



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01115**

BY: **MR. STEWART (BURNABY SOUTH)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE KIRSTY DUNCAN**

Response by the Minister of Science

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Chief Science Officer

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their views about the independence and mandate of a Chief Science Officer.

On December 5, 2016, the Minister of Science launched the search for Canada's Chief Science Advisor (CSA). Candidates had until February 13, 2017 to apply.

As is the case in most comparable countries, such as the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, Canada's CSA will serve in an advisory capacity and focus on a more effective integration of science in policy-making across the federal government. The Advisor will report to both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Science and may be tasked to provide scientific information to Cabinet on any number of emerging issues that require an evidence-informed approach.

The independence of the CSA is reflected through the current appointment process. The Government's approach to Governor in Council appointments supports open, transparent, and merit-based selection processes. In order to move quickly with the establishment of a CSA, the Government of Canada is moving forward with the current approach. The Government of Canada will also consider legislative options during this mandate.

The CSA will be an individual who is highly respected in the scientific community and has credentials and experience in the academic and public policy domain. The CSA will provide advice to help ensure scientific analysis is considered when the government makes decisions, that government science is fully available to the public and that scientists are able to speak freely about their work.

The Government of Canada believes in science and its importance to the health, well-being and prosperity of Canadians. It is committed to science-informed policy making that draws on the expertise of its world-leading scientists and the global research community.