



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03403**

BY: **Ms. SGRO (HUMBER RIVER-BLACK CREEK)**

DATE: **APRIL 10, 2019**

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

Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Public Safety

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada is aware of the consequences of violence in our communities and is committed to keeping Canadians safe, while safeguarding their values, and their rights and freedoms. Canadians have the right to be free to practice their faith and culture without fear. Preserving a safe, inclusive society requires constant work and vigilance. That is why the Government of Canada helps communities implement measures to protect against hate-motivated crimes through the Security Infrastructure Program (SIP).

The SIP supports the implementation of projects to help communities with a demonstrated history of being victimized by hate-motivated crime through the enhancement of their security infrastructure. The SIP provides financial assistance for security infrastructure improvements of institutions that are at risk of hate-motivated crime. The SIP is open to private, non-profit community centres and educational institutions recognized by the provinces and territories and places of worship. SIP was created in 2007 in response to concerns raised by a number of communities across Canada regarding their vulnerability to hate-motivated crime. Since its creation, SIP has provided over \$10 million in funding to 324 communities across Canada.

The list of eligible expenditures under SIP has been expanded to include up to \$10,000.00 for basic training for staff and others as appropriate to respond to a hate-motivated incident.

The existing list of physical infrastructure upgrades will now include security enhancements for doors, windows, intercoms and public address systems, as well as minor renovations to enhance security. These changes will be reflected in the next application period for SIP, which launches June 1, 2019. Budget 2019 provided an additional investment of \$2 million per year, starting in 2019–20, doubling the size of SIP to \$4 million per year until 2021-22.

To that end, the Government of Canada, under the *National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS)*, develops and supports initiatives that contribute to preventing and reducing crime and violence in Canada, including hate-motivated crime.

In addition, the Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence (Canada Centre) was launched in 2017 to lead the Government of Canada's efforts to counter radicalization to violence (CRV) in all its forms. Budget 2016 allocated \$35 million over five years, and \$10 million per year ongoing, to establish the Canada Centre and support CRV activities across Canada. The Canada Centre's activities include implementing the *National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence*; promoting coordination and collaboration; funding, planning and coordinating research; and, providing financial support to initiatives aimed at preventing radicalization to violence in Canada.

The Centre's Community Resilience Fund supports a number of initiatives aimed at improving our understanding of, and response to, hate speech and radicalization to violence, particularly in the online space. Examples include the *Canada Redirect Initiative*, led by Moonshot CVE, which looks to bring positive, alternative content to vulnerable individuals seeking violent extremist or terrorist material online, as well as *Pushing Back against Hate in Online Communities* (MediaSmarts), which examines the attitudes and experiences of young Canadians towards online hate speech and violent radicalization.

The Canada Centre is also investing in a number of multi-agency approaches in support of interventions for those who may be at risk of radicalizing to violence. These include community-led partnerships, such as the Organization for the Prevention of Violence in Edmonton, and a number of law enforcement-led approaches, such as the Multiagency Early Risk Intervention Tables in Ottawa and Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS) in Toronto. FOCUS is a collaborative risk-driven approach to Community Safety and Wellbeing co-led by the City of Toronto, United Way Toronto and Toronto Police Service that aims to reduce risk, harm, crime, victimization and improve community resiliency and wellbeing.