

## Former soldier suing province

Chris Miller  
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Grant McLean, a senior manager with the provincial government and a former mayor of Airdrie, is suing the Government of Alberta. He intends on taking his concerns to every constituency office in the province.

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Grant McLean is doing some fancy footwork in a game of political dodgeball that has frustrated and embittered him. By 1982 McLean had served in the Canadian Army for over 14 years, serving abroad on both NATO and United Nations peacekeeping duties. He could have continued his career for another two decades, but opted instead to apply for employment with the Government of Alberta in the provincial correctional system. He was offered a job as deputy director at Spy Hill Jail, also known as the Calgary Correctional Centre. McLean insists that at that time he was given written confirmation that he could transfer his military pension rights over to the provincial plan. This assurance, however, by a provincial government employment officer was wrong.

Therefore, since 1982, McLean has been fighting to get the Alberta government to correct this wrong and credit him for his earlier pensionable service without success.

"I spent a good chunk of my life defending our system, and I don't really believe in it now," McLean told The Sun during his stop in Cold Lake last Thursday.

In 1999, he took it a step further and sued the provincial government. The lawsuit has been slowly wending its way through the legal system but has yet to go before a judge.

McLean is furious that the government will not accept the consequences for the erroneous advice it gave him over two decades ago.

He said if the Alberta MLAs are willing to vote themselves a generous severance package, why shouldn't the same generosity be bestowed on him? McLean said that lawyers will vigorously delay a legal matter for fear of encouraging a flood of similar claims. Since his case appears unique, he

questions why the government is dragging its feet on this one.