



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-01203**

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

DATE: **MARCH 10, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PETER SCHIEFKE**

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Response by the Prime Minister

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Youth**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for submitting this call for new opportunities for Canadian youth to take on leadership roles in civil society.

The Government is committed to recognizing the many ways in which youth already contribute as Canadian leaders today, and to expanding the range and scope of leadership opportunities that are available to them.

To ensure that the voices of youth are brought to the forefront, the Government announced the creation of the Prime Minister's Youth Council in July 2016. The first wave of 15 Council members met in Ottawa in September 2016, where they attended events on Parliament Hill including the One Young World Summit. The second wave of 11 Council members was announced in January 2017. Since then, the 26 members of the Youth Council have taken part in a range of policy discussions, attended and spoken at public events, and met with various Cabinet Ministers to share their unique perspectives on policy issues. These young leaders are exploring innovative tools to engage broadly with youth in their communities.

The Government is also reaching out to Canadian youth to seek their input, leadership, and unique perspectives. Since September 2016, more than 90,000 emails have been sent to young Canadians to connect them with opportunities to get engaged with Government institutions. These engagement opportunities have encompassed a broad range of topics including youth employment, climate change, accessibility legislation, international assistance, agriculture, Budget 2017 consultations, Canada's Volunteer Awards, First Nation education, and women and girls in science. Additionally, the Government's first youth newsletter was sent to more than 12,000 subscribers in March 2017, highlighting other opportunities for young Canadians to contribute to national discussions that matter to them.

To help young Canadians gain valuable work and life experience while providing support for communities across Canada, Budget 2016 proposed \$105 million over five years in support of a youth service initiative. The Government will launch the Initiative in the fall of 2017, including a call for proposals to give youth the opportunity to serve.

We continue to be impressed by the talent, intellect, and unique perspectives that young people bring to issues facing Canada and the world.