Military-connected support in Canada is in its early days after decades of dormancy. In supporting military-connected students in higher education, we are contributing to recapturing of that individual sense of purpose and better enabling transition.

Context
In Canada, military connected learners are an understudied group of students in higher education where there has been limited research over the last few decades. Study of Canadian military connected students really matches the mass demobilization periods of the 20th century. Recent military operations in the 21st century and the introduction of a federally sponsored education and training benefit has reinvigorated interest in this subject area with several institutions taking note. The VAC education and training benefit signifies a key element within a national reinvestment in a veteran transition strategy. The desired outcomes of education and training is to provide veterans with a renewed sense of purpose, autonomy, and increased employment competitiveness upon a return to the civilian workforce.

Military-Connected Campus Framework
A real framework should be explored to create the most effective and efficient academic and social support model. In doing so, potential military-connected students will be immersed in an inclusive environment which positively contribute to their learning. Inherent to this framework is the ability to scale and tailor efforts to match the student needs with the local community situation.

Next Steps
Ultimately, a balanced and deliberate approach is required to create a sustainable military-connected student academic and social support model. Considering some next steps, we should look to increasing awareness across post-secondary institutions and their supporting elements; Encourage collaboration between institutions, researchers, and practitioners; Generate and create momentum surrounding military-connected students.