



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-01871**

BY: **MR. FILLMORE (HALIFAX)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 22, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE SEAMUS O'REGAN**

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Response by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Veterans' affairs**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Veterans Affairs Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are working together to develop a national Veterans card to honour and recognize releasing members and Veterans.

Currently, releasing members of the Canadian Armed Forces receive a "CF1" card which enables them to access a variety of health and wellness programs and services. The National Defence Identifier (NDI 75) card issued to members at release was discontinued in February 2016.

Many of Veterans Affairs Canada's Veteran clients receive a Veterans Affairs Canada health card to access departmental services and benefits, however this is not an identification (ID) card.

Veterans Affairs Canada recognizes the benefits of issuing an identification card to Veterans, ranging from highlighting their record of service and promoting a sense of identity and pride of service, to receiving available discounts and other benefits in their communities.

Veterans Affairs Canada is also ensuring that recommendations from the Veterans Ombudsman's report on a Veteran ID card are considered as the initiative moves forward.

Veterans Affairs Canada is exploring a variety of options for a card and expect a Veterans card could include a photo, name, service affiliation, service dates and rank at release. The card would enhance the transition experience of releasing members by addressing the fact that releasing members are leaving the Canadian Forces without a card. There will be more information available as work advances.

Veterans Affairs Canada is working to ensure Veterans are aware of, and have access to, information in benefits and services that are available to them through the expansion of online and other outreach activities.