

BC/YUKON COMMAND
The Royal Canadian Legion

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September 10, 2026

TO: All Branches
For Information of Members of Command Executive Council

FROM: Amber Stewart, Executive Director, Legion Foundation

SUBJECT: **Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command Veteran Homelessness Program**

Memo 58.26

Comrades,

The Government of Canada has funded the Veterans Homelessness Program (VHP) since 2023. New organizations are now receiving VHP funding, and your Branch may have been contacted by one of them about Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Some of these organizations include:

- Central Okanagan Foundation
- Day Homes Society
- Island Crisis Cares Society
- John Howard Society Victoria
- Legion Veterans Village
- Mustard Seed
- Nanaimo Family Life
- United Way Nanaimo
- Veterans Food Bank

The Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command runs the same VHP, with the same Government of Canada funding. While Branches are free to work with any organization they choose, we **strongly** encourage Branches to refer Veterans to the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command's [Veterans Homelessness Program](#) **first**.

Here's why:

- We are focused solely on helping Veterans, and our staff are trained in military trauma to understand the unique needs of Veterans.
- We have the largest VHP funding allocation in BC/YT, allowing us to meet more needs, at a higher rate, for a longer period of time.
- We understand how Legion Branches operate, and work closely with Branch Service Officers and Provincial Service Officers.
- We offer a wide network of Veteran-specific supports, including apartment kits, fresh food delivery, transitional housing and mental health supports.

Most importantly, **the Legion program is working**. Since it began and with the help of dozens of Legion Branches, we have helped more than 155 Veterans find or keep a safe place to live. Forty-five Veterans are receiving ongoing help with their rent, and 94% of the Veterans we have helped remain in stable housing one year later.

Our ask is simple: Please keep support within the Legion and refer Veterans experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, to the Foundation's [Veterans Homelessness Program](#). If we cannot fully meet a Veteran's needs, we will work with other organizations to find the right support based on the Veteran's needs and location.

This is a wonderful problem to have—so many organizations want to help Veterans! The Legion is known as a place where Veterans can go for help. By making our own VHP the first option, we

can make sure Veterans continue to receive support through the Legion and help show the value of this program for future funding.

What should you say if another organization calls?

“Thank you, but the Legion has its own Veterans Homelessness Program through the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command. If further help is needed, Foundation staff will reach out.”

If your Branch would like posters, bar coasters or other materials to help promote the program, or if you would like a presentation at your Zone meeting, please contact Lauren Brown at Lauren.Brown@legionbcyukon.ca.

Most importantly, if you know of a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of losing their housing, please contact our VHP team at vhp@legionbcyukonfoundation.ca. Maria, Jennifer or Lauren will be in touch as soon as possible to help.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at amber.stewart@legionbcyukon.ca.

Amber