



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02520**

BY: **MR. SAMSON (SACKVILLE-PRESTON-CHEZZETCOOK)**

DATE: **JUNE 19, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE GINETTE PETITPAS TAYLOR**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

neurological diseases

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), is supporting research related to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Between 2012-13 and 2016-17, CIHR invested close to \$20 million in ALS research, including approximately \$6 million in 2016-17 alone. This investment supports research from eligible institutions across Canada and is focused on understanding the underlying mechanisms of ALS and investigating potential treatments. For example, CIHR is supporting the work of Dr. Janice Robertson from the University of Toronto, who is investigating the potential cause of ALS with the aim of developing effective treatments. Further, of the almost \$20 million that CIHR invested in ALS research over the last five years, \$3.7 million was allocated to projects specifically related to ALS stem cell research, which may offer potentially useful therapies in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

In addition, CIHR has a long history of partnering with the ALS Society of Canada (ALSSC) to advance ALS research. Between 2002 and 2017, CIHR and the ALSSC have had 15 collaborative agreements. These agreements represent a funding commitment of \$23.6M to CIHR's programs, with CIHR contributing \$6.2M, ALSSC providing \$10.7M and other partners funding \$6.7M.

Further, the Government also supports ALS research through the Canada Brain Research Fund, which is administered by the Brain Canada Foundation, a national non-profit organization. The Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF) has a matched

funding model where federal funds from Health Canada are matched with private and charitable donations to support brain research. To date, through the CBRF, Health Canada and the Brain Canada Foundation (Brain Canada) have jointly funded 35 research projects for ALS research totaling over \$20 million, half of which is Health Canada's contribution. This amount includes approximately \$10 million in funding through a partnership with the ALS Society of Canada (ALS Canada).

The Government of Canada recognizes the devastating impacts of ALS and continues to provide funding for research related to this neurodegenerative disease to help find better ways to prevent, treat and ultimately cure ALS.