



SHEILA COPPS, M.P.  
HAMILTON EAST

March 17, 1988

The Honourable Jake Epp  
Minister of National Health and Welfare  
Room 607  
Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

An Open Letter Regarding Environmental Sensitivity

Dear Mr. Epp:

I am writing regarding the plight of thousands of Canadians suffering the effects of environmental sensitivity.

On April 1, 1987, you stated in a letter to Mr. Chris Brown of the Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive that you were sympathetic to the plight of all persons suffering from any kind of health impairment, including Canadians suffering illnesses attributed to sensitivities. I was pleased to learn that you made this public statement but I am concerned that your personal sympathy for environmentally sensitive Canadians has not been reflected in your department's actions.

I understand that your department is often contacted by health professionals, members of the media and environmentally sensitive Canadians regarding this illness. Canadians enquiring about environmental sensitivity do not always receive a clear statement of government support for the sufferers of this illness. Without this federal support, environmentally sensitive Canadians will continue to face hardships in receiving recognition for their illnesses.

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Liberal Party Spokesperson  
for  
Health and Welfare  
Fitness and Amateur Sport



The Ontario Government, as I am sure you are aware, has taken positive steps in recognition of environmental sensitivity. Are you prepared to take the following specific steps at the federal level?:

- 1) Will you make a clear public statement in the House of Commons or to the national media recognizing environmental sensitivity as a very real illness which afflicts thousands of Canadians?
- 2) Upon making this public statement, will you ensure that your department and other federal departments acknowledge the illness's existence and act appropriately when responding to public enquiries?
- 3) Will you initiate a survey of the attitudes of health professionals and the general public regarding environmental sensitivity, study its results and initiate an information campaign to address any misconceptions?
- 4) Will you direct your officials to request submissions from the environmentally sensitive and their umbrella groups on how programs and policies in federal areas of jurisdiction can be improved to reflect the legitimate concerns of the environmentally sensitive?

I look forward to your prompt reply to my letter and your immediate action on behalf of the environmentally sensitive.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Copps, M.P.  
Hamilton East