



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minister of Veterans Affairs Announces Partnership with The Royal Canadian Legion and Good Shepherd Ministries to Help Homeless Veterans in Toronto

Toronto – The Honourable Jean Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture), together with Brother David Lynch, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Ministries and Ed Pigeau, President, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command today officially announced the launch of the Homeless Veterans Project for the Toronto area.

“Our service men and women have always stood up for Canada’s values. It is our responsibility to be there for them when they need us the most,” said Minister Blackburn. “Leave the Streets Behind” will help us meet our sacred duty to those Veterans who may desperately need our assistance during difficult times in their lives.”

Building on the success of the Montréal and Vancouver homeless projects, the Veterans Affairs Canada Toronto Sunnybrook Office, in partnership with The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Provincial Command, and Good Shepherd Ministries, will be working to meet the needs of Toronto area homeless Veterans. A Veterans Affairs Canada case manager now works full time at the Good Shepherd Ministries Homeless Shelter.

“We are pleased to be offering this important program to Veterans in the Toronto area,” said Brother David Lynch, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Ministries. “The homeless initiative will improve the quality of life for those who have done so much to serve our country.”

“We believe that we are the bridge between the streets and the life style they deserve after having served their country honourably,” said Ed Pigeau, President, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command.

Over the past year, Veterans Affairs Canada has worked with dedicated partners to establish sites in Montréal and Vancouver where Veterans who live on the street can gain access to a wide range of services and benefits that best meet their needs. Staff in both cities worked with local community agencies to help more than 50 homeless Veterans or Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless. Some of these Veterans are no longer on the street and have their own housing. They were also informed about the resources and the support that are available to them.

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“This project will also examine the underlying issues that lead to homelessness within the Veteran population,” added Minister Blackburn. “Through concrete action, we are committed to helping all of our Veterans and to ensure that no one is left behind.”

Nationally, Veterans Affairs Canada made contact with more than 190 organizations that support the homeless. In more than 50 towns and cities, we are ensuring that all Veterans at risk know about programs and services that can help them.

For more information on Veterans Affairs Canada’s programs and services, please visit www.vac-acc-gc.ca.

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