



November 25, 2024

Veterans with Cancer Inc.
Advocacy & Awareness
393 Third Street West
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 7A2

Dear Commander (ret'd) Hutton,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November, 2024. As I believe that you understand, Veterans come to BPA when they are dissatisfied with the outcome of their VAC applications, i.e. after a decision has been rendered by VAC adjudicators. I am pleased to hear that VAC will be giving a more generous interpretation to, and fully considering of Regulation 50(g), and I hope that more matters will be successfully resolved before they come to BPA.

I have argued 50(g) as well as Section 21(3)(g) of the *Pension Act*, successfully on several occasions (see for example 100003542993 (Re), - a case which discussed 50(g) at length), as have our lawyers. Just a small sample of some cases where 50(g) has been argued before the VRAB includes 100003682245 (Re), 100004729968 (Re), 100003709077 (Re), 100004421495 (Re), 1000005403348, all of which I offer for your consideration.

While we are gratified that the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) has taken a more expansive view of the legislation under the current Chair and Vice-Chair, I can personally attest to the fact that I argued these same legislative provisions for many years without success, and I am very hopeful that the current approach will be followed in the future.

As Veterans contact our service because they are not satisfied with VAC's treatment of their matter, our approach is to attempt to find evidence that responds to whatever issues the VAC decision cites as justifying full or partial denial. This often includes a lack of recognition of the link to service. We look for any evidence, including medical evidence, that will support the case. In thousands of cases we have been successful because the doctor will do research or will send our clients to specialists who can, and do, write supportive reports.

While we are extremely conscious of the strain this may place on our clients and the difficulties there are in obtaining helpful reports, when we do have medical support for a claim is almost always assists in obtaining entitlement for the Veteran.

I will revisit the wording of requests that you quote in your letter to us, but please understand that I consider it incumbent upon our lawyers to exhaust every reasonable avenue to obtain supportive evidence and we will certainly expect them to continue to do so.

I would be happy to discuss all of these issues with you further at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Woodman, Steven

Digitally signed by Woodman,
Steven
Date: 2024.11.25 15:14:55 -04'00'

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