



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01929**

BY: **Ms. REMPEL (CALGARY NOSE HILL)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 1, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **KEVIN LAMOUREUX**

Response by the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government thanks the petitioners for presenting their concerns about the Standing Orders of the House of Commons.

The Government promised to bring real change to Parliament and remains committed to fulfilling that promise and making the House of Commons more efficient, open and transparent, so that Members of Parliament from all parties can better serve the Canadians they represent. The Government committed to modernize the rules of the House of Commons to make Parliament more relevant for Canadians and make it a better place to work. The Government offered a range of ideas in good faith to foster a dialogue on additional ways to modernize the operations of the House of Commons.

The Government made specific commitments on the use of prorogation, the inappropriate use of omnibus bills, the strengthening of committees, improving financial oversight and increasing accountability in Question Period. This includes the Prime Minister taking all questions during Wednesday sittings, as his schedule permits. This practice has been put in place and the Prime Minister has answered hundreds of questions from the opposition.

On June 20, 2017, the House of Commons adopted changes to the Standing Orders in four areas: 1) requiring written justification for a prorogation of Parliament; 2) additional power for the Speaker to divide voting on omnibus bills; 3) better alignment of budget and estimates processes to keep track of how government intends to spend public funds; and 4) Parliamentary secretaries as non-voting members on committees to provide, as a direct link to ministers, insight and assistance to committee. The Government is working with all Members of Parliament to implement these changes.

In addition, Government legislation has received Royal Assent to make the Board of Internal Economy open by default and to increase the independence of the Parliamentary Budget Officer.