

Response from Jennifer Chorney following a questions asked by Senator McPhedran at the VEAC meeting of Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Question:

Senator McPhedran: I recognize we don't have time for fulsome answers. My request is for you to follow up in writing with the committee as well. My question is: What is the scenario in your personal experiences that would have made the crucial, defining difference for you, if the service had existed? Each of you described a different turning point.

Response:

To answer Senator McPhedran's question; I didn't know that VAC had things in place at the time, and I am learning this all just recently. I have been close and so down as I am estranged from some family, as my parents are dead and I have brothers who have been very judgmental about my situation that we don't speak.

I think if there was a place I would have went, but in Saskatchewan there are not even a lot of shelters for the homeless, many live in tents weather permitting. I have slept in a tent when I could and my vehicle.

Somehow VAC has to let people know their programs more clearly and be more accessible. Some people don't have phones as they cannot pay a cell bill at that point. That is why we are all working on this trying to find a solution.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, Senator, and again sorry for the delay.

Jennifer Chorney