

WAR AMPS & DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is the Memorandum of Understanding?

Announced November 26th, 2013, it is a collaborative partnership between The War Amputations of Canada and the Department of National Defence (represented by the Canadian Forces Health Services Group) so that Canadian Armed Forces members receive the most appropriate, evidence based and timely amputee care in order to ensure the most optimal results and a reintegration to meaningful and productive activity.

Q. Why has the Department of National Defence selected The War Amps for this partnership?

Founded in 1918 by amputee war veterans returning home from the First World War with a philosophy of “amputees helping amputees,” The War Amps has for 95 years served as a national Centre of Excellence regarding all aspects of amputation for war, civilian and child amputees.

Q. What are the benefits of this shared approach?

It provides CAF members with a balance of both the internal resources of DND and the external resources of The War Amps. This will improve access to up-to-date specialized amputee knowledge, experienced, certified prosthetic providers across Canada and timely access to new prosthetic industry technologies to ensure delivery of high-quality services. By fostering partnership, The War Amps and Canadian Forces Health Services Group will contribute to positioning Canada’s health sector as a global leader at the forefront of amputee care.

Q. What specifically will The War Amps do as part of this partnership?

The War Amps will:

- Coordinate and provide support to the Canadian Armed Forces Physical Rehabilitation Program, the Prosthetic Review Committee, the Canadian Armed Forces Nurse Case Management Program and the members they serve, including training and advocating on amputee management and services.
- Develop an understanding of CAF member’s goals and needs in matters relating to the attainment of optimal potential and reintegration into meaningful, productive activity, whether it is remaining in the CAF or transitioning into civilian life.
- Advise DND in a timely manner of amputee issues and needs, and of emerging services and technological advances.

- Provide resources specific to the needs of the amputee, such as information about caring for their residual limb, recreational device options, prosthetic centre locations, driving adaptations and more.
- Provide lifelong assistance and a consistent presence to those with both service and non-service related amputations and act as a navigator during their service and through both the transition process to, and future years with, Veterans Affairs Canada.

Q. What has The War Amps do so far in terms of this partnership?

As part of its shared responsibilities with DND, The War Amps has engaged with a number of amputee personnel and is working toward connecting with all of them. It has assisted in recent prosthetic trials and also taken part in a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center's Center for the Intrepid in Fort Sam Houston, Texas to assess what services are available on an international scale to support the injured personnel. The War Amps also holds educational sessions at the Integrated Personnel Support Centres across Canada for those working with amputees, such as occupational and physical therapists and case managers, as well as conducts educational sessions for the Medavie Blue Cross Treatment Authorization Centre to help facilitate a smoother processing of requests and claims.

Q. Who do I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact *Karen Valley, Director of The War Amps National Amputee Centre*, 1 877 622-2472, ext 2242 or email karen.valley@waramps.ca