

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

*1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association
435-436 & Burma Squadrons Association
Aircrew Association
Air Force Association of Canada
Armed Forces Pensioners' / Annuitants'
Association of Canada
Bomber Command Association Canada Inc.
Burma Star Association
Canadian Airborne Forces Association
Canadian Association of Fleet Air Arm Aircrew
Canadian Association of Veterans in United
Nations Peacekeeping
Canadian Corps Association
Canadian Fighter Pilots Association*

*Canadian Gulf War Veterans Association
Canadian Naval Air Group
Canadian Naval Divers Association
Canadian Paraplegic Association
Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association
Dieppe Veterans and Prisoners of War Association
Ferry Command Association
First Special Service Force Association
Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada
Jewish War Veterans of Canada
National Aboriginal Veterans Association
National Prisoners of War Association (E.T.) of
Canada
Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association*

*Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada
R.C.A.F. P.O.W. Association
Royal Air Forces Escaping Society
Royal Canadian Air Force Pre-War Club of Canada
South Alberta Regiment Veterans Association
The Dodo Bird Club of Ex-RCAF Flight Sergeants
The Korea Veterans Association of Canada
The Overseas Club - Canadian Red Cross Corps
(Overseas Detachment)
The Polish Combatants' Association in Canada
The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Association
The Royal Canadian Naval Association
The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded
The War Amputations of Canada*

July 10, 2001

BY FAX: (613) 993-0309

**Mr. Giuliano Zaccardelli
Chief Commissioner
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
1200 Vanier Parkway
Ottawa ON K1A 0R2**

**SUBJECT: Veterans' class action
Request for interest on accounts administered by Veterans
Affairs Canada**

Dear Mr. Zaccardelli,

Reference is made to the article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of July 10, 2001 by Mr. Mike Blanchfield, under the heading: "Lawyer for Veterans Asks for Criminal Probe."

According to the article, a request has been made by Mr. David Greenaway in regard to the commencement of a "criminal probe into whether senior government officials conspired to violate the privacy of a dead war veteran."

The article makes reference to a document addressed to me by Mr. Brian Forbes, Association Solicitor for The War Amputations of Canada and Secretary-General of the National Council of Veteran Associations.

The letter recounts discussions between Mr. Larry Murray, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, and myself; and between Mr. Brian Ferguson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Forbes.

The above-referenced discussions concerned the question of whether the Department could provide me with information regarding the financial details of any awards received by the late Mr. George Langen, or members of his family.

Mr. Ferguson did not provide such details to Mr. Forbes.

On April 14, 2001, I received a telephone call from Mr. Larry Murray, in which he informed me that the Department could not provide the information.

It is considered necessary to provide you with the background of this matter.

On December 9, 2000, I was interviewed by Ms. Wendy Kirschner of TVO. Subsequent to the interview, Ms. Kirschner suggested that there was the possibility of an application for "back interest" being made either by a Mrs. George Langen or by members of the family. She mentioned that Mrs. Langen's income was approximately \$300.00 a month.

This immediately raised questions in my mind. Subsequently, through my staff who deal with Veterans Affairs officials on a daily basis, I asked whether we could be provided with information regarding the income of this family.

For some reason or other, the lawyers acting for the class action concluded that I was requesting this information so that, in some way, I could use it either to support the argument of the Crown to have the decision of the lower Court reversed or, alternatively, to refute their defence of this decision.

It is ironic that the primary reason that I brought the situation to the attention of senior officials of the Department is that, if Mr. George Langen died as a result of his service, I would be in the position of asking that the Department review the circumstances, to determine whether, in fact, he was a War Disability Pensioner, which would have entitled his widow to a monthly award of \$2,220.99.

Another aspect of this case is whether, in fact, my request to Veterans Affairs Canada constitutes a violation of our privacy laws. In this regard, you should be aware that much of the information I was seeking was set out in an extensive letter to the Prime Minister dated November 10, 2000, and signed by Roger Langen, son of the veteran. This is public information and appears on a web site titled "Your opinion counts" (www.veteransinterest.org/langen.htm).

A copy of the letter and attachment, as downloaded in our own offices, is attached.

It will be noted that the letter gives a great deal of personal information regarding the unfortunate circumstances which occurred in the life of Mr. George Langen.

It is readily admitted by me that the letter does not provide specific information as to whether Mr. Langen was in receipt of War Disability Pension or War

Veterans Allowance (a form of social assistance where no war-caused injury exists).

When I saw this information, and I later received what I considered to be a “friendly” letter from the son, Mr. Roger Langen (copy attached), I was even more convinced that as an advocate of some standing before the War Disability Pension Tribunal, I could make a strong case for a posthumous award of pension.

I have not seen the letter addressed to you by Mr. David Greenaway. In speaking with two reporters who have seen the letter, however, I believe I would be entitled to categorize Mr. Greenaway’s accusations regarding breach of privacy as absurd.

Moreover, when Mr. Greenaway cross-examined me before a court reporter in my office on June 7, 2001, in regard to my affidavit, I was able to explain the close association which must necessarily exist between my organization and Veterans Affairs, if we are to carry out our task of assisting veterans, on a case-by-case basis.

If I may be permitted one more comment, I was totally surprised at the “thrust” of the article in the Ottawa Citizen, in that I had provided the reporter, Mr. Mike Blanchfield, with a copy of our news release (copy attached). At approximately 8:00 pm on July 9, he telephoned me at my home and I furnished further details as to the request to the Department for information. In this discussion, I re-emphasized that the Department had indeed answered my request; that is to say, I asked the Department whether I could have the information, and was told that I could not!

Yours sincerely,

**H. Clifford Chadderton, CC, O.Ont., OStJ, CLJ, CAE, DCL, LLD
Chairman**

HCC/st

**Encls.: Letter to the Prime Minister from Roger Langen
Letter to H. Clifford Chadderton from Roger Langen
NCVA News Release of July 9, 2001**

**Cc: Mr. Michael Koch, Goodman’s
Mr. Brian Forbes, Forbes, Singer, Smith, Shouldice
Mr. Larry Murray, Deputy Minister, Veterans Affairs Canada
Mr. Russell Mills, Publisher, *Ottawa Citizen***