



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01283**

BY: **MRS. MCLEOD (KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON-CARIBOO)**

DATE: **MAY 1, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOËL LIGHTBOUND**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Health Care Services

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government understands that the majority of Canadians want to stay independent and receive care in their homes, including at the end of their lives. Quality home care is critical to making this happen.

The Canada Health Act sets out the national principles that govern public coverage for hospital and physician services across Canada. The Government recognizes that it is the responsibility of provinces and territories to decide how best to deliver these services to meet the needs of their residents, as well as to make the difficult choices on public funding for non-hospital and non-physician services, including home care. The Government continues to support this approach, which is respectful of the provincial/territorial jurisdiction in healthcare.

While there are currently no plans to amend the Canada Health Act, there are other ways that the Government can assist Provinces and Territories. Budget 2017 will provide \$6 billion over 10 years to support better home care. Through this funding, Canadians can expect improved access to home and community care.

In addition, there have been and will continue to be targeted federal investments that help to improve home care in a number of areas, including education and training for health care providers, identifying national best practices, building research capacity, and providing supports for caregivers. Notably, Budget 2017 proposes to create a new Employment Insurance caregiving benefit of up to 15 weeks, which will cover a broader range of situations where individuals are providing care to an adult family member. Moreover, parents of critically ill children will continue to have access to up to

35 weeks of benefits, with additional flexibility to share these benefits with more family members. These federal activities are intended to complement and bolster work underway across the country to respond to the care preferences of Canadians, in ways that are innovative, collaborative and sustainable.

This ongoing collaboration with provinces and territories will help to create a health care system that is more patient-centred and sustainable, while assisting Canadians to obtain the compassionate care and support they need in their homes.