



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02052**

BY: **Ms. KWAN (VANCOUVER EAST)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE RALPH GOODALE, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Immigration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Family reunification is a key priority for the Government of Canada. In the last decade, processing times for spousal sponsorship applications rose to 26 months. Through targeted efforts, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has now eliminated 80% of the backlog and cut processing times for spousal applications down to 12 months.

The Government works continually to make the security screening process as expeditious as possible, and is developing a number of initiatives designed to improve its efficiency.

Some delays occur for reasons outside the control of the Government of Canada, such as incomplete applications and delays in obtaining responses from foreign governments. Nevertheless, the Government's priority is always reuniting families as quickly as possible, while continuing to ensure the security of Canadians.