

July 10, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

At their Regular Meeting of Council on July 9, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer passed the below resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of Aylmer recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values;

WHEREAS the 2021 Census, conducted by Statistics Canada, identified more than 460,000 veterans residing across Canada, a significant population segment deserving of comprehensive, accessible, and modernized federal support;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) currently administers income support programs to assist veterans in need, including the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program;

WHEREAS the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program which was created in 2019 – set at \$20,000 annually for a single-person household – fails to reflect today's economic reality, particularly in light of inflation, soaring housing costs, and the general increase in cost of living;

WHEREAS such low eligibility thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;

WHEREAS it is the duty of all levels of government to stand in unified support of our veterans and to advocate for policy changes that enable them to live with dignity and financial stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Town of Aylmer formally calls on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household; and

THAT Council urges Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada;

THAT this motion be formally endorsed and sent to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition;

- Andrew Lawton, Member of Parliament for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South;
- All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for broader distribution and endorsement; and,

Regards,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
519-773-3164 ext. 4913
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CC: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs
Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting leader of the Official Opposition
Andrew Lawton, MP Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
All Ontario Municipalities
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
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