



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01932**

BY: **MR. FRAGISKATOS (LONDON NORTH CENTRE)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 1, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. BILL BLAIR**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Organ donation

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada thanks you for sharing your ideas and appreciates your initiative in tabling this petition.

The Government of Canada is committed to working with the Provincial and Territorial governments to facilitate collaboration on an organ and tissue donation and transplantation system that gives Canadians timely and effective access to care. While the Government of Canada does not have jurisdiction over the health care system delivery in the Provinces and Territories, it does recognize the importance of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, and has an important role to play in ensuring that Canadians have an accessible, safe, and comprehensive world-class organ and tissue donation and transplantation system.

Since 2008, Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments have provided over \$66 million in funding to Canadian Blood Services to facilitate inter-provincial coordination, and to develop a Canadian Transplant Registry (CTR) which is guided by inter-provincial policy and informed by evidence-based leading practices. This single window ensures that the organ donor list is comprehensive, timely and readily accessible. The Quebec government also participates through a separate agreement with Canadian Blood Services, making this a pan-Canadian endeavour.

In addition, over \$93 million has been invested in research related to transplantation through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) between 2011-12 and 2015-16. As well, Health Canada regulates the safety of the donation and transplantation system through the Safety of Human Cells, Tissues and Organs for Transplantation Regulations.

As a result of these combined efforts, close to 2,900 lifesaving transplants were performed in Canada in 2016. Between 2006 and 2015, Canada's transplant rate increased from 63.7 to 71.4 transplants per million population, and in 2016 this rate climbed even higher to 78.1 transplants per million population. This represents a 9 percent increase relative to 2015 and a 23 percent increase relative to 2006.

Despite the above achievements, the Government recognizes that too many Canadians are still on organ waitlists and is committed to improving the organ and tissue donation and transplantation system by collaborating with Provinces, Territories and key stakeholders to further increase organ donation rates and raise public awareness on organ donation across Canada, through establishing leading practices, professional education, knowledge translation, public education and awareness campaigns.