

1944. This Federation is fully, and with content, organized on a national basis, representing fifteen thousand British-Canadian veterans (Imperial and Allied) of World Wars I and II.

2. The War Veterans Allowance Act is divided into two very important schedules: sections 3 and 4. In view of the fact that there are 41,000 receiving benefit under the Act, which includes veterans and widows, in 1954, only 1,300 have taken advantage of the benefits of section 4, thus, without prejudice, and with sound reasoning, in so far as section 3 is concerned it can become an Old Age Veterans' Security Act for all who are eligible, at the ages of sixty and fifty-five respectively.

3. Section 4, of the W.V.A. Act, was legislated to answer the appeal by various veteran bodies, and older veterans, to allow them the privilege of increasing their benefits by entering suitable employment on a part-time basis, without any compulsion to do so. It was an incentive. We propose to submit reasons from practical experience working daily with this section of the Act, in particular, why it is not working to a much more advantageous degree, than shown by statistics.

4. The Federation, therefore, recommends that the age limitation now prevailing in the Act should be lowered, for future applicants eligible, to the age of fifty-five, male only, and placed under section 4 for benefit on a month-to-month basis—reporting each week to the nearest National Employment Service office for suitable employment.

5. Elimination of the Means Tests—prevailing in the W.V.A. Act for all male recipients who reach the age of seventy years, and all females at the age of sixty-five.

6. *The Veterans Benefit Act*—The Federation is pleased, and content, with any new amendments to this Act which will benefit the veteran, but, from practical experience administering various sections of it the veteran discharged from the armed forces, or special forces is penalized for, at least, after discharge, from making application for unemployment insurance benefits, if his discharge is for reason of misconduct. If he cannot find suitable employment after discharge the penalty creates a longer period.

7. *Reinstatement to Civilian Employment—section of the Veterans Benefit Act*—Four major industrial and commercial corporations of national importance have requested that, during the hearings of the committee the comparison between theirs and the government's qualifications of the seniority standards are vastly opposite.

8. *The Canadian Pension Act*—The Federation is content with the regulations governing this Act, excepting section 25 of the same, dealing with awards for meritorious service. The degree of award to the veteran or his dependents is not regulated. From examples which will be submitted, we shall endeavour to show why it should be regulated.

The aforementioned paragraphs contain the views, recommendations and constructive opinions of the entire membership of the Federation, and are, therefore, respectfully submitted to the parliamentary Committee on Veterans Affairs for hearing.

(Sgd.) Stephen G. Jones,  
Past President—  
Welfare and Pensions Officer.

(Sgd.) Harry E. Woodhouse,  
Dominion Command Secretary.

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