



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01699**

BY: **MR. VANDAL (SAINT BONIFACE-SAINT VITAL)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE RALPH GOODALE, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Criminal justice system

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

To protect Canadians and create safer communities, it is important for the pardons system to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of people who are living crime-free. Finding a job is often an important part of safe and successful reintegration, and inaccessible pardons can be a significant barrier to good employment because many jobs require criminal record checks.

Public Safety Canada (PS) and the Department of Justice are working in collaboration to review the changes made to the Canadian criminal justice system and sentencing reforms over the past decade. This review includes changes to pardons, which have been referred to as record suspensions since reforms in 2012.

PS is leading the review of the pardons system and the *Criminal Records Act*, which includes studying issues such as changes to the eligibility waiting period and the fees associated with pardon applications.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the waiting period, fee and purpose of the program are fair, proportionate, and have as a fundamental goal to help people living crime-free to become fully contributing members of society. In spring 2016, a public consultation on the user fees associated with pardon applications was undertaken, as was a broader public online consultation on record suspensions in fall 2016.

The results of these consultations are being used to guide reforms and are available online at:

- Public Consultation on the Records Suspension Program:
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/rcrds-sspnsn-prgrm/index-en.aspx>
- What we Heard - Public Consultations on the Record Suspension Program:
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/rcrds-sspnsn-prgrm/wht-hrd-en.aspx>
- Parole Board of Canada User Fees Consultation – What We Heard Summary: <https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/programs/user-fee-consultation/record-suspension-user-fee-consultation-report.html>
- Parole Board of Canada User Fees – Online Consultation Detailed Report: <https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/programs/user-fee-consultation/record-suspension-user-fee-consultation-full-report.html>