



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01273**

BY: **MR. ELLIS (BAY OF QUINTE)**

DATE: **APRIL 13, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOËL LIGHTBOUND**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Childhood cancer

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes that advancements in research have the potential to improve the lives of families affected by pediatric cancer. This is why the federal government invested more than \$28 million in this research area between 2011-12 and 2015-16, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

It is important to note that CIHR invests in numerous areas of cancer research where findings benefit children with cancer. In this regard, CIHR invested approximately \$809 million in overall cancer research during the same time period.

On February 4, 2016, CIHR and its partners, including Genome Canada, Stand Up to Cancer Canada, the Canadian Cancer Stem Cell Consortium and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research announced an investment of \$11.7 million over four years to study cancer stem cells that drive the growth of brain tumours in children and adults. The funded team, led by Dr. Peter B. Dirks at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, will focus its effort on the development of novel treatments that will lead to improved outcomes for Canadians with these diseases.

In Budget 2016, the Government announced an ongoing investment of \$47.5 million per year for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to continue its work with cancer agencies and stakeholders, while engaging patients, care providers and the general public in promoting innovative approaches to reducing the toll of cancer across Canada.

Enhanced coordination of cancer research and improved population research capacity is one of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's strategic priorities. Dr. Stephen Robbins, the Scientific Director of CIHR's Institute of Cancer Research, is the Co-Chair of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance, a Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's initiative which aims to foster the development of partnerships amongst cancer research funding agencies in Canada and to promote the development of national cancer research priorities and strategies.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Cancer Surveillance Program generates high quality, relevant public health information pertaining to cancer control, prevention, and policy. The Program analyzes national data to monitor trends in cancer incidence, mortality, and survival over time by various factors such as sex, age, type of cancer, and region. The Program provides analysis for the Canadian Cancer Statistics report available at the following address:
<http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-101/canadian-cancer-statistics-publication/?region=on>.

As part of this Program, PHAC also leads the Cancer in Young People in Canada program, a national, population-based surveillance system that studies children and youth with cancer to help improve outcomes, enhance the quality and accessibility of care, and reduce the late effects of treatment. This surveillance program is implemented in collaboration with the C17 Council, a network of seventeen children's cancer hospitals across the country. The Program also enables research through the Program's External Data Access Initiative, which was developed with the intention of allowing researchers to access data for research purposes aimed at improving the management and treatment of childhood cancer in Canada.