



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01203**

BY: **MR. SCHIEFKE (VAUDREUIL—SOULANGES)**

DATE: **MARCH 10, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE NAVDEEP BAINS**

Response by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Youth

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for sharing their views concerning youth under the age of 18 serving as directors under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*.

Serving as the director of a corporation, whether for profit or not-for-profit, can be a taxing endeavour that requires significant responsibility. Youths who have not attained the age of majority are unable to enter into legal contracts, and do not have the flexibility to participate fully in business activities in light of their schooling. In addition, youth on a board are likely to be denied director's liability insurance, which leaves them significantly vulnerable. This leaves youth poorly positioned to take on the legal liability or responsibilities involved.

The Government commends the spirit of volunteerism exhibited by today's youth, and encourages youths to participate in any number of initiatives, whether Government-led or non-profit sector, in meaningful ways.

Youth are an important part of Canada's future and for that reason, and many more, a focus of Government policy and practices. This is best exemplified through the first Prime Minister's Youth Council. This Council invites a body of young Canadians between the ages of 16-24 to provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister on national issues. Youth can truly provide a positive contribution to Canada and the Government wants to continue to encourage their engagement.