

From: veteran@veteranswithcancer.com

Subject: Canadian Veterans with Cancer Deserve the Same Benefits as American Veterans

Date: December 4, 2024 at 3:02:10 PM

To: Jim Hutton jim.hutton@me.com



Advocacy and Awareness

**Veterans with Cancer** inc

[www.VeteransWithCancer.com](http://www.VeteransWithCancer.com)

Hon. James Hutton

Member of Parliament for the Riding of:

**Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound**

December 03, 2024

Dear Mr. Hutton,

As the Minister of Veterans Affairs you are in the unique position to address serious deficiencies in the Veterans Well-Being Act when it comes to veterans with cancer. Canadian veterans who develop cancer as a result of their exposure to Burn Pits or other environmental hazards, such as Trichloroethene or Carbon Tetrachloride, deserve the same standard of care as American veterans. The American PACT Act recognizes presumptive conditions from toxic exposure not provided to Canadian veterans.

*"The PACT Act has more than 200 "presumptive conditions" from burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures, which, if you meet the requirements for service, the VA will now automatically assume (or presume) were the cause of your condition. ... Instead of needing to gather extensive medical evidence, including Nexus Letters, to prove that their condition was caused by their service, veterans only need to provide their military service records ..." [vaclaimsinsider.com](http://vaclaimsinsider.com).*

For example, if an American veteran served in Afghanistan in the vicinity of burn-pits and develops cancer, it is presumed that their cancer is service related and they are automatically awarded a pension. On the other hand, if a Canadian veteran served in Afghanistan and was exposed to these same chemicals from burn pits, they have to undergo a lengthy process that can last several years before they are awarded benefits. Many cancers are terminal and any cancer can become terminal at any time. Therefore, a speedy process for Canadian veterans with cancer is essential. However that is not always the case. One of our members filed a claim for a service-related cancer in January 2022 and it is still in the system after nearly three years.

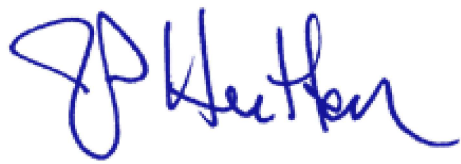
This is just not right and we need your help to improve the process for our veterans. We are asking you to take two small actions on behalf of our veterans:

1. distribute the attached poster to your constituents to inform them that if they are a veteran with cancer, or know of a veteran with cancer, that their cancer may be service-related and they should apply to Veterans Affairs Canada for benefits, and
2. raise this important issue at committee with a view to updating the Veterans Well-Being Act and Regulation to meet the standard set by the American PACT Act. Specifically, amend paragraph 50(g) of the Regulation to include the same presumptions included in the American PACT Act,

Veterans represent a cross section of society. They come from all walks of life and subscribe to a variety of political ideologies. Caring for veterans who developed cancer as a result of their service is the perfect, non-partisan cause that politicians of all stripes can support. We therefore ask that you encourage your colleagues to set aside their political differences and work together with the common interest of providing Canadian Veterans with cancer, the same level of consideration currently enjoyed by American Veterans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James P. Hutton, rmc, CD, BSc, MSc, MBA

Commander (retired)

Director, Veterans with Cancer Inc.

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