

## **Veteran's Participation Policy**

### **Eligible Veteran**

An eligible Veteran participant is any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (including reserve force) or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who is 18 years of age and older. The Veteran participant must meet the eligibility criteria of the Nova Scotia Mental Health Court Program as indicated below:

- Charged with a criminal offence within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Court.
- Participants must acknowledge responsibility for the act or omission that forms the basis of the offence(s) they are alleged to have committed.
- Must have a qualifying mental health disorder/operational Stress Injury that is substantially connected to the commission of the offence.
- Must have a substantial connection to the Halifax Regional Municipality, defined as having been previously posted to, working, or attending school in the area; or residing in the Halifax Regional Municipality; and have any mental health supports persons or programs within the municipal boundaries .
- Must be willing to receive case management services from Veterans Affairs Canada.
- Must have the consent of the Crown Attorney in the Mental Health Court.

### **The Referral Process**

Veteran referrals will occur through the normal Mental Health Court referral process and may involve either a Veteran who is an existing client of Veterans Affairs Canada or, as a result of the referral to the Mental Health Court, will be referred to Veterans Affairs Canada for case management services.

For Veterans who are currently receiving case management services from Veterans Affairs Canada, the embedded Veterans Affairs Canada case manager with the Mental Health Court will ensure that the appropriate Veteran Affairs Canada consent forms are completed to allow for an exchange of relevant information between Veterans Affairs Canada and the Mental Health Court. The participant will maintain their current Veteran Affairs Canada case manager, and the embedded case manager with the Mental Health Court will ensure the Mental Health Court Team is provided with the relevant information to ensure compliance with the expectations of the Mental Health Court.

For Veterans who are not currently case managed, they will be assigned to the embedded Veterans Affairs Canada case manager with the Mental Health Court who will be responsible for providing case management services during their period with the Mental Health Court and for a period of 90 days following graduation or removal from the program.