From: Jim Hutton jim.hutton@me.com

Subject: A Public Service Message for Distribution

Date: November 17, 2024 at 12:19:43 PM

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Veterans with Cancer Inc.
Advocacy & Awareness

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Major-General (ret'd) Ian Poulter
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services

November 17, 2024

Dear CEO Poulter,

Please find attached a brief public service message, in both official languages, aimed at encouraging veterans who have cancer to reflect on the chemicals they were exposed to while on active service, since these chemicals may have caused their cancer. Cancers caused by exposure to carcinogens don't appear until many years after the exposure. Therefore many veterans don't associate their cancer with their time in uniform. As a result, they miss out on benefits that are provided by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC).

We request, on behalf of all veterans, that you give the attached message the widest distribution in the CFMWS community in an effort to make veterans aware that that their cancer could be a result of exposure to chemicals during service and if that's the case apply to VAC for benefits.

In this regard, there have been significant changes at VAC over the past year that more readily recognized cancer as result of exposure to environmental hazards such as Afghanistan 'Burn Pits'. These changes are reflected in the fact that there have been three veterans awarded benefits for their cancers just in the last few months.

Sincerely,

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

Commander (retired)
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