



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

Vol. 2, No. 2 — March 2011

[www.lastpostfund.ca](http://www.lastpostfund.ca)

## THE LAST POST FUND FUNERAL AND BURIAL PROGRAM

This edition of *The Bugler* will answer questions that are most frequently asked about the Funeral and Burial Program, which the Last Post Fund delivers on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada.

**Q—What is the main objective of the Program?**

A—It is to ensure that no Veteran is denied a decent funeral and burial due to insufficient financial means.

**Q—How does the Program work?**

A—It provides financial assistance for a dignified funeral, cremation and burial for eligible Canadian and Allied Veterans, in line with the Veterans Burial Regulations of the Canadian Government.

**Q—Who is eligible for assistance?**

A—To qualify, Veterans must meet financial and military service criteria.

**Q—What are the military service criteria to qualify for assistance?**

A—To meet the military service criteria, the deceased must have been:

- ◆ A Canadian Armed Forces or Merchant Navy Veteran of the Second World War (1 September 1939 to 30 September 1947); or
- ◆ A Canadian Veteran of the Korean War who served in the theatre of operations, or has been part of the Special Forces designated to go to the Republic of Korea anytime before 31 October 1953; or
- ◆ A Veteran who served in the Canadian Forces and is receiving a disability benefit or a Canadian Forces income support benefit from Veterans Affairs Canada; or
- ◆ An Allied Veteran who served with the Allied Forces during World War II or the Korean War and has also lived in Canada for at least 10 years, or lived in Canada prior to enlisting and was living in Canada at time of death.

**Q—What are the financial criteria that must be met to qualify for assistance?**

A—Once the Veteran has met the military service criteria, eligibility can be established in one of two ways:

- 1) Through financial need, as determined by a financial assessment (known as “means testing”); or
- 2) When death is related to military service, for which the Veteran was receiving disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada (also known as “matter of right”).

**Q—Does a Veteran have to be a client of Veterans Affairs Canada to apply for the Funeral and Burial Program?**

A—No, any Canadian or Allied Veteran who meets the military service and financial criteria may apply for the Program, through the Last Post Fund.





**Q—Does a Veteran who dies from the condition for which he/she was receiving disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada qualify for assistance?**

A—Yes, the Veteran would be eligible for assistance under the “matter of right” criteria, regardless of his/her financial situation at the time of death. However, this must be determined by a medical authority from Veterans Affairs Canada.

**Q—What is a “means testing”?**

A—It is a financial assessment that considers such factors as marital status, number of dependants, net assets and liabilities. All factors will be considered before a decision on eligibility is made.

**Q—Why doesn't the Program provide assistance for all Veterans?**

A—Its purpose is to provide a dignified funeral and burial for Veterans without sufficient means or who die from a condition related to their military service for which they were receiving disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada.

**Q—Is a Veteran's spouse eligible for funeral and burial assistance?**

A—No, except if the spouse is also a Veteran who meets the service criteria.

**Q—Could Veterans arrange for their spouse or other family members to be buried with them in the Veterans' section of a cemetery?**

A—This decision falls under the jurisdiction of each cemetery.

**Q—Can a Canadian Veteran who passes away outside the country apply for assistance under the Program?**

A—Yes, program benefits may be extended to both resident and non-resident Canadian Veterans who meet the financial and service-related criteria.

**Q—What type of services are provided under the Program?**

A—There are two types of services:

- ◆ A *standard service* when the Last Post Fund is contacted and eligibility is determined before firm funeral arrangements are made by the family or estate. In this case, the Last Post Fund deals directly with the funeral home.
- ◆ An *assisted service* if the Last Post Fund is contacted after funeral arrangements have been made. In this case, the eligible Veteran's estate or family will be reimbursed allowable costs.

**Q—What expenses may be covered, in full or in part, under the Program?**

A—Expenses include:

- ◆ Services of a funeral director (including a wood or wood veneer casket)
- ◆ Cremation and urn (if applicable)
- ◆ Burial expenses, i.e. plot and standard-depth interment
- ◆ Veteran's grave marker (when ordered through a Last Post Fund supplier).

**Q—Are Veterans not qualifying for the Program entitled to a grave marker?**

A—A military grave marker is part of the funeral and burial benefit package and may only be provided in cases where a funeral and burial grant is approved. However, if a Veteran has passed away for more than five years and lies in an unmarked grave, the Last Post Fund will provide a marker as part of its Special Grave Marker Program.

**Q—What type of grave marker may be provided?**

A—An upright or flat grey granite military marker may be placed, or a marker as determined by cemetery regulations.

**Q—When should an application for funeral and burial assistance be made?**

A—An application can only be made when the Veteran has passed away, since the financial information and marital status may change right up to that time. However, information on eligibility can be provided at any time by contacting the nearest Last Post Fund office.

**Q—Is there a time limit to apply for benefits?**

A—Yes, there is a one-year time limit after the date of death to apply for funeral and burial benefits.

**Q—What are the Last Post Fund opening hours?**

A—Opening hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Q—Where can I get more information on the Funeral and Burial Program?**

A—For more information, contact your provincial office of the Last Post Fund.

- ◆ Alberta and Northwest Territories: 1-888-495-3766
- ◆ British Columbia and Yukon: 1-800-268-0248
- ◆ Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut: 1-888-233-3073
- ◆ New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island: 1-800-561-0505
- ◆ Newfoundland and Labrador: 1-888-579-4288
- ◆ Nova Scotia: 1-800-565-4777
- ◆ Ontario: 1-800-563-2508
- ◆ Québec: 1-800-866-5229

*The Bugler* is published 4 times a year.  
Next edition: June 2011

Last Post Fund National Office

401—505 René-Lévesque Blvd. West

Montreal QC H2Z 1Y7

Éliane Francoeur, editor – T. 1 800 465-7113

efrancoeur@lastpost.ca