

WAR AMPS & VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is the Collaborative Partnership?

Formally announced November 24th, 2015, it is a collaborative partnership between The War Amputations of Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to enhance the care of veteran amputees by sharing knowledge and expertise in the area of prosthetics and orthotics and amputation. It informs VAC's program management and policy development, and assists the Department in making informed decisions related to emerging equipment and treatment.

Q. Why have Veterans Affairs Canada and The War Amps entered into this collaborative partnership?

The War Amps was founded in 1918 by war amputee veterans returning home from the First World War with a philosophy of "amputees helping amputees." Veterans Affairs Canada recognizes that The War Amps has for nearly 100 years served as a national Centre of Excellence regarding all aspects of amputation for war, civilian and child amputees.

Q. What are the benefits of this shared approach?

VAC serves both younger, active veteran amputees who are in the workforce and older, aging veteran amputees. The shared approach provides them with a balance of the internal resources of VAC and the external resources of The War Amps. This improves access to up-to-date specialized amputee knowledge, experienced certified prosthetic and orthotic providers across Canada and timely access to new prosthetic technologies to ensure delivery of high quality services and allow them to remain active and independent in their homes and communities. By fostering partnership, The War Amps and VAC contribute to positioning Canada's health sector as a global leader at the forefront of amputee care.

Q. What specifically does The War Amps do as part of this partnership?

The War Amps provides VAC with:

- **Research:** on new and emerging technological advances in prosthetics and orthotics and treatments of value; on what services other countries' governments and private sector organizations provide; on contribution and support by health professionals to address the needs of veteran amputees; on the physical and psychological challenges they face, and on how VAC can enhance its role to assist them in gaining and maintaining an independent quality of life.
- **Advice and guidance:** on development or amendment of policies, guidelines and benefit grids; on needs and issues regarding veteran amputees' circumstances; and on their transition from the Canadian Armed Forces to VAC.
- **Education and awareness:** educating VAC staff and other stakeholders on amputee issues and needs; preparing educational presentations or resource material; providing timely communication of amputee issues and needs, and advising and educating on emerging services and technological advances for amputees.
- **A vital navigator:** for veteran amputees in accessing and understanding their full benefits and entitlements, helping them through their transition.

Q. Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact Karen Valley, Director of The War Amps National Amputee Centre, 1 877 622-2472 or email karen.valley@waramps.ca.