	"Still Serving" Eligible?	Eligibility Definition
Alberta	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in World War II or the Korean War as a member of any of the following: the Canadian Forces, an allied force, the Merchant Navy or the Ferry Command. b) Served for a minimum of three years in the Canadian Regular Forces (may still be serving). c) Served for a minimum of three years of actual paid duty (1095 days) in the Canadian Reserve Forces or has been awarded the Canadian Decoration (CD). d) Served in NATO operations or as a member of a United Nations peacekeeping force as a member of any of the following: the Canadian Regular or Reserve Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, another Canadian police force, or an allied force. e) Served in the Vietnam War in the forces of the United States or its allies during this war and who was a Canadian citizen at the time of such service.
British Columbia	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in World War II, Korean War, Gulf War or Afghanistan Armed Forces as a member of Canadian Armed Forces, or an Allied Force, or Canadian or Allied Merchant Navy, or the Ferry Command, and who has been honourably discharged. b) Served as a member of the Canadian Forces, Regular or Reserves, with an MOC (military trade), and who has been honourably discharged. c) Served in UN or NATO Operations as a member of the Canadian Forces, or a UN or NATO Alliance Force serving in an Operation with a Canadian Force, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or Municipal Police, and who has been honourably discharged.
Manitoba	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in the Canadian Forces, an allied force, the Merchant Navy, or the Ferry Command during World War I, II, or the Korean War; or b) The Canadian Armed Forces, for at least three years; or c) NATO operations or a UN peacekeeping force as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, the R.C.M.P., another Canadian police force or an allied force.

New Brunswick	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served for a minimum of three years (may still be serving) in the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country, b) Served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime, served in "active service during war time" as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country, or performed peacekeeping service as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police."
Newfoundland and Labrador	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, for a minimum of three years (may still be serving); or b) Served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime; or c) Served in a theatre of war with the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies; or d) Performed NATO service or Peacekeeping mission(s) with the Armed Forces of Canada."
Nova Scotia	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in the Canadian Forces, the armed forces of another Commonwealth country, the armed forces of a wartime ally of Canada or another commonwealth country, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police while on United Nations service or on a peacekeeping mission, for a minimum of three years, in one or more of these services, b) the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime, or c) a theatre of war as a member of the Canadian Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country.

Ontario	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in WWII or in Korea during the Korean war as a member of any of the following: the Canadian Forces, an allied force, the Merchant Navy or the Ferry Command. b) Served for a minimum of three years in the Canadian Regular Forces (may still be serving). c) Served for a minimum of three years of actual paid duty (1095 days) in the Canadian Reserve Forces or has been awarded the Canadian Decoration (CD). d) Served in NATO operations or as a member of a United Nations peacekeeping force as a member of any of the following: the Canadian Regular or Reserve Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, another Canadian police force, or an allied force. e) Served in the Vietnam War in the forces of the United States or its allies during this war and who was a Canadian citizen at the time of such service.
PEI	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served for a minimum of three years (may still be serving) in the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country; b) Served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime; served in a theater of war as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, or the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or of a wartime ally of Canada or another Commonwealth country; c) Or performed NATO service or a peacekeeping mission as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police."
Quebec	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in WWI, WWII or in Korea during the Korean War: As a member of the Canadian Forces; or as a member of an allied force, or in the Merchant Marine or Ferry Command. b) Served for a minimum of three years or has been serving for at least three years in the Canadian Forces (<i>paid duty</i>). c) Served in NATO operations or as a member of a United Nations peacekeeping force as a member of the Canadian Forces; or as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a member of another Canadian police force, or as a member of an allied force.

Saskatchewan	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in the 2nd World War or in Korea during the Korean War as a member of the Canadian Forces, as a member of an Allied force, in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command. b) Served for a minimum of 3 full-time paid years of service in the Canadian Regular Forces. c) Served in NATO operations or as a member of a United Nations peacekeeping force in at least 1 of the following as a member of the Canadian Forces and Reserve Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police o as a member of another Canadian Police force o as a member of an Allied force.
Yukon (Same legion as BC)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Served in WW II, Korea or Gulf War or Afghanistan Armed Forces as a member of Canadian Armed Forces, or an Allied Force, or Canadian or Allied Merchant Navy, or the Ferry Command, and who has been honourably discharged. b) Served as a member of the Canadian Forces, Regular or Reserves, with an MOC (military trade), and who has been honourably discharged. c) Served in UN or NATO Operations as a member of: The Canadian Forces, or a UN/NATO Alliance Force serving in an Operation with a Canadian Force, or The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or Municipal Police, and who has been honourably discharged.



Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMAND

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200 - 951 East 8th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
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May 14, 2012

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
Room 232
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Ms. Bond

We are writing today to express our support for the initiative undertaken by Dave Sinclair, Immediate Past President of the Royal Canadian Legion, BC and Yukon Command.

That initiative is to amend the regulation under which veteran licence plates are issued. Currently, the current regulation denies serving members of the Canadian Forces who live in British Columbia to display those plates.

It is our understanding that we are the only Province in Canada who has this regulation. Reserve members on discharge are given that right as are former members who served with our allies. But not our serving members.

Our association in British Columbia strongly supports the initiative undertaken by Mr. Sinclair and we urge you to recommend the amendment of the regulation that governs the distribution of veterans licence plates to include serving members.

Yours truly

Mary McLeod
Provincial Secretary
British Columbia Command
Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada



THE KOREA VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA INC.

UNIT #27

Box 44182, 2947 Tillicum Road, Victoria, B.C. V9A 7K1

2999 Eastdowne Road,
Victoria, B.C.,
V8R 5S1

Ms Shirley Bond,
Minister of Justice,
Province of British Columbia.

15 May, 2012.

Dear Mr Bond,

Subject: B.C.'s Eligibility Rules for Veterans' Vehicle Licence Plates

This letter is sent on behalf of all Veteran members of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, Unit # 27 of Victoria.

It is our understanding that still serving Veterans of such conflicts as Bosnia, The Gulf, Afghanistan, Haiti, Libyan NATO Intervention and others are not eligible to receive and display Veteran's plates in B.C. If so, this is considered discriminatory and contrary to the eligibility for plates in all other Canadian provinces. Serving Veterans transferring for service in British Columbia will, on arrival, lose the privilege of displaying such plates.

Veterans, whether still serving or not, who have received campaign service medals for service abroad should, for the purposes of eligibility for license plates in B.C., be considered "Veterans" and be entitled to receive and display Veterans Plates..

Your attention to correct this matter in favour of still serving Canadian Forces personnel in B.C. will be much appreciated by those of us in the Veterans community in this province.

Yours truly, *and with Best Wishes,*

[Signature]
M Gen (Ret'd) Herbert C. Pitts, MC, CD.
Member for Benevolence, Scholarship and Visiting, Unit # 27
Honorary President, B.C. / Yukon Command, The Royal Canadian Legion

cc. Mr David Sinclair,
Immediate Past President, B.C. / Yukon Command, The Royal Canadian Legion



Commander
Maritime Forces Pacific
PO Box 17000 Stn Forces
Victoria, BC V9A 7N2

14 May 2012

From: Rear-Admiral N.S. Greenwood, CMM, CD

Dear

Mr. Sinclair,

I understand that an effort has been underway for some time to make the British Columbia veterans licence plate available to serving members of the Canadian Forces (CF), as well as those who have retired from service. I am very much in favour of this endeavour.

In its current guise, the veterans licence plate is a very public means of recognizing the dedication and commitment of those British Columbians who have served their country in the CF. This tribute to service would be equally appropriate for those members who are still serving, and would provide a simple means of publicly acknowledging them. I have no doubt that the men and women of Maritime Forces Pacific would greatly appreciate this token of their province's esteem.

Given that the plate already exists and is routinely issued, expanding the eligibility criteria to include serving members of the CF is a straightforward way of making a significant statement about what we as British Columbians value.

I ask that you keep me advised of the progress of this matter, and hope for a successful outcome.

Yours aye,

Mr. Dave Sinclair
Immediate Past President
BC/Yukon Command
Royal Canadian Legion
152 - 5489 Byrne Rd.
Burnaby, BC V5J 3J1



Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association
National Headquarters: P.O. Box 905, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 4X8
Tel: 506-627-6437 www.cpva.ca

The Honourable Shirley Bond, M.L.A.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Room 232, Legislative Building
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

18 May 2012

Dear Minister:

The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) is a national veterans organization with Chapters from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. Pursuant to its role as a veterans advocacy organization, the CPVA is interested in all veterans' issues and related matters. In that context, the purpose of this letter is to advise you of the full support of the CPVA for the granting of veterans vehicle license plates to serving members of the Canadian Forces (CF) in British Columbia. All other provinces of Canada, and the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, except British Columbia, presently permit serving CF members the highly deserved privilege of displaying the veterans plates on their automobiles.

It is difficult to understand why British Columbia still denies serving CF members the use of the plates in view of the overwhelming majority practice in the country, and the clear logic on which that majority is based. The denial of the use creates awkward situations such as the movement of serving CF members to British Columbia from other provinces and territories, having previously used veterans plates, not being allowed the veterans plates in British Columbia.

I ask that you help to resolve this unfair and confusing issue of serving CF members in British Columbia not being given the right to use the veterans plate.

Sincerely,

Ray Kokkonen
President