



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03289**

BY: **MR. EYOLFSON (CHARLESWOOD-ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA-HEADINGLEY)**

DATE: **MARCH 1, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **Ms. PAM DAMOFF**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Health Care Workers

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada believes that all work settings should be safe environments, and recognizes the increasing risk of violence faced by front-line health care workers, such as nurses and personal support workers, in the workplace.

The Government of Canada recognises that health is a shared responsibility and that the provinces and territories are responsible for the administration and delivery of health care and the management of their health workforce. Provinces and territories are addressing violence in the health workplace. For example, the Government of Ontario developed resources in 2016 to prevent and reduce the risk of violence in the health workplace, and the SafeCare BC #StopViolence campaign in 2017 was developed in British Columbia.

The Government is also aware of the important work being led by the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union (CFNU) on addressing the issue of violence against health care workers. The Government has met with the CFNU and continues to monitor its work in this area.

Federal organizations such as Statistics Canada and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), a federal department corporation, have also recognized this issue. A 2009 study published in the Statistics Canada publication, *Health Reports*, notes the high risk of workplace violence faced by health care workers, and examines the

experience of nurses in particular. The CCOHS provides information on its website about violence against health care workers, and offers a guide and e-courses about addressing workplace violence.

It is also important to note that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health is expected to study violence faced by healthcare workers in the coming months. This study is expected to provide important insights into the issue of workplace violence in healthcare settings, and will allow the Government, in collaboration with provinces and territories, to more fully understand this important issue, along with the potential actions that could be taken to address it.

In conclusion, the Government of Canada has been working with provincial and territorial governments, and key stakeholders and associations, in an effort to better understand the scope of this problem, and its impacts on health care workers and the health care system.