



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-03373**

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

DATE: **APRIL 10, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE RALPH GOODALE, P.C., M.P.**

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Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Public Safety**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting Canadians, especially children who are amongst the most vulnerable, by implementing evidence-based criminal justice policies that prevent crime and victimization, and keep our communities and citizens safe. That is why, since 2004, we have provided ongoing support to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, a national charity dedicated to the personal safety of all children. The goal of the Centre is to reduce the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, assist in the location of missing children, and prevent child victimization through a number of programs, services, and resources for Canadian families, educators, child-serving organizations, law enforcement, and other parties.

In addition, when it comes to the release of a high-risk offender, including a child high-risk offender, Correctional Service of Canada advises local police and provides them with detailed information about that individual prior to their release from federal custody. To ensure the public is aware of high-risk offenders in the community, most provinces and territories have legislation or policies in place to issue public notifications regarding these individuals.

Once a sentence has been completed, any person can apply for a peace bond under section 810 of the *Criminal Code*, which is a court order that allows a judge or justice of the peace to place conditions on someone in the community if it is desirable for ensuring their good conduct. Once ordered, the peace bond can last up to 1 year and if risk persists after its expiry, individuals can apply again for another bond.

The Government of Canada is also committed to ensure the needs of victims of crime are met appropriately. To meet those needs, laws and tools are available to victims, their family and their community. For instance, when a victim provides a statement to the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) regarding their safety concerns in relation to an offender's release, the PBC can impose any reasonable and necessary conditions to protect that person. This may include special release conditions, such as, geographic restrictions or non-contact orders when planning and approving an offender's application for any form of conditional release.

To protect children, organizations such as school boards, daycare and other child service providers, can request potential employees and volunteers to obtain a criminal record check. Additional checks, such as vulnerable sector checks to verify if potential volunteers or employees have a record suspension for sex offences, can also be useful to provide an organization that works with children or vulnerable persons with additional information on which to base their decision when hiring a candidate. Parents are also encouraged to ensure that individuals and organizations to which they confide the care of their children have been properly screened.

The protection of children is a top priority for the Government. We will continue to build on our efforts to prevent crime and victimization and to ensure the safety of communities, families and children.