



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-03604**

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

DATE: **MAY 6, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PAM DAMOFF**

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Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Food policy**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of Canadians, which includes healthy eating. This is why we launched the Healthy Eating Strategy in 2016, to improve the food environment to make healthier eating choices easier for all Canadians, including children. The Strategy focuses on improving healthy eating information including the new Canada's Food Guide; protecting vulnerable populations by restricting advertising to children under 13 years of age of foods that contribute to excess intakes of sugars, sodium, or saturated fat; and, improving the nutritional quality of foods including banning industrial trans fat and reducing sodium in processed foods.

We recognize the important role that schools and communities play in supporting the nutritional health of children. While there is a mix of different school meal programs across the country, we know that more can be done to support children's health.

This is why, in Budget 2019, our government announced our intention to work with the provinces and territories towards the creation of a National School Food Program. This will be part of a new overarching Food Policy for Canada, which affirms our vision that all Canadians should have access to safe, healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate and locally produced food. Work on "A Food Policy for Canada" is being led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in collaboration with other departments, including Health Canada.