



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-01989**

BY: **MR. SCHMALE (HALIBURTON--KAWARTHA LAKES--BROCK)**

DATE: **JANUARY 29, 2018**

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

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Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Missing persons**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

All Canadians share the pain of those whose loved ones are missing. The Government of Canada strongly supports efforts to help law enforcement agencies in their missing persons investigations.

The RCMP's National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) provides law enforcement, medical examiners and chief coroners with specialized investigative services in support of missing persons and found human remains investigations. NCMPUR maintains the national data on missing persons and unidentified remains investigations and provides investigative advice and case analysis to law enforcement partners. NCMPUR also manages a national public website to provide information on selected cases to the public for the purposes of seeking tips on investigations. Other specialized services offered through NCMPUR, include computer age progression, Amber Alert, travel reunification, and facial approximation.

Amendments to the *DNA Identification Act* (the Act), enabling the creation of new DNA-based indices (the Missing Persons Index, the Relatives of Missing Persons Index, the Human Remains Index, the Voluntary Donors Index and the Victims Index) have recently come into force. As new additions to the RCMP's National DNA Data Bank, these indices support police forces, medical examiners and coroners by authorizing the collection of DNA profiles from unidentified remains, missing persons and their relatives as well as from victims of crime and voluntary donors.

The indices also facilitate the comparison of DNA profiles with other samples from the National DNA Data Bank, with the exception of DNA from relatives of missing persons, which will only be compared to the DNA from missing persons and human remains.

Now that the amendments to the Act are in force, the RCMP and provinces and territories are able to submit DNA samples to the National DNA Data Bank's new indices for uploading. This provides additional tools for law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners to ensure that every effort can be made to locate missing persons and identify found human remains.