

to power-and-poli.

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From: **Ashlee Smith** <Ashlee.Smith@vac-acc.gc.ca>

Date: 21 November 2014 17:50

Subject: Response from the office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs

In response to some of the assertions made on the show today, I wanted to provide you with the following:

Veterans Affairs will make improvements, including installing a lift or new shower/tub to accommodate a service-related disability, and has done so many times. In addition to these benefits, the Veteran Independence Program will also add hand pedals to a vehicle in addition to services such as snow clearing, home cleaning and yard maintenance services.

To address the issue of homelessness, Veterans Affairs has partnered with VETS Canada to reach out to homeless Veterans the moment they are identified. In addition to this outreach, a Veteran with a mental health condition attributable to service is eligible for potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial benefits, in addition to rehabilitation and retraining. Anyone who knows a Veteran in need should contact Veterans Affairs immediately.

Additionally, Veterans Affairs has significantly increased the number of front line services available for Canadian Veterans who have a service related condition. These services include access to thousands of health care professionals across the country, 17 dedicated mental health clinics and 31 locations where Veterans Affairs and Canadian Armed Forces personnel work hand in hand to support Veterans and their families.

Ashlee Smith

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