



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-00873**

BY: **MR. OLIPHANT (DON VALLEY WEST)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE KENT HEHR**

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Response by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Veterans' affairs**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Veterans Affairs Canada recognizes the high quality long term care provided to Second World War and Korean War Veterans at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre and the commitment of the Sunnybrook Hospital and its personnel to continue caring for those Veterans as long as they need services.

Veterans Affairs Canada is committed to addressing the mental health services needs of the growing number of Veterans presenting with a service related mental health condition, including those struggling with substance abuse problems, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or suicidal ideation, intent and/or behaviors, and other physical and mental injuries.

Since 2014, the government adopted a series of measures to improve the care and well-being of Veterans living with a mental health condition such as reducing the time required to adjudicate disability claims and accessing psychological and psychiatric assessments and treatments with, for example, the expansion of the Network of Operational Stress Injuries Clinics funded by Veterans Affairs Canada.

Veterans Affairs Canada also recognizes the need to better understand the operational stress related mental health conditions for the creation and dissemination of knowledge that addresses the evidence-based Operational Stress Injury prevention, assessment and treatment needs of Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces Members.

Options are being considered and developed to create two new centers of excellence in Veterans' care, including one with a specialization in mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder and related issues for both Veterans and first responders.