



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02023**

BY: **MR. ELLIS (BAY OF QUINTE)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 2, 2018**

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

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Childhood cancer

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes that advancements in research have the potential to improve the lives of families affected by pediatric cancer. This is why the Federal Government invested more than \$27 million in this research area between 2012-13 and 2016-17, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

It is important to note that CIHR invests in numerous areas of cancer research where findings benefit children with cancer. In this regard, CIHR invested approximately \$810 million in overall cancer research during the same time period.

In January 2018, CIHR and Genome Canada announced an investment of \$53.2 million over four years on cancer research to four research teams that will use genomics-based research to contribute to a more evidence-based approach to health, thereby improving health outcomes for patients. Of the four research teams, two are specifically addressing childhood cancer. One of these teams has received \$13 million to tackle childhood brain cancer and improve the survival rate and quality of life for children and young adults with brain cancer, both during and after treatment. Another team of researchers received \$12.8 million to support their work on precision medicine, aiming to treat acute myeloid leukemia, one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in young adults.

In Budget 2016, the Government announced an ongoing investment of \$47.5 million per year for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to continue its work with cancer agencies and stakeholders, while engaging patients, care providers and the general public in promoting innovative approaches to reducing the toll of cancer across Canada.

Enhanced coordination of cancer research and improved population research capacity is one of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's strategic priorities. Dr. Stephen Robbins, the Scientific Director of CIHR's Institute of Cancer Research, is the Co-Chair of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance, a Canadian Partnership Against Cancer initiative which aims to foster the development of partnerships amongst cancer research funding agencies in Canada and to promote the development of national cancer research priorities and strategies.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Cancer Surveillance Program generates high quality, relevant public health information pertaining to cancer control, prevention, and policy. The Program analyzes national data to monitor trends in cancer incidence, mortality, and survival over time by various factors such as sex, age, type of cancer, and region. The Program provides analysis for the Canadian Cancer Statistics report available at the following address:

<http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-101/canadian-cancer-statistics-publication/?region=on>.

As part of this Program, PHAC also leads the Cancer in Young People in Canada program, a national, population-based surveillance system that studies children and youth with cancer to help improve outcomes, enhance the quality and accessibility of care, and reduce the late effects of treatment. This surveillance program is implemented in collaboration with the C17 Council, a network of seventeen children's cancer hospitals across the country. The Program also enables research through the Program's External Data Access Initiative, which was developed with the intention of allowing researchers to access data for research purposes aimed at improving the management and treatment of childhood cancer in Canada. CYP-C surveillance program results are available at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/science-research-data/cancer-young-people-canada-surveillance-2017.html>