



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-04218**

BY: **MRS. FORTIER (OTTAWA-VANIER)**

DATE: **JUNE 7, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PAM DAMOFF**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Health care services

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Midwives are key primary care providers who seek to optimize the childbirth experience for women and families by assisting with births and providing essential pre- and post- natal care. By providing care at home and in the community for lower risk pregnant women, they also allow physician and hospital resources to be focused on mothers and babies that may be at higher risk.

For its part, the Government of Canada is helping to build and support the practice of midwifery in First Nations and Inuit communities through new investments in Budget 2017. Of \$828 million over five years to improve the health outcomes of people in First Nations and Inuit communities, more than \$83 million is dedicated to maternal and child health, including \$6 million over five years to support culturally-safe midwifery in communities. As the first federal investment in Indigenous midwifery, this funding is significant for identifying needs and opportunities for Indigenous midwifery in First Nations and Inuit communities.

The Government of Canada recognizes the important role played by midwives and that they are an essential component of the regulated Canadian health workforce. Regulation of the midwife health workforce protects and promotes the safety and well-being of women and their children. Recognizing that the provinces and territories are responsible for the regulation, administration, and delivery of health care, and the management of their health workforce, the

Government of Canada encourages jurisdictions and health professions to work together to develop cost-effective systems for regulation, while prioritizing patient safety and positive outcomes for pregnant women.