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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
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Elizabeth May

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Circonscription

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The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health
Suite 1120, Valour Building
House of Commons

April 16, 2024

Dear Minister,

I am writing to call on the government to adopt the 2018 recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) to publicly fund shingles vaccinations for adults aged 50 and older.

Shingles affects approximately 30% of the Canadian population, increasing to 50% of those over the age of 80. Shingles is often misconceived as a painful but manageable condition, however it can result in severe and debilitating consequences like the development of post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN).

NACI advised that individuals 50 and older should be vaccinated against shingles. Yet there remains no government funding to ensure access for Canadians who cannot afford the vaccine. More than 94% of respondents in a recent Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) survey agreed that if NACI recommends an adult vaccine, that vaccine should be publicly funded.

This funding will help protect thousands of Canadians from shingles and alleviate the burden on the health care system. I reiterate the urgent need for the federal government



to align to the recommendations made by NACI in 2018 by publicly funding these vaccines for those above the age of 50.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

