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It is my privilege to serve as the critic for Veterans Affairs and advocate on behalf of the people who have bravely sacrificed to protect Canada.

Committee study on the experience of women Veterans

I am humbled that the study I initiated to investigate the experiences of women Veterans has created so much interest. More and more women Veterans want to share their experiences or want to support their friends and colleagues who are so bravely coming forward to talk about their journeys.

I am deeply grateful to those women who are willing to have their voices heard so that we can advocate for meaningful change for women in Canada's military and women Veterans. It's important that the unique stories of women be told so we can provide better outcomes for women in the military. So far, the committee has heard from 58 witnesses over 13 meetings and we will continue to create space for women Veterans to come forward.

The House has risen for the summer, but the study will resume in the fall when the House sits again. I encourage women Veterans who would like to share their story to [fill out a request to appear or submit a brief](#).

You can see more of my [advocacy for women Veterans here](#).



A big thank you to the women Veterans, witnesses and everyone else who showed up to share their support for the study on women Veterans

Save the date: Reception in honour of women Veterans

I am honoured to host a Parliamentary Reception on the Hill to celebrate the work of women Veterans and recognize their contribution to Parliament through the ACVA study. This event will take place on Monday, Oct. 16 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. It is open to the public but attendees must register. I'll send more information, including how to register, in September.

**RECEPTION IN
HONOUR
OF WOMEN
VETERANS**

**OCT 16
2023**

**5:30 - 7:30
On the Hill**

**Celebrating the
contributions of
women who
serve(d) in the
military and RCMP**

MORE DETAILS TO COME

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Botched VAC/PCVRS contract

I will continue to fight to have the disastrous outsourced Veterans Affairs contracts cancelled. The Liberal government has allowed unacceptable contracts that have had a disastrous effect on Canada's Veterans, including ridiculous backlogs, confusing processes, and an inability to access vital services.

The abysmal contracts between VAC and Partners in Canadian Veterans Rehabilitation Services (PCVRS) should never have been entered into and must be scrapped immediately. Veterans cannot access the mental health and rehabilitation support they need, while the company that was selected for this service has pocketed \$560 million. That money should have been invested in our public service.

For too long, [the Liberals have ignored the concerns of Veterans, service providers, and VAC workers on the issue of outsourced contracts](#). We know hiring more case workers would be less expensive and more effective than the current PCVRS contract, yet the Liberals made the decision to line the pockets of their friends rather than doing the right thing for Veterans.

The treatment of Veterans by consecutive Liberal and Conservative parties is shameful.

The Liberal government's contracts have simply compounded the problems started by the Conservative administration when they closed Veterans Affairs offices. Both parties are happy to encourage people to sign up for Canada's forces but neglect those same people once they leave service. [The NDP and I will always push to ensure the well-being of Veterans comes before profits](#).



Golddigger clause (Marriage after 60)

The [Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations \(REGS\)](#) has requested the appearance of Minister Anand, Minister of National Defence of Canada, to speak on the subject of the regulation changes to the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act*. Minister Anand has said she will appear at

committee on Sept. 25. Because this committee doesn't provide video recordings of its meetings, my team will attend and report back.

Afghanistan Mission Monument

In June, the [National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan](#) was unveiled. The monument is an important commemoration in honour and recognition of the more than 40,000 Canadians who served in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014, the longest combat deployment in Canadian history.



Photo sourced from [National Monument to Canada's Mission in Afghanistan - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

As always, I want to hear from you. Please email me at Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca with your concerns and priorities so I can set my critic agenda for the fall.

Sincerely,

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

Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island - Powell River



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