



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-00998**

BY: **MR. ERSKINE-SMITH (BEACHES-EAST YORK)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 2, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE JANE PHILPOTT**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

CANNABIS

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada has committed to legalize, strictly regulate and restrict access to cannabis to keep it out of the hands of children and to keep profits of the illicit trade out of the hands of criminals. On June 30, 2016, the Government of Canada created the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation to consider key aspects of its commitment, and to report to the Government with its advice on the design of a new system that legalizes, strictly regulates, and restricts access to cannabis. The work of the Task Force was guided by a discussion paper (<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/health-system-systeme-sante/consultations/legalization-marijuana-legalisation/document-eng.php>).

The Task Force received nearly 30,000 responses to their online questionnaire, and organizations sent nearly 300 submissions. The Task Force met with representatives of provincial, territorial and municipal governments and experts from a wide spectrum of disciplines, including researchers and academics; patients and their advocates; cannabis consumers; chiefs of police and fire departments; as well as numerous industry, professional, health and other associations. Indigenous experts, representative organizations, governments and elders were invited to participate in a variety of Task Force engagement activities, including the expert roundtables, bilateral meetings and a roundtable focused on Indigenous perspectives.

On December 13, 2016, the Task Force provided its report to the Ministers of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Justice, and Health and it was made available to the public online ([http://healthy Canad ians.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/index-eng.php?utm_source=news.gc&utm_medium=related_products_link_en&utm_campaign=mj_task_force_16&ga=1.131166476.2099235138.1478011573](http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/index-eng.php?utm_source=news.gc&utm_medium=related_products_link_en&utm_campaign=mj_task_force_16&ga=1.131166476.2099235138.1478011573)).

The establishment of a safe and responsible supply chain, including the cultivation of cannabis for non-medical purposes, were considered by the Task Force during its consultations with Canadians.

The Task Force has recommended that the federal government allow personal cultivation of cannabis for non-medical purposes with the following conditions:

- a limit of four plants per residence;
- a maximum height limit of 100 cm on the plants;
- a prohibition on dangerous manufacturing processes;
- reasonable security measures to prevent theft and youth access; and,
- oversight and approval by local authorities.

The Government is carefully considering the Task Force's advice as it develops legislation to be introduced in Parliament in the spring of 2017. The new legislation would come into force after being passed by Parliament and once regulations have been developed.