



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03895**

BY: **Ms. KWAN (VANCOUVER EAST)**

DATE: **MAY 17, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PAM DAMOFF**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Health care services

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of being able to access health information and services in a number of different languages to ensure patient safety and quality of care.

In Canada, health care is a shared responsibility between the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories. While the federal government provides financial support to the provinces and territories for health care services, the responsibility for matters related to the administration and delivery of health services, including the availability of qualified medical interpreters in health care settings, falls within provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

Provinces and territories have developed varied approaches to medical interpretation, from province-wide, centrally coordinated systems, to services provided by regional health authorities and individual health care organizations. Interpretation service is mandated by provincial and territorial legislation for some groups (i.e., disability or official languages legislation), however, health care systems are increasingly recognizing health equity in their service delivery improvement initiatives.

The federal government remains committed to working with the provinces and territories to foster efficient health care systems so that Canadians have access to appropriate and effective health care.