



Canadian Forces Personnel Newsletter

SISIP FS term life insurance FAQ

From Ms Joyce Sharp, Communications and Marketing Manager, SISIP Financial Services

At the best of times, buying life insurance can seem complex and hard to understand. When you or your spouse/partner is deploying, that complexity seems to multiply.

"No one wants to leave their family unprepared for the future," says André Bouchard, SISIP FS President. "We recommend that serving and former members of the CF and their families meet with a SISIP FS licensed insurance representative for sound advice on financial protection."

Why do I need life insurance?

Unless you are financially independent, you need life insurance. Your life insurance benefits will allow your family to continue living reasonably, and fulfill their financial goals. Life insurance provides a guarantee of adequate financial protection.

What are some of the most important features of the plan?

All SISIP FS term life insurance plans offer:

- guaranteed payment of claims, even if you die while serving in a theatre of operations;

- no exclusions for dangerous occupations, hobbies, volunteer activities or sports;
- less stringent medical underwriting requirements, in most instances;
- life insurance coverage for your dependent children to an amount of \$10 000; and
- accidental dismemberment benefits for you (for injuries non-attributable to military service) and your insured spouse/partner and dependent children.

If you have been released from the CF and are covered under either the Optional Group Term Insurance Plan or the Reserve Term Insurance Plan, you are entitled to transfer coverage to Insurance for Released Members without evidence of insurability within 60 days following the effective date of your release.

How much or little can I buy?

All SISIP FS optional term life insurance can be purchased in increments of \$10 000 to a maximum of \$400 000.

How much will it cost?

With some of the most competitive rates in the insurance industry, these plans are age-banded, and increase every five years. Premiums are also based on smoker/



non-smoker status and on the amount of coverage purchased, based on your family's financial needs.

There's more risk when I'm deployed. Do I need more life insurance?

Without a doubt, you face additional risk in a theatre of operations, but this

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Canadian Defence Community Banking: Uniquely yours

By Ms Kim Ann Charest, CDCB Program Manager, CFPSA

Canadian Defence Community Banking (CDCB) is the happy result of input from CF personnel married with the banking expertise of CIBC, all managed by the CF Personnel Support Agency. Launched in 2005, CDCB was created with you in mind, offering value-added banking that meets the unique needs of the CF community – your community.

- CDCB:
- minimizes the impact of frequent relocations by having an account that moves with you, and by removing credit penalties that affect borrowing rates;
 - maximizes your savings by offering the highest paid interest savings account, currently paying 4.25%;
 - provides knowledgeable brokers who can help with mortgage interest subsidies to transferees under the IRP;
 - simplifies travel with a bank card that can be used for cash withdrawals anywhere in the world where there is Interac or PLUS, and offers no limits on the number of accounts you open, so

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Transition interviews provide valuable tools, information

By Ms Ruthanne Urquhart

The Canadian Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) know that when you're releasing, chances are you're keen to get on with it. Maybe a civilian career awaits you; maybe you're anticipating going back to school. If you're releasing medically, you may be gearing up for retraining, or taking time to receive necessary rehab. You may even be contemplating full- or part-time retirement.

Whatever your circumstances may be, the CF and VAC understand that your needs are very different from those of traditional veterans. If you are the average releasing member of the CF today, you are 36 years old, an age when

you and your family should be looking forward to a long and productive future.

One vital checkpoint along the road to successful release from the Canadian Forces is the VAC transition interview (VAC-TI).

VAC-TIs, a joint CF/VAC initiative launched in 2004, are mandatory face-to-face meetings between every releasing member of the Regular Force, and every medically-releasing member of the Reserve Force, and his or her local VAC area counsellor.

Your transition interview is where you'll learn about the many benefits and services available to you from VAC, including the suite of programs under the New Veterans Charter (NVC) that came into effect April 1, 2006. These include

rehabilitation services, health benefits, job placement assistance, financial support, disability awards, and case management.

