



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-04499**

BY: **MR. SHEEHAN (SAULT STE. MARIE)**

DATE: **JUNE 17, 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

**National day**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada is committed to increasing awareness by recognizing October 14<sup>th</sup> as Brain Cancer Awareness Day. This awareness day was initiated by the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, an organization that provides support to Canadians of all ages affected by brain tumors and advocates for public awareness.

Between 2013-14 and 2017-18, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) invested approximately \$821 million in cancer research, representing approximately 16% of all CIHR investments. This includes \$182 million in 2017-18 alone.

It is important to note that knowledge acquired in one area of cancer research increases the total knowledge brought to bear in all areas of cancer research. As part of CIHR's total cancer research investments, \$27 million was specifically invested for pediatric cancers during the same time period.

The current strategic plan of CIHR's Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) identifies High Fatality Cancers as one of its first priorities and supports innovative discovery research targeting high mortality cancers including advanced stage (metastatic) disease. For example, CIHR has provided more than \$600,000 to support the work of Dr. James Rutka at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, who is conducting preclinical experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of pre-approved chemotherapy drugs as potential future treatments for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma. This work has the

potential to lead to new clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new potential therapies for this type of cancer.

The Public Health Agency of Canada leads the Cancer in Young People in Canada (CYP-C) program, a national, population-based surveillance system that studies children and youth with cancer to help improve outcomes, enhance the quality and accessibility of care, and reduce the late effects of treatment. This surveillance program is implemented in collaboration with the C17 Council, a network of seventeen children's cancer hospitals across the country. The Program enables research through the External Data Access Initiative, which was developed with the intention of allowing researchers to access data for research purposes aimed at improving the management and treatment of childhood cancer in Canada. Information regarding data access is available at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/contribute-research-childhood-cancer-infographic.html> CYP-C surveillance program results are available at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/science-research-data/cancer-young-people-canada-surveillance-2017.html>