

[View this email in your browser](#)



As NDP critic for Veterans Affairs, I am honoured to advocate on behalf of the courageous women and men who have selflessly served Canada. I hear from many Veterans who feel let down by the government, and I am committed to ensuring all Veterans are treated with the respect they deserve.

ACVA Study on Women Veterans

I am pleased that at my request the Committee (ACVA) has [begun a first-of-its-kind study on women Veterans](#).

For too long, women in the Canadian Armed Forces and women Veterans have been invisible in research. This has led to a lack of meaningful information on how women experience their time in the Forces and after they retire, which results in women not having adequate access to vital medical care and other resources.

The study will explore the treatment of injuries and diseases that are more likely to affect women differently, the physical and mental health aspects of women Veterans, professional and economic challenges of life for Veteran women, and retirement and long-term care processes.

The Committee will devote more than 20 meetings to the study, which will

conclude in October 2023. Recommendations from this study will be used to implement better support measures for women Veterans.

[I have spoken at length in ACVA](#) about the struggles women face as Veterans and the [need for women Veterans' voices to be heard](#) as distinct from the experiences of other women who interact with the Forces. I have also raised the issue of [women Veterans and perinatal mental health](#), and requested women Veterans [be included in the process of creating CANMAT clinical practice guidelines](#) for perinatal mental health.

It's important that we hear from women about their experiences, to ensure they have the resources they need. If you would like to request to appear before the Committee or have information you would like included in the study, [please submit your request here](#).



Rachel with Michelle Douglas, Veteran and LGBTQ+ advocate.

Merlo Davidson Disability Pension Clawback

I have been working closely with the RCMP Veteran Women's Council (RCMPVWC) on the Merlo Davidson clawback, and [have written a letter to Minister Macaulay](#) regarding this shocking treatment of women who experienced professional misconduct. I've also [pushed the Minister for answers in Question Period](#) and [continue to raise the issue during debate](#).

The women affected by this clawback have experienced sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and professional mistreatment and are now being revictimized by Veterans Affairs Canada. On behalf of the heroic women who came forward with their heartbreaking stories of assault, abuse, and harassment, I will continue fighting to have this clawback repealed and demanding answers as to why the clawback was introduced in the first place.



Rachel with Senator Rebecca Patterson and Dr. Karen Breck

Veteran Advocacy

I and my fellow NDP colleagues will continue pushing for Canada's Veterans to be treated with the respect they deserve and given the resources they need. In April, I spoke in the House about the [impact of the PSAC strike on Veteran access to support](#), and in March, NPD leader Jagmeet Singh spoke in Question Period about the [need for an end to the outsourcing of Veterans' services to Loblaws](#).

I was also pleased to meet with Harold Davis, President of Persian Gulf Veterans, and Mike McGlennon, Vice President of Persian Gulf Veterans, to hear their request that Veterans Affairs Canada recognize those who served in the Persian Gulf War as War Service Veterans rather than as Special Duty Area Veterans. The NDP and I support their request and will advocate for the reclassification of Veterans who risked their lives in the Persian Gulf.

The brave people who fight to protect Canadians deserve proper treatment and respect from the government. They deserve to have their voices heard and their experiences considered. I am proud to advocate for Canada's Veterans.



Rachel with Harold Davis and Mike McGlennon from the Persian Gulf Veterans of Canada

Sincerely,

Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island - Powell River



Copyright (C) 2023 MP Rachel Blaney. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have consented to be contacted by MP Rachel Blaney via email on this issue or a related matter. You may unsubscribe at any time. Please let us know if you would like to update your preferences.