



BCVCA  
PO Box 4903, Stn Terminal  
Vancouver B.C. V6B 4A6  
Canada  
(604) 770-3498  
info@bcveterans.org

## British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA)

*Freedom is not given. It is earned.*

### British Columbia Veteran Licence Plate Backgrounder and Instructions

British Columbia Veteran licence plates are available to any member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has served and was honourably discharged or is currently serving, and has successfully underwent basic training. Unveiled by British Columbia Premier Gordon M. Campbell and Lt Col (Ret'd) Archie M. Steacy, CD, on 04 June 2004, in Victoria, British Columbia to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944.



#### BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association provide herewith, the background information regarding the development of and the establishment of the eligibility criteria, application form and issue of the British Columbia Veteran Specialty Licence Plates.

In January 2004 Lt Col Ret'd Archie M. Steacy, CD, President of the British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA) and Ms. Sharel Fraser, Director General of Canada Remembers, Veterans Affairs Canada, Pacific Region (VACPR) made representation to Premier Gordon Campbell to establish British Columbia Veterans Licence Plates.

The British Columbia Veteran Licence Plate initiative was established to recognize and honour the military service of discharged Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and our wartime Allies.

Premier, the Honourable Gordon Campbell and Solicitor General, the Honourable Rich Coleman met with Colonel Steacy and Ms. Fraser in January 2004 to receive a proposal and discuss the possibility of proceeding with a Veteran licence plate initiative. The British Columbia Government takes great pride in recognizing and honouring men and women who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces in the cause of freedom, peace, past and present and the rule of law. The poignant commemorative nature of a Veteran Licence Plate to recognize and honour Canadian and our wartime Allies military service was embraced without hesitation, with the initiative being officially sanctioned by the British Columbia Government.

Premier Campbell established a working committee comprised of members of BCVCA, VACPR and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC). The initial task of the working committee was to recommend the licence plate design. The working committee delivered plate designs to the ICBC graphic design team, who in turn, forwarded two final designs to the working committee for consideration. Members of the working committee agreed on the licence plate design featuring a portion of the soldiers marching through the National War Memorial Arch, the word VETERAN, a Canadian flag, a red poppy of remembrance with a sky blue background, with the Veteran licence plate numbering system commencing with 000VAA. The working committee agreed personal or specialized British Columbia Veteran licence plates would not be permitted.

#### APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR BC VETERAN SPECIALTY LICENCE PLATES

Premier Gordon Campbell assigned the sole authority to BCVCA to develop the eligibility criteria, the application form, approval process and administer the British Columbia Veteran Specialty Licence Plate program.

#### ELIGIBILITY AND VETERAN DEFINITION

The premise established recognizes and honours the military service of members of the Canadian Armed Forces and our war time Allies, all residing and owning a registered vehicle in British Columbia.

To ensure Veteran status of an applicant, the Veteran definition established by the Department of National Defence (DND) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC,) in 2001, was adopted to determine eligibility to receive a British Columbia Veteran Licence Plate.

The initial DND and VAC Veteran definition was established as follows:

***“Any person who has served in the Canadian Armed Forces, possesses an MOC and who has been honourably discharged.”***

The Veteran eligibility criteria and application form were generated by BCVCA and forwarded to ICBC for distribution to their Auto Plan Brokers.

To achieve a timely response to the many applications expected, upwards to 90,000 Veterans, as advised by VAC, reside in British Columbia, BCVCA authorized the British Columbia Peace Keepers Association and the BC Yukon Command, Royal Canadian Legion, with formal written contracts to act as agents for BCVCA in the approval process. The request for their assistance, with contractual conditions, was approved by BCVCA, **ONLY** because of the very large volume of applications expected.

The BC Peacekeepers Association and the BC Yukon Command RCL were not involved, in any way, with the establishment of the British Columbia Veterans Licence Plate initiative.

**Note:** The BC Peacekeepers Association requested cancellation of their approval contract in 2010 and the BC Yukon Command, Royal Canadian Legion demanded release from the approval contract which was terminated on 30 November 2016.

### **Procurement of British Columbia Veteran Licence Plates**

ICBC and their Auto Plan Brokers will issue BC Veteran Specialty Licence Plates, at no charge, when presented with a Veteran's approved application form. Veterans are advised **NOT** to surrender his/her approved application form to an ICBC Auto Plan Agent. Veterans should keep his/her approved application form with other important personal documents.

In May 2012, the Attorney General, the Honourable Shirley Bond requested BCVCA to amend the Veteran eligibility criteria to permit current serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces to be eligible to receive British Columbia Veteran Licence Plates. BCVCA agreed and initiated the amendment that would also, hopefully assist with the establishment of a Canadian National Standard to recognize and honour Members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion Command has ignored BCVCA's requests to assist in establishing a Canadian National Veteran eligibility criteria; nil response.

BCVCA amended the DND/VAC Veteran definition to reflect the wishes of the British Columbia Government to provide British Columbia Veteran Licence Plates to currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and amended as follows:

***"Any person who has served in the Canadian Armed Forces, possesses an MOC and who has been honourably discharged or is currently serving."***

DND and VAC have found it necessary, from time to time to amend their Veteran definition, with the present Veteran definition, effective 2016 is:

***"Any member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has served, was honourably discharged, and has successfully underwent basic training."***

BCVCA added the wording "currently serving" to maintain the request of the British Columbia Government. The present British Columbia Veteran definition is:

***"Any member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has served, was honourably discharged, or currently serving and has successfully underwent basic training."***

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR A BRITISH COLUMBIA VETAN LICENCE PLATE**

Before a Veteran or currently serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces, or Canada's war time Allies can obtain a BC Veteran Licence Plate, he/she must be eligible, complete an application form, provide proof of service documents, as listed, include the administrative fee and be approved by the British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

1. Review the eligibility criteria,
2. Obtain and complete an application form,
3. Provide a copy of your service documentation as listed in Section B, Proof of Service,
4. Enclose the administrative fee of \$10.00, and
5. Mail the completed application form, proof of service documents and the administrative fee to:

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association  
PO Box 4903, Stn Terminal  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4A6

6. All military service documentation will be returned to the Veteran applicant.

### **THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO BE RE-APPROVED**

A Veteran's approved British Columbia Veterans Licence Plate application form is **VALID** for the lifetime of the Veteran.

Enjoy your British Columbia Veteran Licence Plates; you deserve recognition.