



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01257**

BY: **MR. STRAHL (CHILLIWACK-HOPE)**

DATE: **APRIL 6, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD**

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Sex offenders

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

This Government is committed to ensuring that children are protected from all forms of violence, including sexual violence. The criminal law provides comprehensive protection in this regard.

The Criminal Code prohibits the sexual abuse of children both through the general sexual offences (sections 271 to 273) and the child-specific sexual offences (e.g., sections 151 to 153). All of these offences impose severe penalties, including mandatory minimum penalties. Moreover, the Criminal Code requires courts to impose consecutive sentences where offenders are sentenced at the same time for child pornography and contact child sexual offences or for contact child sexual offences against multiple children (subsection 718.3(7)).

A dangerous offender designation is automatic where an offender has been convicted of three or more designated serious personal injury offences, which include sexual offences. Dangerous offender designations are for life.

Offenders serving a sentence of imprisonment are generally eligible to be reviewed for full parole after having served one third of their sentence or 7 years, whichever is less. However, a sentencing judge may require an offender convicted of a sexual offence to serve one half of the sentence or 10 years, whichever is less, before being eligible for parole. This sanction can be imposed if the court is satisfied that the expression of society's denunciation of the offence or the objective of specific or general deterrence so requires