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Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research | L'Institut canadien de recherche sur la santé des militaires et des vétérans

The War Amps

CIMVHR - War Amps Canada Research Grants – Request for Proposals

FOCUS: **Ground-breaking research focused on return-to-work (RTW) options for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and Veterans living with amputation.**

Anticipated Timeline & Budget	**Award Value for this RFP**
Full Application Deadline: 19 Dec 2025 at 1:00 PM (EST) **Notice of Award(s):** Feb 2026 **Estimated Project Term:** no longer than 30 months	Grant applicants can request amounts ranging from $10,000 to $100,000 to be used towards ground-breaking research or pilot projects **focused on return-to-work (RTW) options for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and Veterans living with amputation.** Detailed justification of amounts must be provided.

Funding Statement:

In accordance with their shared mandate to support Military members, Veterans and their families across Canada, CIMVHR and The War Amps have partnered on this latest call for research proposals.

The War Amps recognizes the importance of research and innovation conducted by professional researchers and/or research clinicians in support of persons with amputations, including Canada's many Veterans. It is through research that amputees across the country can continue to receive access to the highest level of support, expertise, and care.

As such, due to the ongoing generosity of the Canadian public, The War Amps proudly partnered with the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) and their network of world-class academic researchers to provide a total of $500,000 in funding to be used towards ground-breaking research projects focused on greatly improving the care and/or quality of life for seriously disabled veterans. This is the final RFP from this partnership funding.

Background:

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has a longstanding commitment to supporting the health, recovery, and reintegration of its injured members. However, service members who experience amputations often face significant barriers in returning to meaningful work, whether within the CAF or in civilian employment after transition. (Darter et. al. 2018). At the end of the First World War, following the return of seriously injured Veterans, including approximately 3,460 with limb amputation (Black, 2013), Canada embarked on implementing pioneering rehabilitation and vocational reintegration programs and social security programs. While these early initiatives were imperfect, they laid the foundation for the more comprehensive support systems developed for later generations of Veterans. (VAC-CAF Advisory Council, 2004).

Subsequent conflicts, including the Second World War, the Korean War, and more recent deployments in Afghanistan produced new generations of Veterans living with complex injuries, including limb loss. Each era brought advances in surgical care, prosthetic design, and rehabilitation approaches, as well as evolving understandings of the long-term physical, psychological, and vocational needs of injured Veterans (Besemann et al., 2011). Modern Canadian Veterans, particularly those from Afghanistan, have benefited from innovations in trauma care, prosthetics, and osseointegration (Talbot, Habra & Turcotte, 2021), yet continue to face challenges in achieving full reintegration into the workforce and community life.

Advances in prosthetic and assistive technologies, coupled with evolving understandings of workplace accommodation and inclusive practices, provide new opportunities to enhance return-to-work pathways. At the same time, there is limited Canadian research examining how current CAF and Veterans Affairs Canada programs address the unique challenges faced by amputee service members, or how these compare with international best practices. A robust evidence base is required to guide policy, strengthen program delivery, and ensure that amputee Veterans are equipped to achieve sustainable, meaningful employment and improved quality of life.

Goal:

The CIMVHR War Amps Canada Research Grants partnership invites researchers from relevant fields to submit project proposals in competition for funding to accelerate research projects focused on return-to-work options for Canadian Armed Forces Veterans and current members living with amputation.

Eligible Applicants:

Proposals must be led by at least one Principal Investigator who is an academic researcher affiliated with a Canadian CIMVHR University or College Member. Proposals from international affiliates can only be considered if done in collaboration with a Canadian CIMVHR University/College Member. Consideration will be given to proposals that identify additional collaborators, including other academic institutions / research hospitals, as well as government representation. A full list of Canadian CIMVHR University/College Members can be found HERE.

Research Priority Areas:

For military amputees, return-to-work (RTW) issues involve more than just medical recovery. They include physical rehabilitation, prosthetic technology, workplace accommodation, military culture, policy frameworks, and stigma. Therefore, CIMVHR is requesting application for research focused on return-to-work for amputees both inside and outside the Canadian Armed Forces. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Barriers and facilitators to RTW**: Identify what helps and hinders CAF amputees returning to duty or transitioning to civilian employment.
2. **Effectiveness of RTW programs**: Evaluate current CAF/VAC rehabilitation and transition programs against best practices.
3. **Prosthetic and assistive technology**: Assess how new-generation prosthetics affect job readiness, fitness-for-duty, and occupational options.
4. **Workplace accommodation models**: Develop evidence-based guidelines for the CAF to support retention and reintegration.
5. **Long-term outcomes**: Explore career trajectories, financial security, and quality of life of amputee Veterans compared to non-amputee Veterans.
6. **Comparative study**: Examine RTW outcomes in Canada versus U.S., U.K., Australia, and NATO partners.
7. **Policy gaps**: Identify where CAF policy doesn't adequately address the needs of amputee members (deployment, training, alternative roles).

Deadline:

Final proposals must be submitted to CIMVHR through the CIMVHR online submission portal (https://my.cimvhr.ca/proposals) on or before **Friday, December 19th, 2025 at 1:00 pm (EST)** for consideration and evaluation.

Principal Investigators are **strongly advised** to **log into the CIMVHR online submission portal a minimum of 7 days in advance of this deadline** to add themselves and their team members to the application portal. Once saved, the submission portal will send each team member an email with the information they need to complete the online conflict-of-interest form.

All project team members are required to complete a conflict-of-interest form prior to the submission deadline.

Contacts:

CIMVHR is available to discuss the feasibility of your proposed research prior to completing and submitting the proposal.

For further information, please contact:
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