



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

**Serving Veterans Since 1909**



LAST POST FUND  
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- Mission
- Funeral and Burial Program
- Other programs, initiatives and commemorative activities
- Conclusion

# Arthur H.D. Hair (1873-1947)

Veteran of the South African War  
(1899-1902)

Head Orderly at Montreal Hospital  
where trooper James Daly died in  
1908

*... This was the event that  
inspired the founding of the  
Last Post Fund in 1909.*



# Our Mission



“To ensure that no Veteran is ever deprived of a dignified funeral, burial and headstone for lack of financial resources at time of death”

In collaboration with:



Anciens Combattants  
Canada

Veterans Affairs  
Canada

# The Organisation



Governing Board,  
(pictured in 2022)

## Volunteers

**Branches in every province**

**Quebec Branch** operates the National Field of Honour (Pointe-Claire, QC)

## Paid operational staff

- National Office in Pointe-Claire, QC  
- Staff working remotely

A National Client Service Centre operating nationwide

# Funeral and Burial Program

## -Our Primary Mandate -

Provision of funeral and burial services for eligible Veterans



- up to \$7,376\* for funeral services; additional funding available for burial and grave marking
- This program is fully funded by VAC and is in line with the Canadian Government's ***Veterans Burial Regulations***
- \*Certain conditions apply.



# Funeral & Burial Program

- Eligibility criteria
- Benefits provided



# Eligibility

**Definition of a Veteran (VAC):  
Any former member of the  
Canadian Armed Forces who  
successfully underwent basic  
training and is honourably  
discharged.**

- Eligibility extended to all Canadian Veterans, effective 31 March 2014
- Added potential of some 600,000 Modern Day Veterans







# Eligibility – Service Criteria

In addition to Canadian Forces Veterans, Merchant Navy Veterans and Allied Veterans are also eligible for our programs.

- ▶ Canadian Forces Veterans
- ▶ Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans
- ▶ Allied Veterans of the Second World War or the Korean War – under certain conditions

Service records may be requested from the Department of National Defence:


<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/contact-us/military-records.html>

# Eligibility – financial need

Once a Veteran's service is established, the next step is to determine financial need. This is done in one of two ways:



- Matter-of-right
- Means testing



# Matter-of-Right

In certain circumstances, a Veteran is eligible to receive benefits *without* means testing. This applies to:

- Veteran receiving disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) at time of death
- Death related to pensioned disability, determined by VAC medical authority

For all other situations, a financial evaluation or “means test” at time of death takes into account : marital status, number of dependents, net assets.

# Means test - Veteran with Spouse

If the Veteran was married, an evaluation of combined net assets is made.



Liabilities/debts + costs for funeral and burial are deducted from total assets, in addition to an estate exemption of \$38,229\*

- Note: this amount is adjusted annually every January 1<sup>st</sup> to reflect cost of living.

## Excluded from the evaluation are:

- Family home
- Family car
- Income received during month of death

# Means Test - Single Veteran

If the Veteran was single, an evaluation is made of net assets at time of death.



❖ *Excluding joint bank accounts*

- All existing debts and liabilities
- Funeral and Burial Expenses
- All cheques received during month of death

Eligibility is confirmed if funds are **not sufficient to cover funeral and burial expenses.**

The background of the slide features a photograph of two elderly men in military uniforms. They are both wearing red berets and olive green jackets. The man on the left is smiling broadly, and the man on the right is also smiling and shaking his hand. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be the primary focus.

## Important:

**Each case being unique, not all Veterans are eligible for benefits under the Funeral and Burial Program.**

This is why we urge families of Veterans to contact the Last Post Fund to discuss their specific situation.



# Services Provided

## Standard service (Type 1)

Contact made with Last Post Fund before funeral is arranged.

- LPF then contracts directly with funeral home

## Assisted service (Type 2)

Eligibility established after funeral has taken place.

- Estate is reimbursed for allowable costs.

*Note:* There is a **one-year** time limit to apply for benefits.



