



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01734**

BY: **Ms. BENSON (SASKATOON WEST)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 20, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SEAN CASEY**

Response by the Minister of Canadian Heritage

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

COPYRIGHT

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their concerns regarding Canadians' ability to use works produced by the Government.

The Government is aware of the impact that Crown copyright can have on how these materials are used. Crown copyright applies to a wide range of government agencies with various mandates, some of which rely on cost recovery to finance the production of information and content. The current practice gives flexibility to different governmental branches and agencies to adopt the most appropriate way to handle the content they produce or publish. Given this context, crown copyright is a complex issue, and it is important to strike a proper balance between addressing the needs of Canadians to access and use information with other public interest considerations, such as the need to ensure that quality government information and content is being produced as well as accessed, used, and shared with others in a way that respects the accuracy and the source of the material.

The Government is committed to Open Government. As a member of the Open Government Partnership steering committee, Canada has taken a leadership role in the global movement to improve transparency and accountability. Canada is a global leader in the publication and use of Open Data, and is currently ranked #2 globally in the World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Barometer. Also, with the Open by Default pilot,

the Government increases transparency by making available documents from specific departments to public researchers, businesses and engaged citizens to strengthen partnerships and supports the pursuit of common goals with interested stakeholders in civil society.

Canada's *Copyright Act* includes a requirement that Parliament review the legislation every five years. The first review is expected to begin in late 2017 or early 2018. This will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to consider the current copyright framework, including provisions related to Crown copyright.