



The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

5 December 2011

Dear Prime Minister:

The three modern day veterans organizations which are signatories to this letter want to express their serious concerns about the proposed budget cuts which were announced for Veterans Affairs Canada. These reductions are seen as a danger to the welfare of our veterans as they clearly would have some degree of detrimental effect on current services, and potential future services, to the hundreds of thousands of modern day veterans and their families on whose behalf we speak collectively.

All Canadians must remember the obligation and responsibility we have to our veterans for their service and sacrifice under the unwritten unlimited liability clause to which they were bound. There can be no reason which would justify a decrease in the depth and scope of the duty placed on Canadians for the continued well-being and dignity of our veterans. Although we do understand the financial challenges that our country faces, it would be a betrayal of trust to reduce the support and services to those who have served Canada unconditionally.

Prime Minister, on behalf of our members and all veterans, and their families, we ask you to stop the budget cuts to Veterans Affairs Canada and thus ensure the continued fulfilment of Canada's obligations to its veterans.

Sincerely,

Ray Kokkonen, C.D., President Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association

Allan Glass, C.D., President Gulf War Veterans Association of Canada

Gordon Jenkins, C.D., President NATO Veterans Organization of Canada