

# Webinar

Organized by the Quebec Veterans Foundation

Moderator : Ms. Isabelle Boivin

Speakers : Ms. H  l  ne Le Scelleur  
Ms. Anne Hurtubise

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## International Women’s Day: Transition and Identity

As part of International Women’s Day, the Women Veterans Program of the Quebec Veterans Foundation launched its first virtual conference, in partnership with the Barry F. Lorenzetti Foundation. Hosted by Isabelle Boivin, veteran, and author of a touching book on her transition experience, *M  moire d’une d  jant  e*, the floor was given to Ms. H  l  ne Le Scelleur, veteran and doctoral student, and Ms. Anne Hurtubise, Executive Director of the Quebec Veterans Foundation.

To (re)-see this webinar (only available in French): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu-hHA3bEKA&ab\\_channel=Fondationqu%20C3%A9b%20C3%A9coisedesV%20C3%A9t%20C3%A9rans](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu-hHA3bEKA&ab_channel=Fondationqu%20C3%A9b%20C3%A9coisedesV%20C3%A9t%20C3%A9rans)

### Transition and Identity

**Ms. H  l  ne Le Scelleur**, began the conference by discussing transition and identity issues for women veterans, drawing on both her own career within the CAF and her academic expertise. She began by recalling the cohesive strength of the CAF, which, more than a profession, is transformed into a real family.

Integrating the Armed Forces therefore implies a complete membership which, for young recruits, sees itself as an endless career. Regardless of gender, women do not become soldiers in order to be recognized as women. On the contrary, the 1990s marked rather the desire for a gender erasure, as women had to prove their legitimacy in this male environment. Women soldiers then value hyper performance to join this environment. As a result, this will have a strong influence on the military-to-civilian life transition.

Ms. Le Scelleur then reminds us that the transition to civilian life can be seen in two ways: 1) a voluntary retirement for which one can prepare and, 2) an involuntary retirement that adds difficulties to the initially challenging process of transition to civilian life.

Without going into details of the issues of the transition to civilian life, developed by Ms. Le Scelleur, she stressed the importance of discussing the transition for women veterans.

No, transition is not the same experience for a man and a woman. Again, women will have to "prove themselves" during their transition to civilian life (proving their career in the forces, proving their injuries, etc.). Added to this is the image of the superwoman who, once again, gives way to the woman hyper performance that must be excellent in all areas of her life (professional life, personal life, etc.). This fear of vulnerability then has important consequences until it hinders the recovery.

### Collaboration as a solution

Fortunately, as this webinar demonstrates, the issue of women veterans is now being discussed and thought about in both practical and academic settings. **Ms. Anne Hurtubise** recalled the power of collaboration, by illustrating the support provided by the Quebec Veterans Foundation to encourage the adaptation of support offers to the reality of women veterans.

For more information: <https://deretourenforce.ca/>