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Greetings friends,

I'm reaching out with some important updates I wanted to share with you all.

November is an important time to remember, reflect on, and recognize the remarkable contributions of Canada's Veterans. As Canadians take the time to show our gratitude, we must also continue fighting for Veterans, to ensure they are given the respect they deserve.

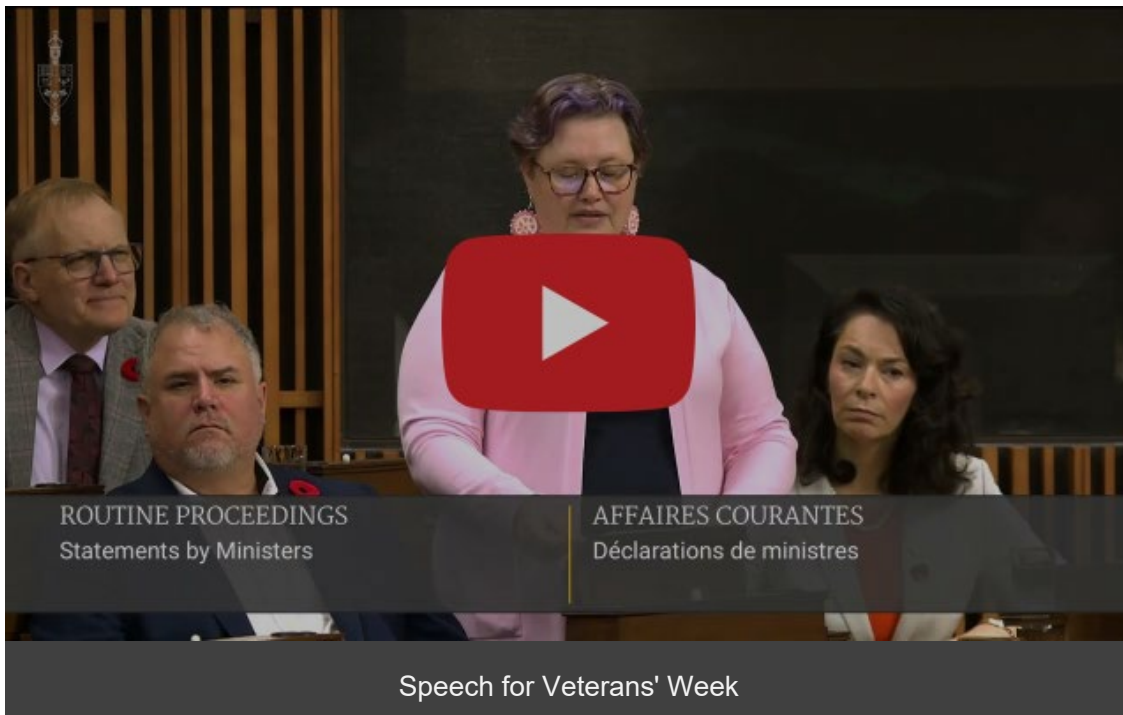
**Veterans Week, from November 5 to 11**, is our time to honour the sacrifices made by Canadians in service to our country.

**On November 8, National Indigenous Veterans Day**, we commemorate the brave contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis who served in missions in Canada and around the world, in war and peacekeeping efforts.

**On November 11, Remembrance Day**, we pay tribute to those who never returned, and we salute those who did, forever changed by their experience.

I encourage everyone to join [local commemoration events](#) to honour those brave Canadians who gave so much.

I recently had the privilege of speaking in Parliament in recognition of Remembrance Day.



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## Standing Up for Veterans on Overcharging

I was recently interviewed on [CBC National News](#) for a story about Veterans being overcharged for long-term care beds. For at least 20 years, many Veterans have been [overcharged by hundreds of dollars a month](#) for long-term care beds due to a federal miscalculation—costing them more than \$3,000 annually.

This is unacceptable. Veterans and their families shouldn't have to fight the government for fair treatment. [I've demanded answers from the Prime Minister during Question Period](#), and I'm calling on the Liberals and Conservatives to take accountability. Veterans deserve real action, not just empty promises, and I'm committed to ensuring you get the respect and care you deserve.

## Honouring the Courage of Women Veterans

I was thrilled to host the second annual Parliamentary Reception to honour

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Women Veterans on October 28, and I was delighted by the wonderful turnout. Together, we celebrated the release of an important report, *Invisible No More. The Experiences of Canadian Women Veterans*, and heard from three remarkable women Veterans who shared powerful stories about their service. It was inspiring to continue our journey of ensuring that those who were once invisible are truly recognized and heard.

I'm currently gathering feedback on the [government's response](#) to the committee report addressing the experiences of women Veterans. I encourage you to take a moment to read the response and share your thoughts! You can provide your feedback through [this link](#) or by emailing me at Rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca. I'll ensure all your insights are forwarded to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

The Sexual Misconduct Support and Resource Centre recently announced a call for applications for the [Community Support for Sexual Misconduct Survivors Grant Program](#). This initiative aims to enhance support services for individuals affected by sexual misconduct in the Defence community by fostering collaboration between community organizations and the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces. Developed in response to community needs, this program will provide access to culturally competent and confidential care for survivors.

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### **Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA)**

ACVA is nearing the conclusion of an important study on the [recognition of Persian Gulf War Veterans](#). It's unjust that Veterans who served in the same mission receive varying levels of benefits based solely on when they submitted their disability claims. A legislative change means that claims submitted before April 1, 2006 were assessed under the Pension Act, while those submitted afterward fall under the Veterans Well-being Act—resulting in differing benefits and support. Over 4,000 Canadians bravely served in the Persian Gulf operations, and now they are advocating for the recognition and benefits they

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rightfully deserve. The New Democrats and I stand firmly with these Veterans in their fight for fairness and acknowledgment.

Up next, ACVA will be diving into a study focused on the unique experiences of Black and Indigenous Veterans. Your insights are invaluable—if you have thoughts or feedback on this important initiative, please reach out to me at [Rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca). Let's make sure all voices are heard!

Catch up on my latest committee appearances since September—watch clips [here](#) to see what we've been working on!

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### **Securing Health Coverage for Canada's Invictus Athletes**

I was honoured to speak in Question Period about the vital needs of our [Invictus athletes](#) regarding their health coverage. I'm pleased to share that, in response to our discussions, the Minister announced that Canada's Invictus team [will receive health coverage](#) ahead of the 2025 Invictus Games. This important step reflects our commitment to supporting those who have served and continue to inspire us all.

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### **Ending the Injustice of the 'Golddigger Clause'**

We're continuing the fight against the outdated, sexist, and ageist 'Golddigger Clause.' This clause unfairly denies automatic survivor pensions to spouses who marry Veterans after age 60. Despite two promises from the Liberals to repeal it, we're still waiting for action. Let's keep the pressure on—reach out and demand that the government finally repeal this unjust clause. Please download and share the information sheets in [English](#) or [French](#).

As always, I want to hear from you. Please email me at [Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca) with your concerns and priorities.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blaney".

Rachel Blaney, MP  
North Island - Powell River



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