Your transition interview will provide you an opportunity to fully explore your options. By having your TI early in your release process, the VAC counsellor can help you apply for benefits and plan for your release. Medically releasing personnel who released on or after April 1, 2006 are automatically eligible for the VAC rehabilitation program upon application within 120 days of their release date. Voluntarily releasing personnel, or medically

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CF, Algonquin College partner on Geomatics Tech program

From CFPN

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the CF and Ottawa's Algonquin College are collaborating on the delivery of a Geomatics Technician program to CF students.

This initiative, part of the Canadian Forces Training Delivery program, will see about 30 students enter the college's School for Military Mapping, developed exclusively for CF personnel, for Geomatics Technician entry-level training.

Geomatics is the measurement, management, presentation and analysis of geospatial data. Geospatial data is a combination of geographical, meteorological, social and other data that is processed using spatial software to create a three-dimensional "picture" of a battle space. CF Geomatics Techs are the 21C military mappers who advise operational commanders on the many and varied elements in a battle space that may impact upon what takes place in that battle space.

The new program will allow the geomatics trade to double its number of graduates in one year. In addition, with the development of community college partnerships, the CF can increase advanced training for personnel already in the system.

CF instructors will deliver the military-specific content while providing context for the portions of the training delivered by Algonquin College staff. The visible presence of professional military personnel in a community college may also serve to further CF recruiting efforts.

The partnership with Algonquin College is part of an overall initiative to transform the delivery of training in the CF by increasing our productive training capacity, reducing the reliance on military personnel in the training system, and training entry-level personnel in a more timely manner. The CF Mapping and Charting Establishment and Canadian Forces Support Training Group worked together to develop the geomatics partnership program. The program is part of the Community College Delivery strand of the Alternative Training Delivery initiative sponsored through the Canadian Defence Academy. A number of other Community College Delivery initiatives are underway, aimed at transforming the avenues through which CF personnel receive occupation training.

The value of the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) contract is \$600 000 annually through the next five years. ♦

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releasing personnel after the 120-day period, may also apply but under a different set of criteria.

Growing pains

The transition interview process has proved successful and accessible for CF personnel releasing medically – they have CF case managers working with VAC area counsellors to guide them through the release process – including their mandatory VAC-TI. However, getting personnel who are voluntarily releasing to schedule and attend their VAC-TIs is sometimes a challenge.

"Release clerks can be frustrated trying to organize transition interviews for personnel, especially the ones on 30-day release," says Lieutenant-Commander Roger Shaw, VAC liaison on the Directorate Quality of Life (DQOL) Release and Transition team. "They aren't really interested in attending because, initially, they can't see the benefits."

If you release without a transition interview and never apply for a disability award (VAC maintains contact with clients who are in receipt of a disability award or disability pension), you might never have any contact with VAC. You might not receive services and benefits you need, and to which you are entitled, because you won't be aware of what's available to you. Moreover, VAC won't have you on their radar, and so won't contact you about benefits and service changes, and other important information.

Releasing personnel have a variety of reasons for not scheduling a transition interview. Those who are in good health and already have jobs or schooling lined up don't see the need. Some are just eager to get on with getting out, and some can't manage to schedule a time when everyone involved can get together.

"Sometimes," says VAC National Standards and Education Officer Ms Laura Perilli, "processes aren't being followed, or can't be followed. Personnel who are on voluntary release are showing up at the last minute, or after their release. Sometimes it just has to do with timing, or a lack of resources or space. However, we are starting a review that may highlight some of the barriers we are encountering."

"And in the new year," adds LCdr Shaw, "CF and VAC representatives will be making base visits again, to talk with case managers and VAC counsellors. This might help identify these potential problems a little quicker and provide solutions to solve them."

Just do it

VAC area counsellors work closely with release cells and CF case managers (if you're releasing for medical reasons) to ensure you receive seamless support. If you are anticipating a 30-day release, you should schedule your VAC-TI within seven days after you receive your release notice. If you are scheduled for a six-month or longer

release, you should plan to have your VAC-TI within the first month after you receive your release notice. These timeframes give your VAC area counsellor an opportunity to conduct any necessary preparations on behalf of you and your family, or to take follow-up steps after the interview.

