

Secretary of State
(Veterans)



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(Anciens combattants)

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JAN 29 1996

Mr. Jim Durocher
President
Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
2nd Floor, 219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 6M8

Dear Mr. Durocher:

The Honourable David Collette, Minister of Veterans Affairs, has asked me to respond to your letter of October 16, 1995, in which you request funding for a conference of Saskatchewan Metis veterans in Saskatoon. As Mr. Gordon Kirby, M.P., has also written on your behalf, I will be sending him a copy of my reply.

I regret to disappoint you, but Veterans Affairs Canada does not provide funding for conferences of veterans' associations. This is because the budget the Department receives is almost exclusively reserved for direct benefits for veterans, such as disability pensions and health care, and financial support for veterans and their dependants or survivors.

You may be interested to know that Veterans Affairs Canada has produced a booklet describing the accomplishments and sacrifices of Aboriginal veterans. I have enclosed a copy. We would be pleased to make copies available to participants of your conference.

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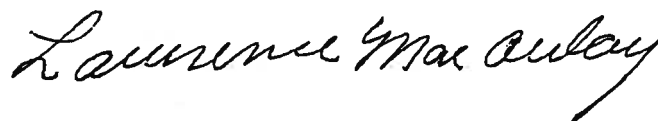
House of Commons Chambre des communes
Ottawa, Ontario Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6

In your letter, you refer to "lost soldiers" who have never received any kind of veterans' compensation. In general, veterans who were disabled in the line of duty or who have economic need and meet the legislated eligibility requirements receive benefits from the Department. Not every veteran receives them, however, and I would urge any veteran who believes he or she is not receiving the benefits to which they are entitled to contact the nearest district office of Veterans Affairs Canada. Staff are always pleased to discuss our programs, including their eligibility criteria. I have also enclosed our pamphlet *Services and Benefits* which lists our district offices along with their telephone numbers. Additional copies are available if you would like them.

Again, I am sorry I cannot provide your association with funding. I hope your conference is successful and I thank you for writing.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence MacAulay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.

Enclosures