



# Canadian Veterans Deserve Fairness & Equity

Dear Member of Parliament,

If an American Veteran was exposed to harmful chemical agents while in uniform from burn-pits or other known carcinogens and later develops Cancer, they are automatically granted an award. On the other hand, a Canadian Veteran who served along side the American and was exposed to the same environmental hazards is forced to navigate a complex process that was designed for traditional injury claims and can take years to complete. Our Veterans understandably become frustrated by this unfairness and by the inconsistent interpretations of regulations like paragraph 50(g) of the Veterans Well-Being Regulation.

This is the result of inconsistent interpretation of the subjective phrase *“reasonably caused”*. As a result, Canadian Veterans have been required to provide additional evidence, such as a medical opinion linking their cancer to their military service — something few oncologists can fulfill.

## You Can Change This Inequity

This can be easily changed with a minor amendment to paragraph 50(g) of the Veterans Well-Being Regulation to include an a fair and equitable interpretation of the term: *“reasonably caused”* as shown below. By doing so you will align Canadian veterans with American veterans who face similar environmental hazards

**If**

a veteran was exposed to Burn Pits, or oil fires, while in service, including, but not limited to, locations in Afghanistan, SW Asia, Bosnia, Croatia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, or the Persian Gulf;

**or**

if a veteran was exposed to any of the chemical agents identified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), or any other credible cancer research body, as definitely, probably or possibly causing cancer in humans, or chemical herbicides such as Agent Orange;

**Then**

the veteran’s exposure must be presumed to have *“reasonably caused”* the veteran’s cancer and the veteran’s file can automatically proceed to the assessment phase to determine the appropriate award.

[Download our Full Discussion Paper: Addressing the Need for Equity Among Veterans](#)