



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02275**

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

DATE: **APRIL 27, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE MACAULAY, PC, MP**

Response by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Food policy

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada agrees that food security is an important issue and recognizes that more can be done to improve access to food, especially among more vulnerable groups such as children, Indigenous peoples, Canadians living in poverty, and people in isolated northern areas.

The mandate letter for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food includes a directive to “Develop a food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high-quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families across the country.” During engagement on A Food Policy for Canada, we heard from almost 45,000 Canadians through our online survey. We also heard from many Canadians and stakeholders through our national and regional engagement sessions, as well as through community events. Food security was widely discussed throughout the engagement process.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is working closely with other departments and agencies, including Employment and Social Development Canada, on the development of A Food Policy for Canada, as there are key linkages between the food policy and Poverty Reduction Strategy. We are exploring how a food policy could address food security, including contributing efforts to increase access to food, in particular in remote and northern areas of Canada, and improving the data available on household food security to better inform these efforts.