



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

---

PETITION No.: **421-03282**

BY: **MR. BOULERICE (ROSEMONT-LA PETITE-PATRIE)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PAM DAMOFF**

---

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**Regulation of food and drugs**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

The Government of Canada considers the issue of food safety to be of the utmost importance.

The shelf life of products containing partially hydrogenated oil (PHO) ranges from months to several years. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) did consider requiring that all existing product containing PHO be disposed of before September 17, 2018. However, the benefits of that had to be weighed against other factors, such as

- The volume of waste that would be generated;
- The lack of an immediate human health risk posed by these products (the risk is from long-term consumption);
- Realities related to the availability of affordable food nationally and globally; and,
- The importance of an orderly transition in the marketplace.

Balancing all of these social, economic and environmental factors, the CFIA decided that products cannot be produced using PHO's after September 17, 2018 but it will allow a two year phase-in period for products already on shelves. During this time, products containing PHO can continue to be sold, as long as they were manufactured before September 17, 2018. As an alternative to being disposed of, this will allow time for much of the existing stock manufactured before the ban was put in place to work through distribution. After September 17, 2020, no products containing PHO should be offered in Canada and CFIA will take appropriate action if they are found.