



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

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www.lastpostfund.ca



## EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to Minister Julian Fantino



**L**Col Evelyn Kelly, Past President of the Last Post Fund and Vice-President of the Legion's Fort York Branch, shares a laugh with Veterans Affairs Minister **Julian Fantino** at a joint dinner with the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

LCol Kelly took this opportunity to thank the Minister for extending eligibility to Modern-Day Veterans for the Funeral and Burial Program, in the recent federal budget.

This new development will make a huge difference in the delivery of the Last Post Fund's mission. Minister Fantino is well aware that the next item on the LPF agenda is the necessary change to the estate exemption and has agreed that it is a most important issue to be pursued.



*Canada became the first of the British Commonwealth of Nations to officially and tangibly recognize the principle that every warrior, active or retired, should be assured of respectful interment and an honoured resting place, when he comes to the 'end of the road'. – Arthur Hair*

## THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL PROGRAM Amendment to the Program for Modern-Day Veterans

# Funeral and Burial

Economic Action Plan 2014 proposes **\$108.2 million** over three years to **expand eligibility** for the **Funeral and Burial Program** to ensure that modern-day Veterans of modest means have access to a dignified funeral and burial.

Find out more:  
[budget.gc.ca](http://budget.gc.ca)  
1-866-522-2122

 Veterans Affairs Canada Anciens Combattants Canada 

*The following is an excerpt from the 2014 federal budget tabled by Finance Minister **Jim Flaherty** in the House of Commons last February 11.*

*“Economic Action Plan 2014 proposes \$108.2 million over three years, starting in 2013-14, to expand eligibility for the Funeral and Burial Program to ensure that modern-day Veterans of modest means have access to a dignified funeral and burial.”*

## THE LPF WAS ON HAND to Help Modern-Day Veterans

In recent years, the Last Post Fund has used \$98,000 of its donation funds to help the families of 31 Modern-Day Veterans who were not eligible for the Funeral and Burial Program. The following are but a few examples of special needs that were fulfilled.

A deceased Veteran left his wife with a huge credit card debt and very little monthly income to support herself and her daughter born with Down syndrome. The distraught woman was quickly heading for welfare assistance, an avenue she wished to avoid. To relieve her anxiety, the LPF helped clear her outstanding debt to the funeral home.

A deceased Veteran ended up at the morgue. Divorced and homeless, he was living on the street. The LPF then entered into a contract with a funeral home. The Veteran's remains were cremated and sent away to his brother for burial in his hometown.

A Veteran's sister was called to come and dispose of the remains of her brother who died in the hospital. Living in subsidized housing, he was never married and essentially had no assets. Through the LPF, arrangements were made for funeral services and cremation.

A Veteran died penniless, his credit cards loaded to the maximum. His paraplegic widow was hospitalized and very financially challenged. Unable to pay for the Veteran's liabilities, the estate sent his body to the Public Trustee. The Veteran would be buried in a paupers' field but with help from the LPF, his ashes were buried in the National Field of Honour and a military marker provided for his grave.

A deceased Veteran left his wife with a considerable amount of unsecured liabilities. As a result, the widow had to sell their house to repay the debts. There was no money left to pay for the funeral and once again, the Last Post Fund was there to lend a helping hand.

## THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL PROGRAM Modern-Day Veterans Now Eligible for the Program



Left to right: Mr. **Jean-Pierre Goyer**, Last Post Fund Executive Director; the Honourable **Julian Fantino**, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada; and HCol **Daniel O'Connor**, Last Post Fund

Last Post Fund National President HCol **Daniel O'Connor** expressed relief and satisfaction with the recent federal budget.

"I am extremely pleased that the issue of eligibility of Modern-Day Veterans for the Veterans Affairs Funeral and Burial Program has been positively dealt with in this budget," says Colonel O'Connor. "The Last Post Fund has been pressing for this recognition for more than a decade, and now all Canadian Veterans are eligible for this important program for the estates of Veterans who die with limited financial resources. From fulfilling our mission in recent years for ineligible Veterans, our donation funds had been virtually exhausted."

Since 1909, the Last Post Fund has had as its prime mission the assurance of a dignified funeral and burial for all Canadian Veterans who pass away with very limited or no financial resources. In 1922, the Government of Canada first recognized its obligation, on behalf of all Canadians, to provide funding to meet this need.

However, in recent decades the Regulations governing the Funeral and Burial Program have stipulated that only Second World War and Korean Veterans, and those in receipt of disability compensation, were eligible for the program, leaving out most of the more than 600,000 Modern-Day Veterans, who have also served their country, prepared to pay the ultimate price. Now, the Government has recognized that all Canadian Veterans are eligible for the Funeral and Burial Program.

The Last Post Fund is grateful for the support of all Canadian Veterans organizations that have unanimously supported this demand, particularly the Royal Canadian Legion. Colonel O'Connor adds, "The Government is to be applauded for doing the right thing in recognizing and correcting this issue, particularly in a time of fiscal restraint."