



Sherry Romanado, Member of Parliament for Longueuil-Charles-LeMoyne

**News release
For immediate release**

Strong support for MP Sherry Romanado's Bill C-224

Greenfield Park, April 5, 2022 – Yesterday, Sherry Romanado, Member of Parliament for Longueuil-Charles-LeMoyne, spoke in the House on her Private Member's Bill C-224, an Act to establish a national framework for the prevention and treatment of cancers linked to firefighting.

This bill, which seeks to promote greater awareness, education and information-sharing, in order to facilitate the prevention and early detection of occupational cancers linked to firefighting was co-seconded by members of the NDP, the CPC and the Green Party, and has garnered support from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and local fire departments and unions across the country.

"Saving firefighters' lives is a non-partisan issue, and I thank my colleagues from across the aisle for their support on this bill. Firefighters ensure our safety every day and we have a responsibility to do the same for them. I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure their well-being and safety as much as possible with the means at our disposal as parliamentarians," stated Sherry Romanado.

This proposed legislation was inspired by a Longueuil firefighter who met with MP Romanado after receiving a cancer diagnosis of multiple myeloma, a disease that was not recognised by his province as linked to firefighting. There is a disparity between the provinces in the recognition of the different types of occupational cancers among firefighters. This situation means that firefighters do not have access to the same protections and services from one province to another. The bill therefore aims to establish a national framework that would allow, among other things, a better exchange among federal, provincial and territorial partners of information on cancers related to firefighting.

Canadian firefighters play an important role in keeping us safe and their work involves many occupational hazards. Research shows that as much as 85% of all firefighter deaths in Canada may be caused by occupational cancers. Awareness and education are therefore essential to help firefighters detect the early signs of occupational cancer so that they can obtain screening and treatment. The enactment also designates the month of January, in each year, as "Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month".

Information on Bill C-224 can be found here: <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bills?keywords=c-224>

Quotes:

“We need to promote awareness. We need to promote information sharing, education on best practices for prevention and recognize that occupational-related cancers in firefighting do exist. That is why I have introduced Bill C-224.”

Sherry Romanado, Member of Parliament for Longueuil-Charles-LeMoyne

“Cancer is an epidemic in the fire service. Too many of our members have died prematurely due to the ravages of occupational cancer. We’re grateful to MP Sherry Romanado for addressing this important issue in Bill C-224 and we urge all MPs to unanimously support it.”

Edward Kelly - General President, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

“The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), represents the country’s 3000+ fire departments and their 130,000 firefighters, either through their fire chiefs or provincial and territorial fire chief and national affiliate fire organizations. We stand in full support of Bill C-224. Presumptive cancers don’t discriminate across provincial borders. Federal leadership, if well executed, will set a high bar to help both men and women in fire services all across our country”.

Chief John McKearney, CAFC President, Fire Chief, Whistler BC

“In the past 15 years, over 50 Montreal firefighters have died from cancers linked to their work protecting the citizens of Montreal. C-224 will not only put in place a national framework to recognize this sacrifice, but more importantly reduce the risk for future generations of firefighters through improved training, prevention and treatment.”

Chris Ross - President, Association des Pompiers de Montréal Inc. IAFF L125

“After meeting Ms. Romanado at her office, I knew that I could trust her and that she would do something to promote better access to cancer prevention and treatment among firefighters. I am happy to support this bill and I am sure that all the firefighters in Longueuil will do the same.”

Jean-François Couture, firefighter 33-2 at the Longueuil Fire Department

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