



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01148**

BY: **MRS. JORDAN (SOUTH SHORE-ST. MARGARETS)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **STEPHANE LAUZON**

Response by the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Disabled and handicapped persons

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of the inclusive participation of persons with disabilities and, by working to remove barriers, is committed to ensuring that all Canadians have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

The Government recently completed an extensive in-person and online consultation to inform the development of planned new accessibility legislation. The goal of this legislation will be to increase the inclusion and participation of Canadians who have disabilities or functional limitations by increasing accessibility and removing barriers in areas of federal jurisdiction.

The consultation process was launched on June 22, 2016 and closed on February 28, 2017. The consultation included 18 public engagement sessions in cities across the country, 9 roundtable discussions bringing together disability stakeholders, academic experts and industry representatives, a National Youth Forum, and an online questionnaire.

In addition, Budget 2016 allocated \$2 million over two years to help stakeholder organizations engage their members on the planned legislation. Funding is being provided to five partnerships of disability organizations and to three Indigenous organizations.

A report on what was learned from the consultation will be released in late spring, and will be used to inform the development of the legislation. The Government plans to introduce the new legislation in late 2017 or early 2018.

Further, when Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it committed to promote, protect and ensure the equal enjoyment of all human rights by people with disabilities. Canada continues to work toward ongoing compliance with the Convention over time. Most recently, the Government of Canada announced that it has begun the process to consider accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which the disability community has identified as one of its priorities. This would provide people with disabilities a new safeguard for their rights by establishing procedures aimed at strengthening the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

In partnership with all orders of government, private sector companies, and service providers, the Government of Canada will continue working toward a stronger and more inclusive society for persons with disabilities.