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CANADIAN VETERANS TO CONTINUE PRESSING GOVERNMENT FOR REINSTATEMENT OF DISABILITY PENSIONS FOLLOWING TODAY’S SUPREME COURT RULING

Vancouver, BC (August 30, 2018): It is with great disappointment that the Equitas Society announces that the Supreme Court of Canada has denied leave to hear the appeal of the Veterans’ pension lawsuit.

While the Supreme Court does not issue reasons for their decisions on leave applications, we are sure that this decision was not arrived at lightly by the Court.

The Equitas Society and legal counsel will be taking steps over the coming weeks to notify the Veterans across Canada who have reached out to us over the years since the lawsuit commenced.

The Equitas Society would also like to thank all of those who have contributed their support to the legal action since its inception. We hope that we will continue to have community support across the country in addressing this issue in the political and community arenas.

In their motion to strike out the lawsuit, the Government of Canada argued that, to the extent that government negligently governs, the voting public may impose a potential consequence at an election. In other words, the mandate of the Government allows them to reduce benefits and if there is a complaint about it, the remedy is not in the Courts but at the polls, since the electorate is free to elect a different Government to replace the current one. Therefore, to the extent that the court battle is now over, the political fight must be taken up.

As we head into an election year, we urge all Canadians to remember this point; that the duty that is owed to the men and women who risk their lives for the rights and freedoms we all enjoy, is a duty owed not only by the Government, but also the people of Canada.

Canadian citizens owe a duty to our veterans to take up this issue with our politicians. We urge you to write to your local MPs and ask why veterans are not owed a duty at law and why veterans’ disability pensions have not been reinstated as promised; and to vote your conscience on these issues at the next election.

Among the missions of the Equitas Society is to help Canada’s recently disabled soldiers and veterans use all available lawful means to obtain fair and proper compensation for their injuries and resulting disabilities.

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Even though the Court case has been dismissed, the Equitas Society will continue to pursue this mission through the advocacy avenues available and we urge the veterans community to not be too discouraged by today's judgment, as the battle will continue. Please reach out if you need help. It is available for you. See more at www.equitasociety.ca.

-30-

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