

June 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council ratified the following motion:

Resolution 2025-185

Moved by: Councillor Harper

Seconded by: Councillor Scott

WHEREAS the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury 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thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;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 Bradford West Gwillimbury 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
- Scot Davidson, Member of Parliament for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury;
- 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

THAT a copy of this resolution be published on the Town's official website and communicated through the Town's official channels to raise awareness and gather public support.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104
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CC: Hon. Mark Varney, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs
Hon. Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition
Scot Davidson, MP New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury
All Ontario Municipalities
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)