

Elizabeth May forwarded our Paper to the Minister

Ottawa

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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Elizabeth May
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The Honourable Élisabeth Brière
Minister of Veterans Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

March 17, 2025

Resolving the VAC disability claim wait time crisis

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment to this important cabinet position. I am writing to bring your attention to the work of the advocacy group Veterans with Cancer Inc. regarding the shocking wait times for processing disability claims through Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). They have provided a detailed analysis of the current challenges and proposed solutions, which I have attached for your review.

The document outlines the following key points:

- The significant delays veterans face in processing their disability claims.
- The dramatic increase in the number of files in the system.
- The stagnation in staffing levels despite the increased workload.
- The severe financial and emotional impact on veterans waiting for their claims to be resolved.

It then identifies three immediate, actionable solutions that could resolve this crisis:

- Increase permanent staffing across VAC, the Bureau of Pensions Advocates, and the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.
- Allocate funding for term employees to clear the existing backlog within one year.
- Establish an inter-agency Management Committee to monitor and expedite cases that have been in the system for over one year.

I urge you to review their detailed analysis attached and take immediate action to implement these solutions. Our veterans deserve nothing less than our full commitment to resolving this crisis.

I am ready to collaborate and support any efforts to address this issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "May".

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich—Gulf Islands
Co-Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Attachment: Shocking Wait Times for Veterans' Disability Claims

CC: Veterans with Cancer Inc.
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