



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION NO.: **421-03373**

BY: **MR. ALBRECHT (KITCHENER-CONESTOGA)**

DATE: **APRIL 10, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE DAVID LAMETTI**

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Public Safety

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Our government is committed to protecting children from abuse. In Canada, both the provincial and territorial child welfare laws and the *Criminal Code* protect children.

Provincial and territorial child welfare laws protect all children in need of protection from physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect. Provinces and territories also require specific classes of persons to report child abuse.

The *Criminal Code* comprehensively protects children from abuse both through general offences, such as assault (sections 266 to 268), sexual assault (sections 271 to 273) and murder (sections 229 to 233), and through child-specific offences, such as failing to provide the necessities of life (section 215), abandoning a child (section 218), child abduction (sections 280 to 283) and child-specific sexual offences (e.g., sections 151 to 153). Moreover, abusing a child in committing an offence is an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes (subparagraph 718.2(a)(ii.1)).

The *Criminal Code* also authorizes the imposition of preventative protection orders, called "peace bonds", which are aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals, including children, before an offence occurs (sections 810 to 810.2). A range of conditions may be imposed, including that the person subject to the peace bond: not contact particular persons or

groups of persons; observe geographic zone restrictions; not possess weapons; and, participate in a treatment program. Peace bonds can be renewed when they expire and enforced anywhere in Canada. The maximum penalty for breaching a peace bond is four years on indictment and 18 months on summary conviction.