



May 10th, 2016

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you today in the hopes of drawing your attention towards a national issue that hits close to home in the hearts of many Canadians.

Military and first responders, including firefighters, paramedics, police officers, corrections officers and emergency dispatchers put their uniforms on everyday knowing full well they may face danger and human tragedy in their day-to-day duties.

They run towards danger, when most would run in the opposite direction. They put the lives and property of their fellow Canadians and our communities above their own. They are our silent sentinels who protect our Canadian values and way of life, ensuring the maple leaf stands tall, and Canada remains the true north, strong and free.

As you may know, I recently tabled a Private Member's Bill in the House of Commons. Bill C-211, *An Act respecting a federal framework on post-traumatic stress disorder*, aims to develop a national, cohesive framework for first responders, firefighters, military personnel, corrections officers and members of the RCMP suffering from PTSD.

Currently, Canada does not have any official framework for dealing with PTSD. Individuals with PTSD have an 80% higher risk of having another mental disorder, including depression, anxiety, alcohol, and/or drug abuse, as well as suicidal thoughts.

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Bill C-211 would require the Minister of Health to convene a conference with the Minister of National Defence, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, provincial and territorial government representatives, representatives of the medical community and patients' groups for the purpose of developing a comprehensive federal framework to address the challenges of recognizing the symptoms and providing timely diagnosis and treatment of PTSD.

Lives are being affected by PTSD each and every single day. Only through bipartisan support and cooperation can we hope to achieve effective and viable strategies for dealing with PTSD, and I ask for your assistance to ensure that Bill C-211 reaches Royal Assent in the House so that we can begin working on a national framework. We need a cohesive and coherent plan that transcends provincial borders. A hero in the east should be treated the same way as a hero in the west.

Please do not hesitate to submit any comments you may have, and together we can ensure that the heroes of this nation receive the support they need.

Respectfully,

Todd Doherty, M.P.
Cariboo - Prince George