

From: veteran@veteranswithcancer.com

Subject: Canadian Veterans with Cancer Deserve the Same Consideration as U.S. Veterans Exposed to the Identical Carcinogens

Date: December 9, 2024 at 12:19:01 PM

To: Jim Hutton jim.hutton@me.com



Advocacy and Awareness

**Veterans with Cancer** inc

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

Senator Judith G. Seidman

*from:* Quebec - De la Durantaye

December 09, 2024

Dear Senator Seidman,

I am writing to draw your attention to a critical issue affecting Canadian veterans who have developed cancer due to exposure to environmental hazards such as burn pits, trichloroethylene, and carbon tetrachloride during their service. These individuals have sacrificed for their country, yet they are not receiving the level of care and support they deserve - care that their American counterparts are now entitled to under the U.S. PACT Act.

*The U.S. PACT Act recognizes over 200 presumptive conditions linked to toxic exposures, including cancers caused by burn pits and Agent Orange. This designation ensures that if a veteran meets specific service requirements, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) automatically presumes these conditions to be service-related. Veterans only need to provide their service records to access vital benefits, bypassing the burdensome requirement of extensive medical evidence, such as Nexus Letters. .... [vaclaimsinsider.com](http://vaclaimsinsider.com).*

Unfortunately, Canadian veterans are not afforded the same support. Those exposed to similar environmental hazards - such as those who served in Afghanistan - must navigate a lengthy, complex, and often discouraging process to prove their illnesses are service-related. For many, including those with terminal cancer, these delays have devastating consequences. One of our members filed a claim for service-related cancer in January 2022, yet nearly three years later, their case remains unresolved.

This inequity is unjust and demands immediate action. Canadian veterans who develop cancer due to toxic exposures should not have to fight for the benefits and care they are entitled to. To address this disparity, we respectfully request your assistance with two specific actions:

- 1. Distribute the attached poster** to your network to raise awareness among veterans suffering from cancer - or their loved ones - that their condition may be service-related and that they should apply for benefits through Veterans Affairs Canada.
- 2. Advocate for legislative reform** by urging Members of Parliament to amend the Veterans Well-Being Act and its Regulations. Specifically, paragraph 50(g) of the Regulations should be updated to include presumptive conditions outlined in the U.S. PACT Act, ensuring parity for Canadian veterans.

Caring for veterans is a deeply non-partisan cause that transcends political affiliation. Veterans come from all walks of life and political perspectives, but what unites them is their service to Canada and their trust in our country to support them in return. It is imperative that we honor this trust by ensuring Canadian veterans with service-related cancers receive the care and consideration they have earned.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing issue. With your help, we can secure justice and dignity for Canadian veterans who are battling cancer caused by their service. We look forward to your support in making this critical change.

Sincerely



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