



Office of the Leader



Cabinet de la chef

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For fifty years, successive Conservative and Liberal governments have covered up the scandal of spraying areas in and around Gagetown with various mixtures of phenoxy herbicides, including Agent Orange. These herbicides were contaminated with some of the most deadly human-made toxics ever known, including 2,3,7,8-TCDD. Governments have turned a blind eye to the suffering of the Gagetown victims and their loved ones. The Green Party of Canada has repeatedly called for a full public inquiry into the spraying of these poisons at CFB Gagetown. Only a public inquiry can answer the lingering questions of off-site exposure and long-term health effects.

Additionally, the compensation package offered by the Federal government was woefully inadequate. At the time the package was announced, the Federal government estimated that 4,500 Canadians were eligible for the package; as of April 1st, less than half that number of applicants were awarded compensation. This can only be described as a national disgrace. With the passing of the deadline for compensation on April 1st, the Federal government refused to grant an extension for many of the victims standing here today. Again, this can only be described as a national disgrace.

Today, the Green Party of Canada stands in solidarity with Gagetown veterans and their loved ones to demand adequate compensation and a public inquiry. All Canadians deserve answers to questions regarding the exposure, disputed health risk assessments and mishandling of claims so that these cover-ups can be prevented in the future.

Signed,

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Leader

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