

Death Benefit



When a military family loses a loved one in the line of duty, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is there to provide assistance and support to the survivor and dependent children. This support may include the Death Benefit. While it is meant to compensate for such things as the loss of guidance and companionship, it is a significant financial support that can help to ease any immediate financial challenges that may result from the sudden death of a spouse or parent.

Who qualifies for the Death Benefit?

You may be eligible to receive the benefit, if you are the **survivor** or **dependent child** of a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) member who died within 30 days of the onset of a service-related injury or disease.

If the CAF member or Veteran passed away more than 30 days after the injury, a **disability award** may be payable instead.

How to apply

When a CAF member dies, it is normal procedure for the Department of National Defence to directly notify VAC, who will in turn contact the survivor. If you are a survivor and have not been contacted by VAC, please visit one of our offices or call us at **1-866-522-2122**. To learn more about this and other benefits, visit us online at **veterans.gc.ca**.

Important information

- The Death Benefit is tax-free and is adjusted annually in accordance with the cost of living index.
- This benefit is paid as a lump sum and is in addition to any amounts that may be paid through such things as the Canada Pension Plan, the Canadian Forces Superannuation, etc.

Key terms

A **survivor** is defined as the spouse or common-law partner who lived with the CAF member.

A **dependent child** must have lived with the CAF member and is:

- under 18 years of age; or
- under 25 years of age and attending school; or
- over 25 years of age and physically or mentally incapable of living independently.

For more information:

veterans.gc.ca

1 866 522-2122

