

# TB VETS

## **Organizational Fact Sheet**

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- TB Vets, originally named the Tuberculous and Chest Disabled Veterans' Association, was incorporated on December 15, 1945. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our incorporation coincided with Canada's Year of the Veteran.
- In 1946 TB Vets started BC's original keytag program in order to provide jobs for WWII soldiers who returned from overseas service suffering from the disabling effects of tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments. Donations from the key return service provided the veterans with steady meaningful employment.
- As the veterans employed by the keytag program retired, they were replaced by other people with special needs. TB Vets currently employs 35 people, over 70% of which cope with some form of disability. Like the veterans before them, these employees are committed to the community and to the services they offer British Columbians.
- Staff members operate the machinery and computers that make Keytags, SecuriTags, address labels, signs, ribbons, and other useful products. They also assemble the mailings, process donations, return lost keys, answer phone calls, respond to mail orders for extra keytags and other products, and complete many other worthwhile tasks.
- TB Vets strives for a balance between automation, efficiency and employment for people with special needs. In our whole history, no staff member has ever been laid off as a result of the purchase of automated equipment. In the last two years alone TB Vets has hired 7 more people with disabilities to assist with our increased production needs.
- Veterans and the children and grandchildren of veterans continue to provide the vision for TB Vets. We have a membership of almost 200 and are run by a volunteer board of directors.
- All donations to the Keytag campaign and other fundraising initiatives stay in BC to help British Columbians. Thanks to donor support TB Vets provides funding for:
  - Vital medical equipment for BC hospitals, to help people in respiratory distress;
  - Research into treatments and cures for TB and other respiratory diseases;
  - Education of tomorrow's Respiratory Therapists studying at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops;
  - And in honour of our veteran heritage, providing valuable employment for people with disabilities.

**For more information regarding BC's TB Vets, contact:**

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