

From: Jim Hutton jim.hutton@me.com

Subject: Veterans with Cancer

Date: October 28, 2024 at 3:23:34 PM

To: Mitch Freeman (he/him | il/lui) (VAC/ACC) mitch.freeman@veterans.gc.ca

Cc: Trudie MacKinnon trudie.mackinnon@veterans.gc.ca

Good Afternoon Mitch,

I am one of Directors of Veterans with Cancer Inc., and I am reaching out to discuss our ongoing efforts to enhance the Veterans Well-Being Act.

As you may know, we are in the process of finalizing our recommendations for changes to the Act, which we plan to present to MPs next month along with compelling reasons why they need to promptly address our concerns. Our goal is to highlight the unique challenges faced by veterans with cancer, who often find themselves navigating processes designed for more traditional injuries. Unfortunately, this misalignment has resulted in longer claim processing times and an increased number of cases reaching the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.

To strengthen our initiative, we have partnered with the National Council of Veterans Associations, which has incorporated our concerns into their 2024/2025 Legislative Agenda, set to be published in mid-November.

However, we believe it is crucial for our proposed changes to align seamlessly with your existing processes. Our objective is to make it easier for veterans with cancer to navigate VAC processes without increasing the burden on VAC staff who we understand are already stretched. It is our hope that by consulting with you in advance of finalizing our recommendations, our proposed changes will be strategically focused in areas that will best achieve both of these objectives.

I am very much looking forward to our discussions.

Jim

On Oct 25, 2024, at 2:49 PM, "Trudie MacKinnon (VAC/ACC)"
<trudie.mackinnon@veterans.gc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Hutton

As discussed, I'm touching base to connect you with Mitch Freeman, Director General, Policy and Research here at VAC.

I have briefed Mitch on our discussions and shared your documents with him.

I'll leave it to you both to find a suitable time to meet.

Have a great weekend.

Thx

Trudie