



News Release

For immediate release

MP Ruby Sahota meets with Veterans in Brampton North to consult on issues and top priorities

Veterans invited to discuss Budget 2016 and next steps toward care, compassion and respect for ill and injured

September, 13, 2016 – Brampton, ON

On behalf of the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, engaged local Veterans in ongoing consultations on their issues and top priorities.

MP Ruby Sahota highlighted the historic steps taken in budget 2016 to enhance financial support, restore access to critical services and provide more front-line staff.

MP Ruby Sahota also highlighted the new “Have Your Say” online engagement tool which allows Veterans, stakeholders and Canadians to submit their views on Veterans’ issues.

In addition to the national consultations and online engagement tool, the Veteran satisfaction survey, which was discontinued in 2010, will be reinstated this year. The return of the survey will supply Veterans Affairs Canada with data to improve the delivery of service to Veterans and their families.

Quick facts

- In May 2016, Minister Hehr announced the formation of [six ministerial advisory groups](#) to help inform service delivery policy and program development at Veterans Affairs Canada. Records of discussion of these meetings will be made public at [veterans.gc.ca](#).
- The *Have Your Say* consultation tool is available on the Veterans Affairs Canada website and Veterans, stakeholders and Canadians can provide their [feedback](#).
- Budget 2016 delivers \$5.6B in additional benefits and takes historic steps to treat veterans with care, compassion and respect.
- An increase to the **Disability Award** to a maximum of \$360,000 will mean more money in the pockets of veterans who suffer from illnesses such as PTSD as a result of service.
- Increasing the **Earnings Loss Benefit** to 90% of a Veteran’s pre-release salary will ensure soldiers undergoing rehabilitation have the financial support they need, and that support will continue if they are unable to return to work.
- Expanding access to the **Permanent Impairment Allowance** by introducing an individualized assessment will ensure Veterans are more appropriately compensated for the impact a service-related impairment has on their career.
- Veterans Affairs Canada will re-open and nine offices across the country and hire additional case managers so that each serves no more than 25 individuals. Additionally, a new office will open in Surrey, B.C., and outreach to Veterans in the North will be expanded by working with local partners.

Quotes

“I am committed to consulting with Veterans, stakeholders and Canadians to establish sound policy and ensure Veterans and their families get the services they need, and that they are served with care, compassion and respect. By meeting with Veterans from across the country and broadening the reach online, I want to open up the dialogue and hear directly from those we serve.”

The Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister for National Defence

“We have a sacred obligation to make sure Canadian Veterans get the care and respect they deserve. The first step to achieving that is to consult with our Veterans to determine what they need and how best we can deliver it. I am excited about the in-depth knowledge we were able to gain at today’s roundtable and look forward to presenting this information to Minister Hehr.”

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North

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Contacts

Sarah McMaster
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs
613-996-4649

Media Relations
Veterans Affairs Canada
613-992-7468