

BC/YUKON COMMAND
The Royal Canadian Legion

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November 26, 2024

TO: All Branches

FROM: Amber Stewart, Executive Director Legion Foundation BC/Yukon

SUBJECT: **Veteran Homelessness Program**

Memo # 69.24

When Veterans need help, they often turn to their local Legion Branch. If you are aware of a Veteran who is homeless or about to become homeless, you don't have to help alone. We can help, too!

The Legion Foundation BC/Yukon has recently updated the [Veteran Homelessness Program](#). This program can now provide help to Veterans with:

- Ongoing rent & utility payments
- Overdue rent & utilities
- Rent & utility deposits
- Locating housing & setting up viewings
- Moving & furniture
- Tenant insurance
- Hotel stays when Veterans have housing that isn't available yet
- Referrals to more help (Provincial Service Officers for VAC claims, mental health counselling, transitional housing, apartment kits, BC Housing applications & more)

The Veterans Homelessness Program is 100% funded by the Government of Canada. There are other organizations in BC that have received the same grant to help homeless Veterans (John Howard Society Victoria, VRS/Legion Veterans Village, RCMP Veterans Association, and Veterans Transition Network). We work closely with these groups, and with the Provincial Service Officers at BC/Yukon Command, to coordinate services and ensure Veterans are cared for.

How to Apply:

Step 1: Determine if the Veteran is eligible

They are eligible if they:

- Are a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (Rangers or Reservists) or RCMP
- Are currently homeless (including staying with friends, living in an RV, or in a shelter) or at-risk of becoming homeless (they have an eviction notice or are behind on rent about to receive one)

Step 2: Complete the Application Form

- Download [the form online](#) (attached to this circular)
- Call or text Maria: 604-312-5843 – Maria can help Veterans fill out the form, too!

Step 3: Gather documents

- Proof of service documentation (if available)

Step 4: Submit the application

- Email the application and supporting documents to vhp@legionbcyukonfoundation.ca
- After submitting an application, a staff member will get in contact for next steps

With the addition of this program, the Legion Foundation now has three main ways to support Veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.

1. Operation: Leave the Streets Behind
 - Provides Comfort Backpacks and Apartment Kits to Veterans in need
 - Contact: [Amber Stewart](#) or visit the [Legion Foundation website](#)
2. Veterans House Victoria
 - Provides supportive, transitional housing for Veterans in need
 - Contact: [Terri Orser](#) or visit the [Legion Foundation website](#)
3. Veteran Homelessness Program
 - Provides rent supplements and other supports to Veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness
 - Contact: [Maria Serna](#) or visit the [Legion Foundation website](#)

Thank you so much to all of the Legion Branches and Branch Service Officers who help Veterans in need every day! We couldn't do this work without you!

Zone Meetings

If your Zone has an open spot on the agenda at one of their next meetings, we would love to come and share more about these programs and how we help Veterans! Please email [Amber Stewart](#) to arrange it.

If you have questions about any of these programs and how they help Veterans, please reach out any time.

Thank you,
Amber Stewart
Executive Director, Legion Foundation BC/Yukon