Whether you're on a 30-day release, anticipating a six-month release or releasing medically, don't let your VAC-TI fall through the cracks. You may already have a job, schooling or rehab organized (and that's good), but you still must schedule and attend a transition interview. Your VAC area counsellor is a professional who may think of something you've overlooked. Even if you've dotted every "i" and don't need any of the VAC-TI services when you release, the contact numbers, e-mail addresses, URLs and general good suggestions you'll receive may prove useful down the road.

And don't forget to include your family in your VAC-TI. They, too, are beginning this new phase of life, and transition interviews have been specifically designed to provide information to you all.

Your transition interview will give you and your client service team member a chance to go over your plans, your possibilities and your needs to make sure that you and your family are as well-informed and well-equipped as possible for your move to the civilian world.

Locations with VAC presence on-site:

- ♦ CFB Halifax
- ♦ CFB Greenwood
- ♦ ASU Galetown
- ♦ Garrison Montréal/St-Jean
- ♦ Garrison Valcartier
- ♦ CFB Bagotville (outreach from Garrison Valcartier)
- ♦ CFSU Ottawa
- ♦ CFB Petawawa
- ♦ CFB Kingston
- ♦ CFB Trenton
- ♦ ASU Toronto (outreach from CFB Trenton)
- ♦ CFB Borden
- ♦ 17 Wing Winnipeg
- ♦ CFB/ASU Shilo
- ♦ ASU Edmonton
- ♦ CFB Cold Lake (outreach from ASU Edmonton)
- ♦ CFB Esquimalt
- ♦ CFB Comox (outreach from CFB Esquimalt)

- Read CANFORGEN I 173/07 at http://vcfds.mil.ca/vcdfs-exec/pubs/canforgen/index_e.asp for information and references.
- Consult VAC at www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=forces/transition for information on the transition process, and at www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/ for comprehensive information on benefits, services and programs under the New Veterans Charter.
- Access background information on transition interviews at www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/10_04/10_04_vac-ti_e.asp and at www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/7_04/7_04_vac-ti_e.asp. ♦

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additional risk does not mean you need to increase your life insurance coverage. Whether you are in a theatre of operations overseas or driving your car from home to work, your life insurance needs remain the same. You want your family to live reasonably, no matter what happens, or where.

That said, before you deploy is an opportune time to review your life insurance policy with a licensed insurance representative. He or she will help you make sure you have adequate coverage to protect your family.

How do I figure out my family's financial needs?

The best way is to consult with a licensed SISIP FS life insurance representative, who will conduct a needs-analysis to determine the financial needs of your loved ones.

What if I don't have any financial obligations?

If you are single, have no dependents, and are without financial obligations, you may need only a small amount of life insurance.

If you have dependent children—whether you're single or with a

spouse/partner—you need to consider income replacement needs for those children, and for your surviving spouse/partner if you have one. These needs could include an emergency fund, additional childcare expenses, mortgage, education expenses, personal debt, or special medical needs.

A SISIP FS life insurance representative will also take into consideration other financial benefits your survivors will receive, such as those paid under the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* (CFSA), the Supplementary Death Benefit (SDB) lump sum payments (equal to twice your annual salary), and other relevant sources of income.

What kinds of life insurance does SISIP FS have?

SISIP FS offers three optional term life insurance plans:

- The Optional Group Term Insurance (OGTI) plan, designed for serving Regular Force personnel and their spouses/partners.
- The Reserve Term Insurance Plan (RTIP), designed for serving Reserve Force personnel and their spouses/partners.
- The Insurance for Released Members (IRM) plan, designed for the needs of the released personnel and their spouses/partners.

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.sisip.com or call 1-800-267-6681. ♦

Example / Optional Group Term Insurance Plan monthly premiums for serving members									
Age	younger than 25	25-39	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and older
Non-smoker \$10K	\$0.70	\$0.60	\$0.65	\$0.80	\$1.05	\$1.35	\$2.00	\$3.40	\$4.30
Smoker \$10K	\$1.05	\$0.95	\$1.10	\$1.25	\$1.80	\$3.00	\$4.90	\$5.40	\$6.45