



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02728**

BY: **MRS. ROMANADO (LONGEUIL-CHARLES-LEMOYNE)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 15, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOHN OLIVER**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National day

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The health and safety of children is a priority for the Government of Canada. The sudden and unexplained death of an otherwise healthy child is a devastating tragedy.

The Government of Canada works to address sudden death of young children through its efforts around Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which occurs in the first year of life. These efforts include advancing research, overseeing surveillance and raising awareness. However, like Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC), the exact cause of SIDS remains unknown.

From 2012/13 - 2016/17, the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, has invested over \$687 million in research related to human development and child and youth health. This includes research related to understanding the biological mechanisms that impact maternal, infant and child health; the social and environmental determinants of health; testing of clinical approaches; and, the delivery of health services.

Additionally, the Public Health Agency of Canada provides guidance for health practitioners and information for parents and caregivers to raise awareness of SIDS and to lower its risk. Key resources include the Joint Statement on Safe Sleep: Preventing Sudden Infant Deaths in Canadaⁱ, as well as the Safe Sleep for Your Baby brochureⁱⁱ. From 1999 to 2004, the

rate of SIDS decreased by 50%. This coincided with the *Back to Sleep* campaign, which recommended that infants always be placed on their back to sleep.

ⁱ Joint Statement on Safe Sleep: Preventing Sudden Infant Deaths in Canada: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/dca-dea/stages-etapes/childhood-enfance_0-2/sids/pdf/jsss-ecss2011-eng.pdf

ⁱⁱ Safe Sleep for Your Baby brochure: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/migration/phac-aspc/hp-ps/dca-dea/stages-etapes/childhood-enfance_0-2/sids/pdf/sleep-sommeil-eng.pdf