



Assistant Commissioner (ret'd) Sandra Conlin
President, RCMP Veteran's Association
P.O. Box 8900
Canadian Police College
1 Sandridge Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2

October 28, 2024

Dear Ms. Conlin,

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reach out to all RCMP Veterans and advise them that if they have cancer, it could be related to their service.

Veterans with Cancer is a registered not-for-profit established with the dual mission of advocating on behalf of veterans with cancer and spreading awareness that many veterans' cancers are the result of exposure to carcinogenic chemicals that they were exposed to while in uniform.

In this regard we have noticed a number of RCMP Veterans visiting our website to document their cancers and exposures. Their stories include chemical exposures when employed in Forensic Identification Services, in the RCMP AIR Division and during Clandestine Lab Investigations. We also noted that some suggested that their cancers were related to their work during the Swiss Air Disaster and at CFB Gagetown when Agent Orange was sprayed in 1967.

When RCMP members were exposed to a hazardous chemical, that we now know to be carcinogenic, they were immediately injured at that time – no different than if they fell from a ladder and permanently injured their back. However, the difference is that the injury from chemical exposure does not become apparent until many years later – it's a delayed injury. As a result, the possibility that their cancer is service-related is often overlooked. This denies veterans the benefits available through Veterans Affairs Canada. I therefore ask that you assist us with our Awareness Program by informing RCMP veterans that if they have cancer, they should consider whether or not they were exposed to carcinogens during their careers.

Sincerely,

Commander (ret'd) James P. Hutton CD, BSc, MSc, MBA
Director, Veterans with Cancer Inc.

Attachments: (2)