



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ALBERTA

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**Dr. David Swann, MLA**  
Calgary-Mountain View Constituency

Hon. Shannon Phillips  
Minister, Environment and Parks  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Ave  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

12 September 2017

**Re: Sears Hydrocarbon Plume in Hounsfield Heights Community of Calgary**

Dear Minister Phillips:

I was recently contacted by a concerned citizen regarding the Sears Hydrocarbon Plume in the Hounsfield Heights Community of Calgary.

As you know, Sears operated a gas station at North Hill Centre until a leak was discovered approximately two decades ago. The leak had been seeping gasoline into the ground – and surrounding communities, including Hounsfield Heights and Briar Hill – for a significant period of time, resulting in a multitude of long-standing environmental concerns. Sears has hired a company to deal with remediation of the plume, which to my understanding, is currently Clifton Associates.

The citizen who contacted me expressed significant concern regarding the remediation and clean-up of the plume. They expressed frustration at the length of time the clean-up has taken, the risks – environmental, health and property values – associated with the plume, and worry over the financial challenges that Sears Canada is currently facing. Given this, can you provide me with an update on the remediation of the Sears hydrocarbon plume? What is its current status, and is there an expected timeline of completion? Further, are you aware of any mitigation plans for area remediation should Sears be unable to financially continue operating?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Swann  
MLA, Calgary Mountain View

**CC: Laura Hunt, President, Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Association**