

# PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SHEET

## BACKGROUND

The [Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families](#) (formerly the Centre of Excellence on PTSD and Related Mental Health Conditions) is a national intermediary organization funded by Veterans Affairs Canada. Established in 2019, our mandate is to work with Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Veterans, Families, service providers and researchers to bridge the divide between research and practice so Veterans and their Families receive the best possible mental health care and support. We achieve our [mandate](#) in four ways:

1. Developing and disseminating evidence through internally led research and through collaborative research partnerships in Canada and internationally
2. Mobilizing knowledge into practice
3. Convening people with lived experience and subject matter expertise to solve complex problems
4. Coaching and training service providers to advance the delivery of evidence-based practices

Veterans and Families voices and perspectives are embedded in all areas of our work. We work with Veterans, Families, service providers and researchers to bridge the divide between research and practice so Veterans and their Families receive the best possible mental health care and support.

## PURPOSE OF THE ATLAS INSTITUTE'S PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Public policies are developed at all levels of government (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal). These policies are developed with input from citizens, government staff and elected officials. Public policies can be guidelines, rules, regulations, laws, principles or directions that specify what should be done, by whom, for whom and how it is to be done.<sup>i</sup>

Public policy is an effective lever to transform evidence into action, for example, improving access to mental health and well-being services for Veterans and Families. The Atlas Institute initiated three interrelated foundational projects to map out existing public policies and associated gaps and to set priorities for impact.

## WHAT AND WHY

This phase of public policy program development will occur April through August 2023 and includes:

- A policy scan specific to Veterans and Families mental health and well-being using academic and grey literature. We will identify public policies that are in line with the Atlas Institute's scope of work and the notable gaps, as well as developing links to existing research and programs and areas for action.
- **Policy engagement with organizations that serve an intermediary, advocacy and/or knowledge mobilization role. Findings will help the Atlas Institute in awareness-building, partnership and ongoing collaboration and thought leadership.**
- An internal policy framework based on Canadian and international evidence and leading practices. This resource will guide staff on how public policy work will occur and where Atlas will position itself.

## NEXT STEPS

Periodic updates will be provided through Atlas communications.

Findings from the policy scan and policy engagement will be shared with participating organizations in the Fall. Results will inform discussions with the Atlas Institute Advisory Council, reference groups (Veterans, Veteran Families, service providers and researchers) as well as partners and collaborators. Furthermore, these insights will also be used to prioritize areas for Atlas action and the development of a multi-year public policy program roadmap. For more information, please contact [Info-Atlas@theroyal.ca](mailto:Info-Atlas@theroyal.ca).

---

<sup>i</sup> Mount Saint Vincent University. (2002). [partcfood.msvu.ca/section4](http://partcfood.msvu.ca/section4)