

# LOVE CANAL MEDICAL FUND

Winter 1998

BULLETIN - HEALTH NEWS AND BENEFITS

Issue 2

The Love Canal crisis occurred 20 years ago. At that time we didn't know about the human health effects of many of the chemicals buried at Love Canal. Today we know much more and this better understanding can help us to assist you with information on diagnostic testing and diseases which could be reasonably associated with living at Love Canal.

This bulletin is the second in a series which we hope will not only keep you informed of the Love Canal Medical Fund benefits but also help you with information on ways to detect diseases early and how some diseases may be related to your exposures.

Please keep in mind that you are entitled to benefits for diseases reasonably associated to chemical exposures at Love Canal that are covered by the benefit program, *even if your lawsuit directly compensated you for that disease.*

One chemical that we know something about is dioxin. Dioxin was found at the dumpsite and in many areas throughout the neighborhood. Many of the samples taken at Love Canal had high levels of dioxin by today's standards.

## What health problems may result from exposure to dioxin?

### Cancer:

Soft or connective tissue, lung, liver, stomach, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

### Female reproductive problems:

Hormonal changes, decreased fertility, miscarriages, ovarian dysfunction, endometriosis.

### Effects on unborn fetus:

Some effects not seen until puberty: birth defects - cleft palate, hypospadias, hydronephrosis, alterations in reproductive system, decreased sperm counts; abnormalities in female genitalia, delayed puberty, neurological problems, development problems.

### Male reproductive problems:

Reduced sperm counts, testicular atrophy, decreased testis size, alterations in male hormones.

### Skin disorders:

Chloracne and eye lid cysts.

### Metabolic changes:

Altered glucose tolerance and decreased insulin levels leading to increased risk of diabetes, altered fat metabolism, increased risk of heart disease, weight loss, wasting syndrome, change in thyroid hormones.

### Central nervous system:

Increased irritability and nervousness, impaired neurological development and cognitive deficits.

**Damage to the liver, immune system, gastrointestinal and lung damage.**

**If you have experienced any of these diseases or symptoms since you filed your lawsuit, and are being treated, please contact the Love Canal Medical Fund and file a claim for your out-of-pocket expenses.**

This information is pretty scary. No one can turn back the clock and remove the exposures you received at Love Canal, but the Medical Fund wants to do what we can.

**Here are some ways we can assist you.**

One positive place where LCMF can help is in assisting you to get a yearly physical. A physical can detect problems early, providing a better chance for a positive outcome.

**Love Canal Medical Fund will pay up to \$150.00 per year, per beneficiary for an annual physical.** There is no deductible. The reimbursement forms are simple and we process these claims quickly.

**Many men and women - children during Love Canal - are beginning their families.**

If your child is a beneficiary and is planning to have children, LCMF will cover the out-of-pocket costs for amniocentesis testing or other diagnostic testing which will help determine the likelihood of a birth defected child. The Fund cannot pay for medical expense of a birth defected child not named in the lawsuit.

Finally, if you have any of the diseases or symptoms listed and associated out-of-pocket expenses, please contact the LCMF. This fund was established for this purpose and you are entitle to receive benefits if you are a named beneficiary.

**For more information: write LCMF,  
P.O. Box 540, Grand Island, NY 14072**

**Please give me your comments by December 1, 1998**

If I don't hear from you, I'll assume you have no comments.

E-mail [CCHW@essential.org](mailto:CCHW@essential.org)

Phone - 703-237-2249

Fax - 703-237-8389

Address:

Gibbs/CHEJ

P.O. Box 6806

Falls Church, VA 22040-6806