



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-02549**

BY: **MR. BRATINA (HAMILTON EAST-STONEY CREEK)**

DATE: **JUNE 20, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSITIA FREELAND**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Canadian embassies**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Canada invested heavily in stabilizing the Western Balkans following the devastating wars of the 1990s, and is committed to seeing Bosnia and Herzegovina's multi-ethnic democracy develop fully to ensure a secure and prosperous future. One way that we do this is through participation in the governance of the Sarajevo-based Peace Implementation Council. Canadian officials will continue to encourage the country's officials in its capacity as a member of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board to take every step to see these goals realised.

Although the previous government decided to close our Embassy in Sarajevo in 2009, Canada remains engaged in Bosnia and Herzegovina in a variety of ways. We continue to fund projects through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, which enables local NGOs to deliver projects that resonate with Canadian foreign policy priorities. Canada has channeled \$1.1 million through the International Trust Fund in support of demining efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Canada has also provided \$500,000 to UN Women for a project that provides support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Further, Bosnia and Herzegovina military personnel participate in the Canadian Military Training Cooperation Program (MTCP), and over 100 military personnel and civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence have received training in Canada or at various locations around the world.

Canada's Embassy in Budapest has proven effective in delivering on Canada's priorities and supporting relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government of Canada is evaluating all options for expanding our diplomatic presence, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but at this time there are no plans to reopen our embassy in Sarajevo.