

IMPACT REPORT



THANK YOU!

We believe it is our duty to help as many Veterans as possible.

We could not help Veterans without the support of thoughtful individuals like you!

OUR MISSION

**Local Giving.
Local Impact.**

Enriching the lives of Veterans, first responders & their families by supporting & delivering programs across BC & the Yukon.

Helping More Veterans: Veteran Homelessness Program

With funding from the Government of Canada, the Legion Foundation recently launched the Veteran Homelessness Program, providing rental supplements to low-income Veterans across BC and the Yukon.

Jim's Story

When Jim retired from the Canadian Armed Forces at 50, he sought a simple life. Living in a camper van, he travelled across Canada, often working at campgrounds. He was healthy and happy.

In early 2024, at the age of 67, Jim suffered a bad fall that landed him in the hospital. Unable to manage stairs, he could no longer live in his camper van. Also unable to work, Jim found himself nearly homeless and turned to the Legion Foundation for help.

With assistance from the Veterans Homelessness Program Coordinator, Jim found housing he could afford with the help of a monthly rent supplement. The day before he moved in, an Apartment Kit from the Leave the Streets Behind program was delivered.

"Wow! Thank you!" was all that Jim could say when he saw his new home for the first time. "After 17 years, I finally have a home to call my own."



One Homeless Veteran is One Too Many

Up to 32% of Veterans face significant difficulties transitioning from military service to civilian life. This dramatically increases their risk of mental illness, addiction and homelessness.

It is estimated that 1 out of every 10 people experiencing homelessness in BC either served in the Canadian Armed Forces or the RCMP. This means that at any given time, hundreds of men and women who wore a uniform are sleeping in their cars, staying on friend's couches, living in shelters or surviving in a tent.



Veterans House Victoria

Veterans House Victoria provides safe transitional housing and connection to services to help ex-military personnel integrate back into society.

Peer-supported by volunteers and a live-in caretaker, Veterans are connected with services such as benefits through Veterans Affairs Canada, career transition services, and military-trauma-informed counseling. Basics such as bus passes and food vouchers are supplied. When Veterans are ready, they are supported in finding permanent housing.

This program is supported by Legion Manor Victoria. In 2023, 8 Veterans were helped to get back on their feet again.



University credit for skills acquired while serving

The BCIT Legion Military Skills Conversion Program helps Veterans access career-transition services, including post-secondary credits for skills gained while serving. In 2023, this program helped 75 Veterans.



Veterans have unique mental health needs

In 2023, the Legion Foundation provided over \$375,000 of funding for mental health supports, including Veteran-specialized small-group counselling and accredited PTSD-OSSI service dogs.



Operation: Leave the Streets Behind

In 2023, we distributed 39 Comfort Bags & 17 Apartment Kits to Veterans in need. Apartment Kits (pictured above) include everything a Veteran would need when moving into housing.