

LETTER OF PROTEST

To the Conservative Federal Government of Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Minister of Veteran Affairs Canada, Mr. Greg Thompson:

Mr. Harper, when you were on the 2006 Federal election campaign, you promised in Woodstock NB to compensate all veterans, civilians and current military personnel whose health has been adversely affected by the spraying of toxic defoliants that took place from 1956 to 1984 at CFB Gagetown NB.

Mr. Harper, instead of honoring your pledge to the thousands of victims of the most toxic chemicals known to man, you chose instead to maintain and continue with the Base Gagetown and Area Fact Finding Project which had absolutely no powers to summon or subpoena witnesses to establish the full extent of the CFB Gagetown NB spraying program and you totally ignored the very real and current scientifically accepted health hazards associated with exposure to these deadly chemicals.

Mr. Harper, your government chose to solicit the expertise of Cantox Environmental whose two founders once held senior positions with Health Canada in the Environmental Health Directorate, as Director of the Bureau of Chemical Safety and Director General of the Food Directorate, Health Protection Branch and still have close professional ties with Health Canada officials to conduct what we believe to be an alleged fraudulent Health Risk Assessment study of the health risks associated with the spraying of highly toxic chemicals at CFB Gagetown NB.

Mr. Harper, Cantox Environmental was at the time of the CFB Gagetown Health Risk Assessment, and still is today, owned by Ciba Specialty Chemicals, one of the largest chemical companies in the world. Is this how you and your Government arrive at the truth of The Gagetown Atrocity? Do you honestly expect Canadians to accept the Cantox report? Where is the truthful and accountable government you also promised Canadians during the 2006 Federal Election campaign?

Mr. Thompson, you have changed the qualifying guidelines for pension approval for exposure to the toxic chemicals sprayed at CFB Gagetown NB based entirely on the Cantox Environmental Health Risk Assessment Study. Instead of the Judicial Public Inquiry you had demanded on four occasions while you and your party were in Opposition, you have substituted fairness and the benefit of the

doubt for pension applicants for political gain and the continual cover-up of a serious health hazard and probably an alleged serious criminal act committed against the men and women who served, worked and lived on and near CFB Gagetown NB.

Mr. Thompson, you and your party's leader, Mr. Stephan Harper, have chosen to only compensate less than one percent of the total number of victims of the CFB Gagetown NB's defoliant spraying program.

You and your accomplices have decided to abandon the remaining ninety-nine percent of the sick, suffering and dying toxic victims of CFB Gagetown, to blow away in the toxic dust of the Gagetown training area.

Mr. Harper and Mr. Thompson, it is as a result of your government's inability and unwillingness to deal honestly and with full and measurable accountability with the CFB Gagetown NB toxic chemical issue that the following demand is being made.

On behalf of all Canadian military veterans, the CFB Gagetown toxic chemical victims, including civilian victims, we demand that a full Judicial Public Inquiry which has all the available legal powers to summon and supine witnesses and Government documents and be at arms length of any government involvement and interference to be commenced and convened no later than June 15th, 2009.

If this demand is not met and the inquiry has not been announced and convened by June the 15th, 2009 of this year, the veterans of Canada's military and the victims of the CFB Gagetown toxic chemical spraying program with our supporters will march to the steps of Canada's Capital in Ottawa to once again present our demand for a Judicial Public Inquiry for the entire world to witness.

It is a dark day in Canada's history that our veterans and the CFB Gagetown chemical victims feel so betrayed by our Federal Government that we must march on our Country's Capital to demonstrate our dissatisfaction and frustration of our Government's handling of the CFB Gagetown toxic file and our resolve to obtain full and measurable accountability and justice to determine the authenticity of the wrong doing committed against us.

Mr. Harper and Mr. Thompson.

You Have Been Served

Submitted by Gary Goode – a CFB Gagetown veteran and victim

Acknowledged and agreed upon by:

Kenneth Dobbie and Carol Brown Parker
Co-Presidents - Agent Orange Association of Canada Inc.