



Don Davies, MP

Interim Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

March 23, 2026

Dear Interim Leader Davies,

On behalf of Veterans with Cancer Inc., I am pleased to share our enclosed paper, *Doing More with Less: How Veterans Affairs Canada Can Exceed Service Standards Despite Budget Cuts*, and to invite your attention and support for a practical reform: the implementation of an **Early Dispute Resolution (EDR)** program for veterans' disability claims.

As Interim Leader of the NDP and a long-standing advocate for veterans' rights, your public concern over access to timely and fair benefits aligns closely with the challenges outlined in our paper. Veterans continue to experience multi-year delays in the resolution of disability benefit claims, and recent reductions to the Bureau of Pensions Advocates have further limited access to impartial legal support for those navigating this complex system.

The EDR program we propose introduces a facilitated resolution step between initial VAC decisions and formal appeals. Evidence from comparable jurisdictions—including VAC's own Early Resolution pilot—demonstrates that a majority of disputes can be resolved earlier, reducing wait times, lowering system costs, and improving fairness, while fully preserving veterans' right to formal review when needed.

We believe that your office could play a significant role in advancing awareness and consideration of this proposal within Parliament and with Veterans Affairs Canada. Support from your office could include raising questions in parliamentary debate, advocating during committee hearings, or encouraging the department to consider pilot implementation under the oversight of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board to ensure independence and credibility.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss this proposal further, provide supporting evidence, and explore how it could be advanced in a way that directly benefits veterans while respecting current budget constraints.

Veterans have waited far too long for timely, fair decisions. The EDR initiative provides a practical, evidence-based path forward, and we would be honoured to have your support in promoting it.

Respectfully,

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Enclosures (2)