



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-02505**

BY: **MR. ALBRECHT (KITCHENER-CONESTOGA)**

DATE: **JUNE 18, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **RODGER CUZNER**

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Response by the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Discrimination**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioner for sharing their views on the new attestation requirement under the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Canada's prosperity depends on young Canadians getting the education and the experience they need to prepare for the jobs of today and tomorrow. That's why our Government doubled the number of jobs for youth offered through Canada Summer Jobs compared to the previous government, creating paid work experience for almost 70,000 students per year.

In 2017, the Government of Canada heard concerns from Canadians about the Canada Summer Jobs program. It came to our attention that funding was being used in some cases to undermine the rights of Canadians. For example, funding was used to support an organization that distributed graphic images of aborted fetuses to the homes of Canadians, and to an organization that does not welcome LGBTQ2 young people at their summer camp.

The Government of Canada respects the rights of Canadians including freedom of conscience and religion and moving forward, we want to ensure funding for Canada Summer Jobs is not used to undermine individual human rights.

The Canada Summer Jobs 2018 application asks organizations to confirm that both the job and the organization's core mandate respect individual human rights and labour laws and do not support discriminatory practices.

These changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help ensure that a young person in a job funded by the Government will work in an environment that respects the rights of all Canadians.

The new attestation describes specific organizations that would not be eligible for funding, including those whose primary activities:

- involve partisan political activities; or
- do not respect – seek to remove or actively undermine – established individual human rights in Canada.

Faith-based organizations continue to be eligible for funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program. In fact, this year hundreds of faith-based groups are eligible for funding through Canada Summer Jobs and more than 3,000 employers are first-time funding recipients. They have been key partners and over the years have helped many youth get a positive work experience while providing valuable services in their communities. The government looks forward, to another successful year of jobs for youth.