



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02165**

BY: **Ms. LAVERDIERE (LAURIER-SAINTE-MARIE)**

DATE: **MARCH 20, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE MARC GARNEAU**

Response by the Minister of Transport

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Rail transportation

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Rail safety is a top priority. As such, the Government of Canada is continuously looking for ways to make our railway system safer for Canadians. The government has taken steps to improve collaboration between railway companies and road authorities and encourage them to share safety-related information on their grade crossings.

Railway companies and road authorities (provinces, municipalities, band councils), and private owners are each responsible for managing railway crossing safety in Canada.

A process to open new road crossings already exists. Road authorities and railway companies are encouraged to work together to reach a conclusion on whether or not to open a road crossing, where to open a crossing, and how to apportion the costs. Should such discussions be unsuccessful, proponents can access services, such as mediation and adjudication, through the Canadian Transportation Agency.

In most cases, the Agency tries to first resolve complaints through facilitation or mediation. The Canadian Transportation Agency has the power to authorize the construction of a new road crossing under sections 101 and 103 of the *Canada Transportation Act*. Agency decisions made through adjudication are legally binding and can include where crossings should be located, conditions the crossing must meet, and apportionment of the costs.

Transport Canada web site is also regularly updated with information on developments in rail safety
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/menu.htm>.