



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03340**

BY: **MR. MILLER (BRUCE-GREY-OWEN SOUND)**

DATE: **APRIL 9, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE NAVDEEP BAINS**

Response by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

privacy and data protection

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

In November 2018, the Chief Statistician stated publicly that Statistics Canada will not proceed with the financial data pilot project until it has addressed the privacy concerns expressed by Canadians. No data was collected and Statistics Canada did not receive any information related to this pilot project. The pilot project which would have collected this information was not started, and development has been put on hold until the agency has addressed the privacy concerns expressed by Canadians.

Statistics Canada is continuing to work cooperatively with the Privacy Commissioner to ensure the information needs of Canadians are met, while also ensuring all necessary steps are taken to protect the privacy of confidential information. A report on this project from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner is forthcoming and Statistics Canada looks forward to the recommendations.

It is important to note that Statistics Canada has a long history, over one hundred years, of working with complex and detailed information. The agency has a solid track record of providing Canadians with high-quality information to make good decisions, while protecting privacy and confidentiality. Statistics Canada has always respected and always will respect the privacy of Canadians.

In fact, Statistics Canada is required, by law, to keep confidential the information obtained from survey respondents and data providers. The agency's commitment to the protection of data is enshrined in its policies and practices related to data collection, analysis and dissemination activities.