



Biography

Brian N. Forbes, B.Comm., LL.B.

Brian Forbes has been the Association Solicitor for The War Amps since 1975 and has taken on the responsibilities of Chairman of the Executive Committee in relation to the governance and administration of the charitable programs of the Association since 2009. Brian also holds the position of Chairman of the [National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada](#), an umbrella organization established in the 1930s and currently consisting of more than 60 distinct veterans' associations.

He graduated from the University of Ottawa in 1971, Magna Cum Laude, a recipient of the Law School Gold Medal. He was a founding partner (1973) of the Ottawa law firm of Forbes Singer Shouldice. Much of Brian's law practice has been devoted to veterans' matters and to representing disabled individuals, with particular emphasis on war amputees and civilian/child amputees.

Brian is a leading expert in veterans legislation and has extensive experience in making presentations to the various adjudicative tribunals and appellate bodies that govern the Pension Act, the New Veterans Charter and ancillary legislation dealing with veterans benefits and entitlements. He has made numerous submissions to parliamentary committees and has taken a number of successful appeals to the Federal Court of Appeal of Canada, which have had significant relevance to the interpretation of the Pension Act as affecting the pension entitlement of seriously disabled veterans and a substantial expansion of the definition of Exceptional Incapacity Allowance.

In furtherance of his specialization with regard to international human rights law, he has made a number of appearances before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and has presented petitions to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on behalf of Canada's Hong Kong veterans, thalidomide victims and Indigenous veterans. In addition, he was instrumental in obtaining NGO (non-governmental organization) status for The War Amps in regard to the United Nations human rights system.

Brian was a long-standing member of the Board of Directors of the Perley Hospital and the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian War Museum and a member of the Veterans Ombudsman Advisory Committee.

In relation to the development of veterans health-care reform and the New Veterans Charter, he has sat as a member of the Gerontological Advisory Council, the Canadian Forces Advisory Council, the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group and various veterans consultation groups established by Veterans Affairs Canada to advise the department on the need for new legislation to address the concerns of traditional and modern-day veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. He is presently Co-Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Policy established in 2016.