



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03890**

BY: **MR. ARYA (NEPEAN)**

DATE: **MAY 17, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **ADAM VAUGHAN**

Response by the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Autism

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Input Pertaining to Point 5 of the Petition:

The Government of Canada recognizes the need for long-term planning to ensure that Canadians with long-term disabilities will have the resources they need as they age. The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) supports families with long-term financial planning and is designed to help Canadians, including children, with severe and prolonged disabilities and their families save for their long-term financial security. To support this goal of saving for the future, the Government of Canada deposits Canada Disability Savings Grants and Bonds into the RDSPs of eligible beneficiaries. Each year, more Canadians are using RDSPs to save for themselves or for a loved one with a disability.

Since December 2008, several improvements have been made to the RDSP to provide Canadians with disabilities and their families with more flexibility when saving for the future, such as allowing beneficiaries to access unused grant and bond entitlements from the previous ten years. Other improvements include allowing beneficiaries to make small withdrawals from their RDSP without having to repay all grants and bonds accumulated in the previous ten years; providing greater access to RDSPs by people with episodic disabilities; and, allowing, under certain conditions, the interest earned on a child's Registered Education Savings Plan to be rolled over tax-free into his or her RDSP.

Through Budget 2019, the Government of Canada announced two additional measures to improve the rules governing RDSPs. These proposed changes would allow people who become ineligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to keep their RDSPs open and not have to repay grants and bonds, and allow assets held in RDSPs to be exempted from seizure in bankruptcy proceedings, on the same terms as Registered Retirement Savings Plans and Registered Retirement Income Funds.

Additional information regarding the Canada Disability Savings Program is available on the following website:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disability/savings.html>.