



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01232**

BY: **Ms. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)**

DATE: **APRIL 3, 2017**

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

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Neurological diseases

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada supports federal investments in research that contribute to providing the evidence needed to improve health outcomes for Canadians. Through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Government of Canada has invested approximately \$610 million between 2011-12 and 2015-16 to support research in neurosciences. This investment has contributed to enhancing the understanding of the causes of neurological conditions and to developing new treatments for patients affected by these conditions.

CIHR-funded research also supports investigations of hypotheses such as vascular connections with neurological conditions. For example, CIHR, in collaboration with the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society of Canada and the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Québec, has recently supported a national clinical trial to assess the safety and efficacy of the Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) procedure for MS patients. This Phase I/II clinical trial, led by Dr. Anthony Traboulsee from the University of British Columbia enrolled a total of 100 MS patients.

Through Budgets 2011 and 2016, the Government of Canada has committed up to \$120 million to establish the Canada Brain Research Fund, a public-private matching fund administered by the Brain Canada Foundation. With the support of the Canada Brain Research Fund, researchers in Canada's hospitals and universities are striving to discover new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat brain diseases and disorders.

The federal government also recognizes the importance of data collection and monitoring in supporting evidence-based policies regarding the care and quality of life of Canadians living with neurological conditions. As such, the Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System, supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), will include the capacity to report the prevalence and incidence of MS (as well as dementia, epilepsy and Parkinson's) in Canada at the national level. Prevalence, incidence, and all-cause mortality estimates are available by sex, age group, and province/territory and over time. Data will be released to the public in summer 2017 through various platforms, including PHAC's InfoBase Data Cubes (<http://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cubes/index-eng.html>) and the Government of Canada's Open Data (<http://open.canada.ca/en/open-data>).

The National Population Health Study of Neurological Conditions - a \$15 million investment from the Government of Canada in the period 2009-2013 - also documented the health impacts, health care needs, and epidemiological burden associated with MS. Key findings are presented in the synthesis report 'Mapping Connections: An understanding of Neurological Conditions in Canada'. Please find the link for the report: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cd-mc/mc-ec/index-eng.php>.