



## **Veteran's Licence Plate Eligibility Survey**

This engagement seeks feedback from British Columbians about whether they think the existing criteria for the Veteran's Licence Plate program should be changed to include police officers, or whether it should remain the same.

### **Program Background**

Beginning in 2004, military veterans have been eligible to apply for a special Veteran Licence Plate (VLP) to recognize and honour their service. The BC Veteran Commemorative Association's (BCVCA) volunteer Second World War and Korean War Veteran members administer the program on behalf of the Provincial government.

Since the program's inception, Government has received requests to expand the eligibility criteria to allow for other groups of drivers to be able to receive a VLP.

Most recently, the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Veterans' Association and others have requested the Province and ICBC consider making the plates available to police officers – specifically RCMP members.

For the purposes of issuing VLPs, there is no current consensus within Canada on the definition of a veteran. There is much context and a variety of perspectives that must be considered before any decision can be made on whether changes to this program would be appropriate.

To better understand where British Columbians stand on this issue, the Province is seeking public feedback to help guide any future program decisions. Please review the information on the program below and the

resources and news releases linked in the boxes on the right, and then take part in the survey.

The engagement will be live from July 23, 2018 until 4 pm on September 4, 2018.

## What a VLP looks like

The plates depict the National War Memorial in Ottawa and the red poppy that is synonymous with remembrance across Canada.



## Who is currently eligible

Drivers are eligible to apply for a VLP if they own or lease an eligible vehicle, and were honourably discharged from, or are currently serving in one of the following:

1. Second World War, Korea, Gulf War, the Balkan Wars, Afghanistan, or other UN Peacekeeping Missions as a member of:
  - The Canadian Armed Forces, or
  - An Allied Force, or
  - The Canadian or Allied War Time Merchant Navy
2. A member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Regular or Reserves, who successfully completed basic training.
3. United Nations (UN) or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) operations as a member of:
  - The Canadian Armed Forces, or
  - A UN or NATO Alliance Force serving in an operation with the Canadian Armed Forces
4. UN or NATO operation under command of the Canadian Armed Forces as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Municipal Police, or

## Correctional Services of Canada.

5. Similarly qualified member of a British Commonwealth of Nations Armed Force (though these members who are currently serving are not eligible).

The plate is available for most passenger vehicles, motorhomes, most trucks/vans/buses (under 5,500 kg), motorcycles and other kinds of eligible vehicles.

Since the program was created in 2004, an estimated 57,000 VLPs have been issued.

## How it works

Since the creation of the plate, applications have been managed by the BCVCA. Drivers who are applying for a plate must fill out an application form and send it, along with their appropriate proof of service documents and a \$10 payment to the BCVCA.

The BCVCA uses the fees it collects to fund commemorative work, such as constructing plaques, or for other dedications, such as handing out poppy seeds.

Once approved, Veteran plates are free for people who trade in their current licence plates. Applicants who are licensing a brand new vehicle for the first time are required to pay an \$18 fee to ICBC to receive their plates.

## What happens in other provinces/territories

To be eligible for a VLP:

- Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, PEI, Yukon and the Northwest Territories all require RCMP officers to have served in a UN or NATO operation.
- Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland do not require UN/NATO service and will issue VLPs to all regular members of the RCMP.

Currently, there is no uniform definition of a 'veteran' nationally that is also shared by all the provinces and territories, nor is there one agreed to by all the stakeholder groups who represent those people with military service. Listed below are some examples of the differing definitions.

**Royal Canadian Legion** – a veteran is any person who is serving or who has honourably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a special duty area or on a special duty operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime.

**Veteran Affairs Canada** – a veteran is any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces.

## Resources

- [ICBC Veteran Plates](#)
- [BC Veterans Commemorative Association](#)

## News Releases

- [VLP launch \(June 2004\)](#)
- [VLP expansion to include motorcycles, trucks and vans \(Nov 2004\)](#)
- [VLP expansion to include currently serving Canadian Forces members \(June 2012\)](#)
- [VLP expansion to include CF members with trade certification \(Aug 2012\)](#)