



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-01355**

BY: **Ms. KWAN (VANCOUVER EAST)**

DATE: **MAY 16, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOËL LIGHTBOUND**

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Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Health Care Services**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The aim of the Canada Health Act is to ensure that all Canadians have reasonable access to medically necessary physician and hospital services based on health need and not the ability to pay. The Act sets out the national principles that govern public insurance for hospital and physician services across Canada.

The Government of Canada acknowledges that it is the responsibility of provinces and territories to decide how best to deliver these services to meet the needs of their residents as well as to make the choices with respect to public funding for other health services, including prescription medications provided outside the hospital setting, ambulance services and the services of psychologists and therapists. The Government of Canada continues to support this approach, which is respectful of provincial/territorial jurisdiction in health. As such, there are no plans to amend the Act.

Our Government is committed to strengthening Canada's health care system, including enhancing the affordability, accessibility, and appropriate use of prescription drugs. To this end, Budget 2017 earmarked \$140.3 million over five years for Health Canada and key national organizations to lower drug prices and improve access to prescription drugs.