

Veteran Hiring in the Public Service

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As a military member who was injured in Afghanistan and slated for medical release, I found myself fortunate to be in a position where I had a work placement with the Public Service.

A former boss brought me on at Real Properties as a project manager. I found this to be a rewarding field which suited my talents and education. After almost three years I have had to move on to the private sector.

Even with a Red Seal, a CTech designation, a bachelor's degree, a master's in project management, numerous certifications and 27 years of experience in progressive levels of management I could not gain employment in the Public Service.

After 26 applications I managed to receive a single job interview and was regularly beaten out by candidates with far less education and experience (easily verified by comparing NAPA and LinkedIn profile). On the East Coast, it seems that Vets, even with Pri Hire, are easily screened out.

Little to no justification seems to be needed to screen out qualified members, little is done by VAC to address this amongst the departments and even DND in Gagetown have gone out of their way to make most of these jobs unavailable due to language criteria and no language training.

With the Transition Unit not even having a place for troops to sit down, let alone learn a skill, it is a monument to abject failure. Most members sit in their basements and drink or take illegal drugs until they are someone else's problem.

As they have little to no skills to make an easy transition to any workforce, public or private, we watch as a generation of these proud men and women become a shadow of what they once were.

There has to be something to address this on several levels and only one step is the issue of hiring flaws with the Public Service system.

Thank you for your time and effort on this file and for any solutions that come out of this frank discussion.

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