House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** The Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Military and public safety and security

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

The Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) is a network of researchers from across the country who are committed to working together to improve the health and employment outcomes of military personnel, Veterans, and their families. Our network includes over 500 researchers and clinicians from over 25 universities across the country and we are growing. Our unprecedented growth in 3 years is evidence of the importance of what we do. We recommend that the Government invest in the support and sustainability of this national centre of excellence.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$1 million-4.9 million

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Current funding for CIMVHR is provided by Queen's University and fundraising for our annual conference; this is not sustainable. A very modest investment of $5 million over 5 years, that will be leveraged through Public Private Partnerships with industry, through philanthropic support, and by partnering with research funding organizations and our military allies will ensure the ongoing sustainability of the CIMVHR center of excellence and the unprecedented, independent leadership role that we have taken with respect to health research for these beneficiary groups.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The work done by CIMVHR directly impacts the health, work force productivity and life long quality of life of the 700,000 Canadian Veterans, 100,000 serving members and their families, literally millions of Canadians.
Knowledge generated by the research also benefits all first responders (e.g., police, fire, medical personnel and non-government organizations) and the entire Canadian population, as demonstrated by the Afghanistan operation, which has already produced leading edge research on return to work programs, traumatic brain injury, and operational stress injuries.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The CIMVHR Centre of Excellence harnesses the Canadian academic community to ensure that military, Veterans, police, firefighters, paramedics, humanitarian workers and their families all benefit by:
• Bringing the strength of the Canadian academic community to bear on health issues faced by this group
• Reducing health care costs and improving the economy by ensuring these populations can contribute to the Canadian work force
• Translating knowledge generated by the research to the entire Canadian population to achieve improved work force productivity and quality of life

Topic: Military and public safety and security

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

That the government help to ensure military and veteran health research is a priority and has adequate funding by creating an incentive for Defence Industries to invest in the research that is being identified, managed and coordinated by CIMVHR.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$1 million-4.9 million

1 year

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

We request an increase to the exisiting Industrial Regional Benefits program so Defence Industries are given a 20:1 credit for each dollar invested in military and Veteran health research that will benefit these vulnerable populations. Currently they are given a 5:1 credit and the research does not even have to benefit military or Veterans. The priority areas and Canadian research teams have already been mobilized by CIMVHR. CIMVHR can act as a coordinator for these research funds to ensure they benefit these populations. This builds on an existing government program.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Serving military personnel, Veterans and their families will be the main beneficiaries of this work, though again, it translates into valuable knowledge for first responders, humanitarians and others who find themselves in similar situations. Once again, this can have spin-offs for all Canadians whose benefit from the medical advances brought about by hardships such as war. CIMVHR has also begun work with Public Safety Canada so other first responder groups are directly impacted.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The CIMVHR Centre of Excellence ensures that military, Veterans, their families, police, firefighters, paramedics and humanitarian workers all benefit by:
• Creating jobs in areas such as technology, research, health and knowledge exchange
• Needed research is funded by defence industry, and given to the appropriate research teams who can do the work in a timely manner
• Translating knowledge generated by the research to the beneficiary groups and to the entire Canadian population.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

We request that the government fund CIMVHR's operations as a "centre of excellence" related to health of military personnel, Veterans, police, fire fighters, humanitarian workers, others in high-stress service professions and their families. Specifically, bringing together the communities of interest to network, share data and tools, synthesize complex information and produce focussed research related to the health of military, Veterans and their families. Our role as the conduit between government and universities permits accessing expertise from across the country in a timely manner. Our growth over the last 3 years is unprecedented, and our full support from the Royal Canadian Legion and other Veterans groups attests to this. However, we are not yet sustainable, and with a modest investment and a change in policy of the Industrial Regional Benefits Program, we can become so, permanently.

The primary aim of CIMVHR is to ensure optimum, cost effective use of the best university research capability in Canada to provide excellent, objective, peer reviewed , scientific advice in areas of need to the Candian Armed Forces (CAF), Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the broader medical community on health issues impacting CAF Members, Veterans and their families. The goal of CIMVHR is to optimize the potential of every one of the over 700,000 veterans living in Canada and the evidence shows that this issue needs our focused attention. If we consider the number of people serving, those who have served, and their families, we are talking about 2 to 3 million Canadians who can be positively impacted by the work we are doing. Not to mention all the others in similar professions such as police, firefighters, paramedics, and their families.

The researchers working through the CIMVHR network know that good health is a critical to gaining productive employment. Working at the coal face between clinicians and researchers, CIMVHR provides a critical platform for ensuring that cutting edge research is immediately translated into new policies, programs and practices that improve the outcomes for all the beneficiary populations. We also provide a much needed platform for the coordination of researchers and health practitioners working in the area.

We believe that funding the work done by CIMVHR fulfills the Government's legislative responsibilities to military and Veterans and is infinitely less expensive than another solution because we have harnessed the national health research capacity that already exists in Canadian universities. We request that the government of Canada fund the coordinating role provided by CIMVHR, and that the government increase the incentive for Canadian Defence Industries to invest in health research, and the coordination of this be through CIMVHR.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided