

From: [Nicolas Hébert \(VAC/ACC\)](#)
To: [Tim Yeaman](#)
Subject: RE: Reaching out
Date: Friday, June 14, 2024 5:48:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Good morning Tim,

I reached out to management on this one so we could produce the best response for all parties involved. I apologize in advance for the length of the message, but this program so black and white.

The Funeral and Burial Program is indeed still in place. Through this program, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides financial assistance for the funeral, burial, cremation, and grave marking of eligible Veterans. The Last Post Fund delivers this program on behalf of VAC. There are two types of assistance available: matter of right (Veteran's death is related to military service, as determined by VAC medical authority) and means tested (financial need as determined by a means test). Further details on eligibility and how to apply may be found here: [Funeral and burial assistance \(veterans.gc.ca\)](#)

Grave markers placed through the Funeral and Burial Program are cared for by VAC, in perpetuity, through our [Grave Marker Maintenance Program](#). For the grave markers that fall under the responsibility of VAC, we are responsible for inspecting them periodically as well as arranging and paying for the required maintenance. Insurance and flags are not items covered by VAC's Grave Marker Maintenance Program. If polishing is referring to cleaning of the marker, then we do that (polishing is not the term used for this type of maintenance work by our Department). Please note that not all Veteran grave markers fall under VAC's purview. As noted above, only those markers paid for by VAC through the Funeral and Burial Program fall within our responsibility.

In the unfortunate instance where a Veteran grave marker has been vandalized, we work with the cemetery owner to address the repairs needed or replace the marker, if required. Each case is unique so we encourage you to reach out immediately should a Veteran marker be vandalized.

VAC does not have a grant program to help cemeteries with maintenance of Veteran grave markers that we do not maintain. However, we do have a program that provides funding to organizations undertaking remembrance initiatives such as the construction, restoration or expansion of a community war memorial, as well as community engagement events and activities commemorating Veterans and those who died in service. More information on the Commemorative Partnership Program, including eligibility criteria, can be found here: [Commemorative Partnership Program - Funding Programs - Remembrance - Veterans Affairs Canada](#). Should you have questions on this funding program, please contact the Commemorative Partnership Program team by email at cpp-ppc@veterans.gc.ca.

VAC is committed to paying the full cost of the replacement marker. We could have the marker delivered and have Cemetery staff continue with the installation, or have Remco install and bill separately. If needed, we could have more discussions on this matter.

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. I understand that Remco has not yet replaced the marker in either PA cemeteries just yet. They are finalizing the renderings and will be sending them to me shortly.

Kindest regards,

Nicolas Hébert, CD

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From: Tim Yeaman <TYeaman@citypa.com>
Sent: June 10, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Nicolas Hébert (VAC/ACC) <nicolas.hebert@veterans.gc.ca>
Subject: Reaching out
Importance: High

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Good afternoon Nicolas,

I hope all is going well, hard to believe we are almost half way through the year but here we are and where the time goes I am unsure.

I wanted to reach out on a couple of fronts as we had a conversation internally about the Last Post's Fund and Care/Maintenance/Replacement/Upkeep of existing monuments and grave-sites this morning and I was unable to answer all the questions but hoping you can help or point me in the direction where I can find the information.

I want to ensure I understand responsibilities both from the Veterans front and the Municipality front so please bear with me as I try to explain in hopes you can maybe fill in the blanks.

Last Post Fund's Mission is to ensure that No Veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, as well as a military gravestone, due to insufficient funds at the time of the death. This is a program that is primarily delivered through the Veteran Affairs Canada program for those that are eligible. Is this program still in place and if not is there a program that replaces it?

Secondly we had the replacement of the Upright Marker for Private Evans here at the South Hill Cemetery just recently and that of Private Woodman at the at the St. Mary's Cemetery as well as or maybe this is still in progress. At the time of our conversation we had spoken about the City's ability to help off-set some or all of that costs of the replacement of at least Private Evans Marker. I am still open to this conversation but aside from that I do have a question which will not change my conversation around contribution. I am wondering if you could tell me if there is a protocol when replacing markers, expectations, cost recovery that could help me understand financial contributions or if there is ever grants that may become available to help assist with the care and maintenance of Veteran's graves and whether having matching dollars available would help assist in those types of requests. I want to put together a plan on this end to help better understand our responsibilities and look at whether budgeted dollars each year would be necessary to help when we get requests for replacement, care and maintenance.

If you have any information that may help me in understanding more about this relationship so I can better plan moving forward that would be fantastic.

To provide some additional context, the Legion here in the City has indicated that Veteran's affairs covers all of the costs for the following:

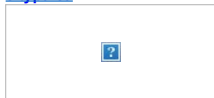
- Deterioration
- Replacement
- Refurbishment
- Cleaning
- Painting
- Polishing
- Restoration
- Replacement of Flags
- Insurance Protection for all liability and vandalism

Thank you Nicolas for your assistance in helping me better understand how Veteran Affairs Operates and what that protocol looks like.

Have a fantastic day and please let's have that conversation on Private Evans headstone.

Respectfully,

Timothy Yeaman
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