



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01736**

BY: **Ms. DABRUSIN (TORONTO—DANFORTH)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 23, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE AMARJEET SOHI**

Response by the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Drinking water

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of access to clean drinking water for Canadians, as it is a basic necessity and fundamental to public health and quality of life. The Government also recognizes the extreme and severe effects that a lack of clean drinking water can have on a community's residents, including the significant impacts in First Nations communities. This is why access to clean and safe water is a critical part of the Government of Canada's historic plan to invest more than \$180 billion in infrastructure over 12 years.

The Government of Canada is working to enhance Canada's public infrastructure through investing in provincial, territorial and municipal assets under the Investing in Canada Plan. This reflects the fact that approximately 95 % of public infrastructure in Canada is owned by provincial, territorial, and municipal governments.

Budget 2016 allocated two billion dollars for the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to provincial and territorial governments to support priorities for clean water and wastewater in communities. This funding supports: rehabilitation of water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, studies and planning for future system upgrades and new construction. The Fund is intended to foster improved safety and quality of water for Canadian families, while supporting a clean economy. Through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund over 1,100 projects drinking water projects have been approved in communities across the country.

Through the green infrastructure stream of the federal *Investing in Canada Plan*, announced in Budget 2017, funding will be provided for investments in environmental quality. This funding will support infrastructure projects that result in increased capacity to treat and manage water and wastewater, and greater capacity to reduce or remediate soil and air pollutants.

As well, the federal Gas Tax Fund provides more than two billion dollars annually for municipalities to help them build and revitalize their public infrastructure. This permanent, predictable and long-term funding is indexed at a rate of two percent annually and supports municipal infrastructure priorities such as drinking water. More than \$20 billion has flowed to municipalities under the federal Gas Tax Fund since 2005.

The Government of Canada is committed to clean drinking water for every Canadian, no matter where they live. Water and wastewater infrastructure are essential to keeping our waterways clean and our communities healthy and livable. The Government will continue to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure to work towards access to clean drinking water for every Canadian.