

Andrew Scheer guarantees more support for Canada's Veterans

In 2015, Justin Trudeau promised real change for Canada's Veterans. His 2015 platform promised that the Trudeau Liberals would 'live up to its sacred obligation' to our Veterans, and that 'no veteran has to fight the government for the support and compensation they have earned.'

As it turned out, Justin Trudeau was not as advertised. Today the promises that the Trudeau Liberals made to Canada's Veterans lie in tatters. Trudeau continues to fight Canada's Veterans in court and deny them the support they need.

It is time for a government that will finally give Canada's Veterans and all Canadian Armed Forces members – our military heroes – the respect they deserve.

Only Andrew Scheer and Canada's Conservatives will treat Veterans with respect and deliver the support they need in a timely manner, all enshrined in law through a Military Covenant.

THE ISSUE

- For too long, retiring and discharging Canadian Armed Forces members have endured a difficult transition to their post-service life. This is especially true for those who leave the service due to illness or injury. Far too often there is a gap in CAF pay and VAC benefits.
- According to Veterans Affairs Canada's own research, the rate of mood disorders, anxiety disorders, or PTSD among Canadian Armed Forces Veterans was more than twice the rate of that seen in the general population, while the suicide rates among Veterans is dramatically higher than the general population.
- In February 2018, Justin Trudeau infamously dismissed the concerns of a disabled Veteran at a town hall while committing to fighting Canadian Veterans in court because "they're asking for more than we are able to give."
- As of November 2018, Veterans Affairs Canada was forced to concede that the Liberals had allowed the number of Veterans waiting on financial assistance waitlists to balloon to over 40,000 people – an increase of 11,000 over the previous year.
- In February 2019, a probe by the Parliamentary Budget Officer revealed that the Liberal's so-called 'pension for life scheme' would disadvantage Canada's most severely disabled Veterans by an average of \$300,000 over their lifetimes.
- Under the Trudeau Liberals, Canada remains out-of-step with allies such as Australia, Germany, the UK, and USA, all of whom have taken decisive action to better understand and restrict the use of anti-malaria drugs like mefloquine, which a growing body of research now links to psychiatric problems.
- The Liberals have, to date, refused to fund service dogs to help Canadian Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, even though their own research confirms that service dogs play a useful role in PTSD treatment.

- The current government has been widely criticized for presiding over the collapse of a PTSD Service Dog standard process and for refusing to fund the training of PTSD Service Dogs despite the mounting evidence of their usefulness, including the recently released results of their own efficacy study on the matter.

THE PLAN

An Andrew Scheer-led Conservative Government will:

1. Enshrine, in legislation, a Military Covenant between the Government of Canada and Canada's Veterans. The Covenant will demand that at all times Veterans be given the respect they deserve by federal officials and institutions and mandate the delivery of services in a timely manner.
2. Clear the unacceptable backlog of Veterans benefit applications within 24 months.
3. Fix Justin Trudeau's failures on pensions by correcting the problem identified by the Parliamentary Budget Officer, which found that Veterans with severe and permanent injuries will be worse off by an average of \$300,000 over their lifetime under the Liberal so-called 'pensions for life'.
4. Take action on transition services by reviewing rules around service attribution and mandating that the Canadian Armed Forces retain medically releasing members until all benefits and services from the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans Affairs Canada, and the Service Income Security Insurance Plan have been confirmed and are put in place.
5. Put vital commemoration projects, like the National Memorial for Canada's War in Afghanistan, back on track.
6. Conduct an independent inquiry to study the effects of the anti-malarial drug mefloquine on members of the Canadian Armed Forces.
7. Establish guidelines and fund a program to provide service dogs to Canada's Veterans.

THE CHOICE

- Justin Trudeau promised Veterans he would not fight with them. He promised he would treat them with respect and give them the supports they needed. He was not as advertised.
- Justin Trudeau has already betrayed his promises he made to Veterans in 2015.
- On October 21, you can vote for the Trudeau Liberals who break their promises and treat Veterans like second class citizens. Or you can choose an Andrew Scheer-led Conservative Government that will put the priorities of Canadian Veterans first.
- It's time for Canadian Veterans to get some respect. It's time for you to get ahead.