

October 20, 2016

All Members of Parliament
House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6

Re: Will you support a federal tax credit for radon mitigation?

Dear Member of Parliament,

We write today to all federal MPs asking you to support a tax credit for radon mitigation. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and can be easily corrected via federally- approved mitigation techniques. For over half of you, constituents in your riding are at elevated risk of radon-induced lung cancer.

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural decay of uranium in soil and rock. It is odourless, colourless and tasteless, and can only be detected via testing. It is a proven lung cancer risk when left undetected and enclosed in homes or buildings. The science is very clear. This known carcinogen is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada, annually responsible for 16% of lung cancer deaths or about 3300 people every year.

Health Canada conducted a cross-Canada survey of radon levels in about 18,000 homes. Their results show that nearly 7% of homes in Canada (that's over 600,000 homes!) have radon levels above the Canadian radon guideline of 200 Bequerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³).

Health Canada's results are reported by provincially-defined district health regions. We compared those health regions with your riding boundaries.

We found:

- **Half of all federal ridings with above-guideline radon levels**
- **93 federal ridings where more than 10% of homes have above-guideline radon levels**
- **16 federal ridings where more than 20% of homes have above-guideline radon levels**

Listed below are the ridings with more than 10% and 20% above-guideline radon levels, respectively. Is your name and your riding on this list?

Radon mitigation should occur in above-guideline homes to help prevent lung cancer. However, despite a lot of excellent public outreach work by Health Canada and others, people are largely unaware of either the cancer risk from radon or what needs to be done about it. And mitigation can be expensive.

That's why we believe a **federal tax credit is:**

- **The logical next step in Canada's impressive National Radon Program**
- **A strong signal that Canadians need to take this important issue more seriously**
- **A measure that will help make radon mitigation more affordable**

Canadian Environmental Law Association

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We have also calculated the financial implications. At a minimum, a tax credit will be revenue-neutral but it will more likely result in net tax revenues to both the federal government and the provinces.

We estimate that an aggressive program to mitigate 80% of above-guideline homes within five years would result in a net annual benefit in the order of \$1.6M to \$9.8M in federal tax revenues and \$8.2M to \$49.7M to the provinces.

We also calculated the more modest revenues arising if 20% of above-guideline homes are mitigated over five years.

Additional benefits will arise with **job creation** for mitigation firms as well as **long-term savings in the direct and indirect health care costs of lung cancer**. Our detailed calculations are on-line here:

<http://www.cela.ca/publications/radon-tax-credit>

Will you join us in calling for a federal tax credit? We are especially asking for the MPs in the attached list to support this measure as your constituents are the most seriously affected.

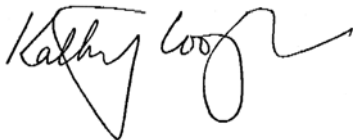
However, the support of all MPs is needed. Radon cancer risk seems to always get lost in the shuffle of busy lives and shifting priorities. At CELA we continue to give high priority to this issue for three key reasons: 1) it is a proven cancer risk; 2) large numbers of people are directly affected and at risk, and 3) the health outcome – death from cancer - is very serious.

Please confirm your support for this tax credit with us, with your constituents, and with the Finance Minister.

A tax credit for radon mitigation will help your constituents take this issue more seriously and get their homes tested. It will create jobs, provide federal and provincial tax revenues, and offset health care costs. Most important, it will help your constituents offset the cost of radon mitigation should they need to do so.

Yours very truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Cooper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathleen Cooper, Senior Researcher

P.S. Please consult the attached list to see if your constituents are at even greater risk of radon-induced lung cancer than is the case for all Canadians.

Federal ridings estimated to have greater than 10% of homes with above-guideline radon levels

Those marked with * (and in red) are ridings estimated to have more than 20% of homes above the guideline

