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Good day friends,

I have some important updates to share with you all.

### **Service Animals for Veterans**

On November 5, [I introduced Bill C-417](#), a private Member's bill to establish a framework for animal-assisted services for Veterans. Bill C-417 was created with input from Veterans and non-profits, reflecting their valuable experiences and perspectives. For more than 15 years, Veterans' groups and mental health experts have called on Veterans Affairs Canada to fully incorporate service animals into their mental health rehabilitation program—but there has not been enough progress on this issue.

For many Veterans, the cost of a service animal remains completely out of reach. This bill aims to ensure that Veterans Affairs supports the cost of service animals, their training, and the training needed for Veterans to work with them.

What [Bill C-417](#) will do:

- Require the Minister of Veterans Affairs to enshrine national standards in legislation, ensuring consistency and quality for all service providers.
- Remove barriers for Veterans with service animals, especially when travelling or moving across the country.

- Expand coverage for equine therapy, including riding programs.

[Our Veterans deserve better support for their mental health](#), and service animals play a crucial role in that care. You can make a difference by signing a petition in support of this bill writing to me to share how it would impact you. Together, we can push for change that truly honours and supports our Veterans.

To add your name in support, please sign and share our [petition](#) to call upon on the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada to adopt Private Member's Bill C-417.



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**NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh asks about “Golddigger” pension clause**

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On November 6, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh stood up in Question Period to [demand action from the Liberals](#) on their broken promise to scrap the offensive “Golddigger” pension clause. Too many families have been affected by this unjust clause, which punishes Veterans and their loved ones who marry after the age of 60 by denying their spouses access to pensions and leaving families to struggle with unnecessary financial hardship. New Democrats continue to fight to eliminate this archaic, sexist clause.



### Conservatives weaponize Remembrance Day

The Conservatives are once again creating unnecessary division and fuelling hate by turning Remembrance Day ceremonies into a political tool, using them to score partisan points instead of honouring the service and sacrifice of Veterans. [NDP MP Charlie Angus called out this troubling behaviour](#) in the House of Commons. It's time to put Veterans—not politics—first and ensure they receive the dignity and care they deserve.



## ACVA committee updates

ACVA has reached the halfway mark in its important study on the [experiences of Black and Indigenous Veterans](#), shedding light on the unique challenges faced by these groups. Up next: a crucial study focused on suicide prevention among Veterans.

As I prepare for this vital work, I'm reaching out to the Veteran community, including family members and loved ones who have been affected by suicide. Your voices matter. Your stories, insights, and perspectives can help shape the direction of this study, and ensure it addresses the real challenges Veterans and their families face.

If you have experiences to share or a perspective to offer, I want to hear from you. Together, we can work towards meaningful change.

Contact me at [rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca)

Sincerely,



Rachel Blaney, MP  
North Island - Powell River



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