

Petition to the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada

Whereas:

- For over 15 years, Veterans have been asking for service animals to be fully incorporated into Veterans Affairs Canada's mental health and other rehabilitation programs.
- Removing barriers such as accessing or paying for Animal-Assisted Human Services in some cases is a matter of life and death.
- The published National Standard of Canada, CAN/HRSO – 500.01 – 2022 Development of a Management System for Animal-Assisted Human Services, is voluntary and needs to be enshrined in legislation to become mandatory.
- Once the National Standard of Canada becomes mandatory third-party assessment would confirm whether an Animal-Assisted Human Services Provider/Animal-Assisted Professional would be considered credible and eligible to apply for Veterans Affairs Canada funding to serve veterans and their families.
- Establishing a seamless framework would be possible by promoting harmonization between provinces and territories that would remove barriers to accessing credible Animal-Assisted Human Services in a timely manner.

Therefore, we the undersigned, Citizens of Canada, call upon on the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada to adopt Private Member's Bill C-417, introduced November 5, 2024, by MP Rachel Blaney, which would provide for the development and implementation of a framework to enhance the provision of Animal-Assisted Services (Animal-Assisted Human Services) to Veterans and their families by the Department of Veterans Affairs Canada.

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PLEASE SEND COMPLETED PETITION: Rachel Blaney, MP / House of Commons / Ottawa, ON / K1A 0A6 (Please use an envelope. No postage required.)

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