

Brief: House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

As per the email I received from Veterans in the Public Service Unit on April 12, 2019, I am submitting a short brief regard my experiences to date concerning applying for positions in the Federal Government

I am a 34 year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) who will be medically released from the CAF effective Sept 30, 2019. I am currently posted to Transition Centre Detachment Comox and have been scrambling for the last 1 ½ years to upgrade my education.

The question is why does a Chief Warrant Officer with all of his or her experience and training who has additionally carried out a successful appointment as a Regimental Sergeant Major of the largest Army Unit in Western Canada (1 Service Battalion) have to spend all this time upgrading their education?

Well, the reason is that the Public Service Alliance of Canada will not even consider you as a worthy candidate for simple AS (Administrative Services) positions within the Federal Government without a Diploma or Degree! They say that you maybe looked at if you have current and relevant experience, but quite honestly your application is quickly screened out.

It should be known that my experiences are all related to not having my “Priority Referral” number, however, with my knowledge, skills and training I should be viewed as an asset not hindrance because I do not possess a piece of paper (Diploma/Degree).

Probably the most frustrating of my experiences is my application submissions for positions (Administrative Services/Case Worker) within Veterans Affairs Canada that have been either dismissed for lack of education or my application sits for over a year in the inventory with no hope of ever being legitimately actioned.

Lastly, I find my latest attempt to work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans both amusing and disheartening. For the last year, I have jumped through their hoops and wrote their tests, answered more questions, and even sent in an updated Resume at their request. What has this gained me? Well DFO Human Resources believe I may be “**partially qualified**” to be placed in an AS 02 or PM 02 position. Quite honestly the process has been a waste of my time and once again my application is being judged due to the lack of formal education.

Sincerely

Thomas J Harrison, CD, PMP
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