# Items covered under the Funeral & Burial program

Professional services up to a maximum amount of \$7,376 + tx including:

- ▶ Services of a Funeral Director and of a chaplain
- ▶ Casket, urn or casket rental; hearse and limousine; viewing at the funeral home; obituary; stationary; luncheon

## At the cemetery:

- Lowest cost burial
- Lowest cost of inurnment in a Columbarium
- Cremation container and cremation fees
- Opening and closing of grave or niche
- Military-style grave marker
- Perpetual care of plot or niche





# Sample standard markers



Upright barre grey granite



Flat barre grey granite



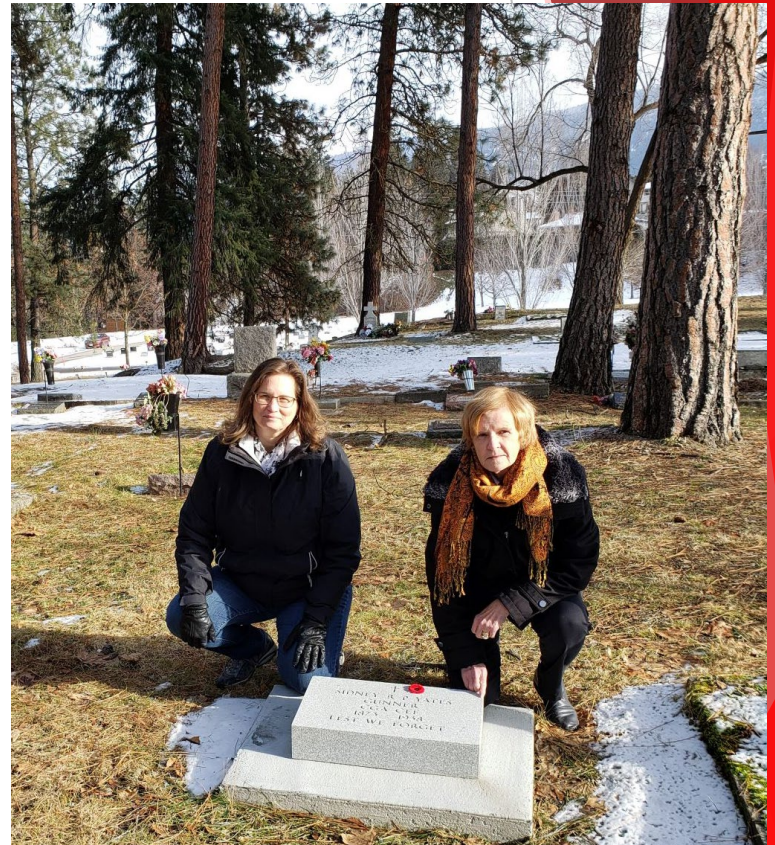
Flat bronze

# Unmarked Grave Program

Created in 1996 by the Last Post Fund, the program objective is to install a military marker on the graves of Veterans:

- Buried at least 5 years
- Lying in unmarked graves

To date, over 7,700 graves have been marked thanks to the Unmarked Grave Program. The recently-launched “Lost Veterans Initiative” aims to support researchers in their field work.





# Lost Veterans Initiative

Launched in January 2021 in response to increasing volunteer interest in finding unmarked Veterans graves.

The Initiative aims to encourage and support new and existing researchers in their volunteer work, by providing :

- a starter toolkit containing program information as well as a research guide
- LPF promotional items
- A t-shirt identifying them as researchers “in the field”
- Access to online forum for researchers & a variety of online tools



# Indigenous Initiative

Launched in March 2019, this initiative aims to commemorate Veterans from Canada's Indigenous communities.



- Provide a military marker & choice of symbol to unmarked Indigenous Veterans graves
- Add the Indigenous Veteran's traditional name to an existing marker



# Indigenous Initiative

To date, 165+ Indigenous Veterans graves markers have been ordered or placed. Thanks to the Indigenous Veterans Initiative.



The Last Post Fund offers a catalogue of culturally-appropriate commemorative symbols. The IVI works with researchers from Indigenous communities across Canada.

# Other programs and activities

- DND Markers
- National Field of Honour, Pointe-Claire
- Fields of Honour and Columbariums
- Commemorative Ceremonies







# Dept. of National Defense Marker Program

The Last Post Fund  
Works with DND to  
provide headstones for  
currently serving  
Canadian Armed  
Forces Members.



# Commemorative monuments



Monuments commemorating Veterans are eligible for partial funding through the Commemorative Partnership Program (VAC). Also eligible are community engagement projects.

*Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens  
Cenotaph erected by LPF-BC  
Branch in Burnaby, BC*

# National Field of Honour



Inaugurated in 1930 in Pointe-Claire, Quebec the National Field of Honour is a permanent memorial of gratitude to Veterans.

- Resting place for over 22,000 Veterans and their close family members
- Designated as a National Historic Site since 2009



# Commemorative Ceremonies



Commemorative ceremonies are held every year on the first weekend in June and on Remembrance Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. These ceremonies may be viewed online, on our Facebook page, our website and our YouTube channel.

Annual June commemorations take place:

- on the St. Lawrence River in Montreal's Old Port
- at the Mount-Royal cemetery
- at the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour



# Adopt a Field of Honour

# Adoptez un Champ d'honneur

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Unmarked Grave Program, we are asking that you adopt a Field of Honour.

Don't let them be forgotten.

À l'occasion du 25e anniversaire du Programme de sépultures non marquées, nous vous demandons d'adopter un Champ d'honneur. Ne les laissons pas dans l'oubli.

Last Post Fund | Fonds du Souvenir ~ Lost Veterans Initiative | Initiative pour Vétérans oubliés

1-800-465-7113 / [info@lastpost.ca](mailto:info@lastpost.ca)

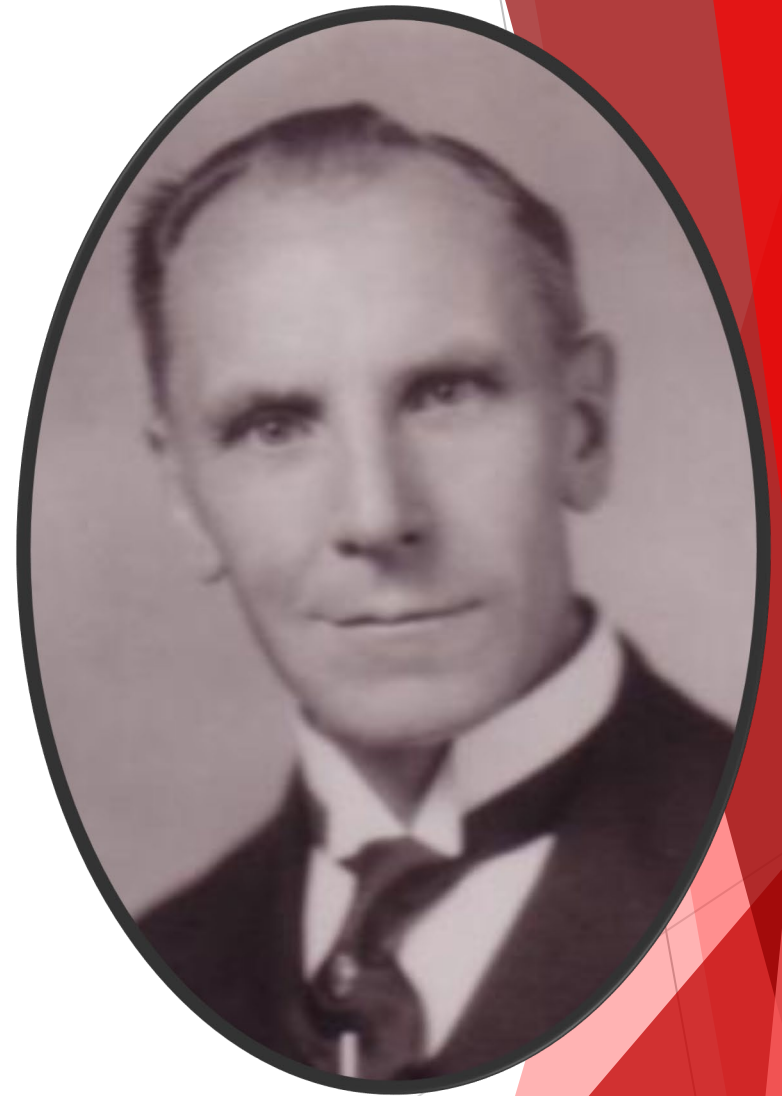




## In Closing...

*“To honour and protect in death seems but a small return to those who have protected their country in life.”*

- Arthur Hair





Contact us!

T: 1-800-465-7113

[www.lastpostfund.ca](http://www.lastpostfund.ca)



@lastpostfund