



## CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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[www.cvva.ca](http://www.cvva.ca)



28 December 2012

Rick Bennett- President  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command  
563 St. Mary's Road  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L6

Dear Comrade Bennett

Re: Veteran Licence Plate

In your letter dated 15 May 2012 (enclosed) Canadian Vietnam Veterans were denied a veteran's license plate because we served in the Vietnam war and this was not a Canadian conflict.

After a request by Canadian Vietnam Veterans Assoc. to review the eligibility I applied for a veteran plate again in October 2012. My application was rejected with the excuse I did not serve three years service. (enclosed)

i.e. "Canadian Vietnam Veterans must meet the same criteria as the Canadian Armed Forces of having served for at least three years."

I would like to point out that Canadian Vietnam Veterans did not serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. We served with Canada's greatest ally the United States of America and were subjected to different rules and regulations concerning our service.

**Canadians enlisting in the US Army signed a contract and took a sworn oath to serve for a period of three years.** Those Canadians living in the US and drafted served a period of two years. The US military had a policy of discharging veterans a few days or a week or two prior to the three year contract expiring.

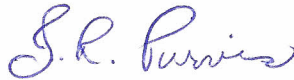
During the Vietnam War thousands of troops were returning from Vietnam with very little time remaining in their term of service. The US military was overwhelmed with warehousing this number of troops and adopted a policy of discharging all veterans with less than 90 days service remaining. In August 1968 this period was extended to 180 days.

Under Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command guidelines veterans who served in WW1, WW2, Korea, or NATO do not have a three year stipulation involved in obtaining a veteran plate.

Ontario our neighboring province recognizes Canadian Vietnam Veterans and grants them a veteran plate without a three year stipulation.

I was **honorably discharged** after completing my tour in Vietnam and was awarded the "Combat Infantryman's Badge" therefore I am a recognized "Combat Veteran".  
For imposing unreasonable rules and regulations on Canadian Vietnam Veterans applying for a veteran plate just brings discredit upon you and the organization you represent.

Sincerely;



John Robert Purvis  
Secretary/Treasurer  
CVVA

The Motto of *Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.*

**"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER"**



May 15, 2012

Comrade John Purvis  
813 Nottingham Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 2C9

Dear Comrade Purvis,

Thank you for contacting our office regarding obtaining a Veteran Plate, however we are unable to process your application at this time.

As per the application form, we require a photocopy of your Canadian Forces discharge certificate/certificate of service – both sides (or equivalent for Merchant Navy, Allied Forces, etc.).

***Who Qualifies for Veteran Licence Plates***

*You qualify if you've served honourably in:*

- 1. The Canadian Armed Forces, or an **allied force**, or in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during **World War I, II or the Korean War**, or*
- 2. The Canadian Armed Forces, for **at least three years**; or*
- 3. NATO operations or a UN peacekeeping force as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP, another Canadian police force or an allied force.*

As per the documentation you provided, we are unable to process your request. It appears that you served in the Vietnam War. As this was not a Canadian conflict, you do not qualify for a Canadian Veterans Plate.

We are therefore returning your application and \$5.00.

Sincerely,



Denise Monkman  
Office Administrator

/dm

Enclosure

10 December 2012

Mr. John Purvis  
813 Nottingham Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB. R2K 2C9

Dear Mr. Purvis;

We are in receipt of your application for a Veterans License plates. Regrettably we must deny your request.

Ron Parkes, the President of the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Association wrote to us earlier this year asking the Legion to review the criteria eligibility for Vietnam Veterans and license plates. This was brought to our meetings and I am attaching a copy of the reply to Mr. Parkes.

Vietnam Veterans will be allowed plates if they meet the same criteria for the Canadian Armed Forces; that is three years service. According to the documentation you provided, you enlisted in Feb 1968; discharged in October 1970 which is not the required three years.

If you have any questions please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Dawn Golding

Enc.