

# Pensions, awards rise by 1.2 per cent

**Veterans Affairs Canada** raised pensions, awards and allowances paid under the *Pension Act* by 1.2 per cent in 2016. VAC adjusts the rates for disability pensions and allowances on Jan. 1 each year. The amount is based on the Consumer Price Index in accordance with the *Pension Act*.

Readers who think they may be eligible for a benefit related to military service should contact Dominion Command or a provincial command service officer through your local Legion branch.

## ▶ **DISABILITY PENSIONS UNDER THE *PENSION ACT***

The extent of disability is expressed as a percentage, with a total disability assessed at 100 per cent. When a pensionable disability is assessed at less than 100 per cent, the pension is proportionally less. The following are examples of the 2015 pensions paid monthly.

|                                   | 100%<br>ASSESSMENT | 50%<br>ASSESSMENT | 10%<br>ASSESSMENT |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Single pensioner                  | \$ 2,695.73        | \$ 1,347.87       | \$ 269.57         |
| Married pensioner                 | \$ 3,369.66        | \$ 1,684.84       | \$ 336.96         |
| Pensioner, spouse, one child      | \$ 3,720.10        | \$ 1,860.06       | \$ 372.00         |
| Pensioner, spouse, two children   | \$ 3,976.20        | \$ 1,988.11       | \$ 397.61         |
| Pensioner, spouse, three children | \$ 4,178.38        | \$ 2,089.20       | \$ 417.83         |

Payment to a pensioner whose disability is assessed at less than five per cent is made on a one-time-only basis.

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| One per cent   | \$ 870.38   |
| Two per cent   | \$ 1,740.72 |
| Three per cent | \$ 2,611.12 |
| Four per cent  | \$ 3,481.47 |

## ▶ **SURVIVOR'S PENSION UNDER THE *PENSION ACT***

|                               | MAXIMUM RATE<br>50-100%<br>ASSESSMENT | 10%<br>ASSESSMENT |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Survivor, no dependants       | \$ 2,021.80                           | \$ 168.48         |
| Survivor, one child           | \$ 2,722.69                           | \$ 186.00         |
| Survivor, two children        | \$ 3,234.88                           | \$ 198.81         |
| Survivor, three children      | \$ 3,639.24                           | \$ 208.92         |
| Orphan, first child           | \$ 700.89                             | \$ 17.52          |
| Orphan, second child          | \$ 512.19                             | \$ 12.81          |
| Orphan, each additional child | \$ 404.36                             | \$ 10.11          |

▶ **MONTHLY ALLOWANCES PAID UNDER THE PENSION ACT**

|                                  | NOT LESS THAN | NOT EXCEEDING |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Exceptional Incapacity Allowance | \$ 475.70     | \$ 1,427.05   |
| Attendance Allowance             | \$ 285.50     | \$ 1,783.77   |
| Clothing Allowance               | \$ 22.42      | \$ 202.13     |

▶ **WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT**

War veterans allowance paid to low-income clients is adjusted quarterly on Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1. The following are the maximum rates per month as of Jan. 1.

|                                 | MAXIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENT |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Single or survivor              | \$ 1,459.32             |
| Married                         | \$ 2,213.29             |
| Each additional dependant child | \$ 243.90               |

▶ **DISABILITY AWARDS UNDER THE NEW VETERANS CHARTER**

Disability awards under the *Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act*, known as the New Veterans Charter, may be paid as a lump sum, annual payments or in a combination of these options.

| 100% OR DEATH BENEFIT | 50%          | 10%         |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| \$310,378.59          | \$155,189.30 | \$31,037.86 |

▶ **OTHER CANADIAN ARMED FORCES ALLOWANCES**

|                                | SINGLE     | MARRIED    | EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Canadian Forces Income Support | \$1,459.32 | \$2,213.28 | \$340.98              |

**Earnings Loss Benefit**

This income replacement provides 75 per cent of gross pre-release military salary while the veteran is participating in rehabilitation services. This ensures a pre-tax income of at least \$42,426 per year (with the exception of some reservists).

|   | NOT LESS THAN | NOT MORE THAN |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Permanent Impairment Allowance<br>Eligible veterans may also receive the PIA supplement of \$1,074. | \$584.66      | \$1,753.97    |