

**From:** "Roger Langen" <rogerlan@home.com>  
**To:** "Email" <administration@waramps.ca>  
**Date:** Sun, Apr 22, 2001 11:30 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Mr. Clifford Chadderton

Dear Cliff Chadderton:

Thank you for communicating with me.

My remarks at the press conference were borne out of bafflement at your position and therefore were indeed sharply aimed. I understand that you would be offended and appreciate your sharing that with me.

When I wrote you earlier, I was unaware that a press conference was in the works. Had you had time to reply to some of my concerns, my tone would have been different. At the press conference, I was meeting David Greenaway and his press agent, Eleanor McMahon, for the first time.

Perhaps we could build a better understanding of our respective positions now. Here are some of my concerns as I read your e-mail, for example:

You speak "on behalf of the National Council of Veteran Associations in opposing" the class action. Does this mean that you were instructed by these associations to convey such a view? Do these associations, furthermore, have newsletters in which veterans express their views?

I do take the view expressed to be a "reflection" on my father's service to the war. More vigilance is required to ensure that a mentally disabled veteran is treated with respect. My father's inability to manage his own affairs should not mean that a trustee would feel that he were doing my father a "favor" by overseeing his pension, or that the money should not be invested, as that merely dramatizes the disability, as if to say, 'you are blind, we'll let you fall.'

As for actually criticizing my father, no, I do not see that you intend this.

I am not sure I understand the significance of the appellate and review procedure the NCVVA might advocate. If the court case succeeds, it won't be necessary; if the court case fails, it likewise won't be necessary, as presumably the 1990 law preventing retroactive claims will be upheld.

I don't think there can be any doubt that my father's claim is valid. The auditor general's warning in 1986, the government's pre-emptive law in 1990, and the summary judgment rendered against the government last fall - all suggest the validity of the claim. My father has no other claim than a claim to interest on the monies the government had in trust in his name. I don't like to hear it referred to as "so-called interest".

I have taken issue with you, but I do not categorize you. I understand that you, too, served your country well, and I respect you for it. Additional respect attaches to you, as it does not to my father, as you have made excellent use of your peace-time opportunities to represent others.

I am just trying to keep my father's head above water. He is who I represent. Your support would still be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roger Langen

----- Original Message -----

From: "Email" <administration@waramps.ca>

To: <rogerlan@home.com>

Sent: Friday, April 20, 2001 4:02 PM

Subject: Letter from Mr. Clifford Chadderton

> April 20, 2001

>

>

> Mr. Roger Langen

> (sent via e-mail)

>

>

> Dear Mr. Langen,

>

> This letter refers to comments you made during the press conference on

> April 18, 2001.

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> You used the words, "Shame on you," referring to the action taken by me

> on behalf of the National Council of Veteran Associations in opposing

> the class action claim.

>

> Firstly, I wish to make it clear that my views should in no way be

> considered as a reflection upon the war service of your late father. I

> have spent most of my adult life (much of it on a voluntary basis) in

> espousing the cause of compensation for war veterans and widows.

>

> As well, I have followed a personally-imposed policy that only under

> very exceptional circumstances would I criticize a fellow veteran.

>

> If I may address the situation directly as it could affect you, I bring

> to your attention that I have informed the Minister of Veterans Affairs

> that it will be the strong endeavour of NCVA to ensure that the

> government establishes an appellate or review procedure, regardless of

> the outcome of the court case. Therefore, if your claim is valid, I

> would make a commitment to you that I will do everything possible to

> ensure that justice is done in regard to any and all legitimate claims

> for the payment of so-called "interest" on funds administered by

> Veterans Affairs.

>

>

> I can conclude by saying that I would be less than human if I did not

> experience feelings of despair to have me branded with the sobriquet of

> "shame" on national television. I, too, served my country. I was twice

> wounded, the second time costing me my right leg, part of my left foot

> and numerous other grenade and shell wounds. This is known to many

> veterans who have communicated with me since the CPAC broadcast.

>

> Despite your categorization of me, I have no difficulty in understanding

> your position.

- >
- > Yours sincerely,
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- >
- > H. Clifford Chadderton, CC, O.Ont., OStJ, CAE, DCL, LLD
- > Chairman
- >
- > HCC/st
- >
- > Cc: The Right Honourable Jean ChrJ tien, Prime Minister of Canada
- > The Honourable Ron J. Duhamel, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- > Mr. Larry Murray, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs
- > Mr. Robert Linney, Director of Programming, CPAC
- > NCVA Member-Associations
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