



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03053**

BY: **MR. MCKINNON (COQUITLAM-PORT COQUITLAM)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 7, 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

National Day

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Public Safety Canada strives to keep Canadians safe, whether at home or abroad, or during outdoor activities that take Canadians off the beaten path, which might lead them to be involved in search and rescue (SAR) incidents.

Through the National Search and Rescue Secretariat, Public Safety Canada works in collaboration with the Volunteer Search and Rescue Council, which is comprised of the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada, the Civil Aviation Search and Rescue Association and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, to foster interoperability and coordination within the SAR community and its 18,000 trained SAR volunteers.

The role of Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) champion allows Public Safety Canada to provide leadership on national level policy issues through engagement on long-term horizontal National SAR Program (NSP) strategies, to collaborate to develop and implement an effective governance framework that engages all levels of government and volunteer associations in order to align policies and programs that recognize and integrate the GSAR contributions into the larger NSP, and to promote interoperability and the adoption of equivalent standards.

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The dedication of the SAR volunteers is undisputed and profound. One of the many ways Public Safety Canada acknowledges the commitments made by SAR volunteers is in the form of a prestigious recognition medallion, the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award (EMESA). The award is open to any member in the SAR volunteer community, whose status is recognized by a provincial, municipal or public authority, who has made an outstanding contribution to the SAR community. Past achievements recognized under the SAR volunteer category of the EMESA have included: outstanding contributions to the development, delivery and advancement of SAR; fundraising, the development and delivery of search and rescue education; contributions to the body of knowledge that informs search and rescue response and prevention activities; a multi-jurisdictional search and rescue exercise; and, recognition of years of service. Award recipients have included individuals and teams. The inaugural year of the award was marked by a televised national award ceremony presented by provincial and territorial Ministers.

Furthermore, Public Safety Canada recognizes the work of SAR volunteers on social media platforms throughout the year and during International Volunteer Day, National Volunteer Week, through AdventureSmart, and at events such as Emergency Preparedness Week and during the national SAR conference, SARscene.

The Government will continue working with the volunteer SAR community to improve SAR and to highlight the importance of volunteers in emergency management and in the SAR community.