



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

---

PETITION No.: **421-03478**

BY: **MR. BEZAN (SELKIRK-INTERLAKE-EASTMAN)**

DATE: **MAY 1, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **RODGER CUZNER**

---

Response by the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**Labour unions**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms includes the freedom of expression and the freedom of association, and the Government of Canada supports this right.

Unions matter. Unions represent people. People who work hard, support their families and contribute to their communities and our economy. The labour movement has been essential to promoting fairness and inclusion in our economy. Unions fight for the middle class, and have been the driving force behind historical progress made on behalf of women, LGBTQ workers, Indigenous workers, and workers with disabilities.

The Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) has the sole jurisdiction over what can be certified as a union. It is the sole responsibility of the CIRB to certify or decertify bargaining units on application by parties and in accordance with the provisions of the *Canada Labour Code*. As the CIRB is an independent, arms-length quasi-judicial tribunal, it would be inappropriate for the Minister of Labour to override the certification process.

Our government committed to being a real partner to labour. We stand by that commitment, and we'll keep working on behalf of workers and the middle class.