Member of Parliament		Riding	Member of Parliament		Riding
Dan	Albas	Central Okanagan–Similkameen–Nicola	Angelo	Iacono	Alfred-Pellan
William	Amos	Pontiac	Georgina	Jolibois	Desnethé-Mississippi-Churchill River
David	Anderson*	Cypress Hills–Grasslands	Robert	Kitchen	Souris–Moose Mountain
Mel	Arnold	North Okanagan–Shuswap	Kevin	Lamoureux	Winnipeg North
René	Arseneault*	Madawaska–Restigouche	Linda	Lapointe	Rivière-des-Mille-Îles
Ramez	Ayoub	Thérèse-De Blainville	Stéphane	Lauzon	Argenteuil–La Petite-Nation
Larry	Bagnell	Yukon	Dominic	LeBlanc	Beauséjour
Candice	Bergen*	Portage–Lisgar	Diane	Lebouthillier*	Gaspésie–Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Maxime	Bernier	Beauce	Ben	Lobb	Huron–Bruce
Luc	Berthold	Mégantic–L'Érable	Alaina	Lockhart	Fundy Royal
James	Bezan*	Selkirk–Interlake–Eastman	Wayne	Long	Saint John–Rothesay
Daniel	Blaikie	Elmwood–Transcona	Lloyd	Longfield	Guelph
Steven	Blaney	Bellechasse–Les Etchemins–Lévis	Karen	Ludwig	New Brunswick Southwest
Mike	Bossio	Hastings–Lennox and Addington	Tom	Lukiwski*	Moose Jaw–Lake Centre–Lanigan
Scott	Brisson	Kings–Hants	Dave	MacKenzie	Oxford
Gordon	Brown	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	Steven	MacKinnon	Gatineau
Richard	Cannings*	South Okanagan–West Kootenay	Larry	Maguire*	Brandon–Souris
Guy	Caron	Rimouski-Neigette–Témiscouata–Les Basques	Simon	Marcil	Mirabel
Jim	Carr	Winnipeg South Centre	Brian	Masse	Windsor West
Bill	Casey	Cumberland–Colchester	Rémi	Massé	Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia
Michael	Chong	Wellington–Halton Hills	Phil	McColeman	Brantford–Brant
Serge	Cormier*	Acadie–Bathurst	MaryAnn	Mihychuk*	Kildonan–St. Paul
Rodger	Cuzner	Cape Breton–Canso	Larry	Miller	Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound
David	de Burgh Graham	Laurentides–Labelle	Eva	Nassif	Vimy
Matt	DeCoursey	Fredericton	John	Nater	Perth–Wellington
Todd	Doherty	Cariboo–Prince George	Robert	Nault	Kenora
Terry	Duguid	Winnipeg South	Robert-Falcon	Ouellette	Winnipeg Centre

Fayçal	El-Khoury	Laval–Les Îles	Ginette	Petitpas Taylor	Moncton–Riverview–Dieppe
Neil	Ellis	Bay of Quinte	Tracey	Ramsey	Essex
Mark	Eyking	Sydney–Victoria	Geoff	Regan	Halifax West
Doug	Eyolfson	Charleswood–St. James–Assiniboia–Headingley	Scott	Reid	Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston
Greg	Fergus	Hull–Aylmer	Gerry	Ritz	Battlefords–Lloydminster
Andy	Fillmore	Halifax	Yves	Robillard	Marc-Aurèle-Fortin
Pat	Finnigan*	Miramichi–Grand Lake	Don	Rusnak	Thunder Bay–Rainy River
Darren	Fisher	Dartmouth–Cole Harbour	Romeo	Saganash	Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou
Rhéal	Fortin	Rivière-du-Nord	Darrell	Samson	Sackville–Preston–Chezzetcook
Sean	Fraser	Central Nova	Andrew	Scheer*	Regina–Qu'Appelle
Stephen	Fuhr	Kelowna–Lake Country	Terry	Sheehan	Sault Ste. Marie
Bernard	Généreux	Montmagny–L'Islet–Kamouraska–Rivière-du-Loup	Robert	Sopuck*	Dauphin–Swan River–Neepawa
Mark	Gerretsen	Kingston and the Islands	Wayne	Stetski	Kootenay–Columbia
Ralph	Goodale*	Regina–Wascana	David	Tilson	Dufferin–Caledon
Jacques	Gourde	Lévis–Lotbinière	Dave	Van Kesteren	Chatham-Kent–Leamington
Patricia	Hajdu	Thunder Bay–Superior North	Dan	Vandal	Saint Boniface–Saint Vital
Cheryl	Hardcastle	Windsor–Tecumseh	Cathay	Wagantall*	Yorkton–Melville
TJ	Harvey	Tobique–Mactaquac	Erin	Weir*	Regina–Lewvan
Randy	Hoback	Prince Albert	Bob	Zimmer	Prince George–Peace River–Northern Rockies
Gudie	Hutchings	Long Range Mountains			