



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02976**

BY: **Ms. DABRUSIN (TORONTO--DANFORTH)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 28, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **Kate Young**

Response by the Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Housing policy

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Canada's ratification of the United Nations (UN) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (the Convention) on March 11, 2010, was a reflection of its long-standing commitment to upholding and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities and underscored the Government's commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible society for all Canadians.

The Government of Canada is committed to the ongoing implementation of the principles contained within the Convention (i.e. including accessibility, housing and living independently in the community), and has worked diligently with provincial and territorial governments towards accession to the Optional Protocol. With the support of all provinces and territories, the Government of Canada acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention in December 2018. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the ongoing implementation of the Convention in the areas under their jurisdiction.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention is a supplementary treaty that provides an international complaint mechanism for individuals or groups who believe their rights under the Convention have been violated (including economic and social rights, such as housing). Before filing a complaint with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Committee), the plaintiff must exhaust all available domestic remedies in Canada.

The Optional Protocol contains two procedures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention: an individual communications procedure, which allows individuals or groups to file a complaint with the Committee, and an inquiry procedure, which allows the Committee to carry out an inquiry about violations of rights under the Convention. By acceding to the Optional Protocol, Canada has responded to calls from the disability community and taken an important step to further ensure the protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

The Government of Canada recognizes the need to continue efforts towards building an inclusive society for all. All federal departments and agencies are expected to include disability considerations in their work and to ensure they are in compliance with the Convention as they renew or develop policies, programs and services.