



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01325**

BY: **MR. STANTON (SIMCOE NORTH)**

DATE: **MAY 11, 2017**

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

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

HUMAN DISEASES

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, works with national stakeholders from the chronic immunological neurodegenerative disease community to bring awareness to the issue and build research capacity in this area. These engagements led to the launch of a research funding opportunity, in November 2016, which had a focus area on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. In March 2017, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research released the results of this competition which will fund a promising project that is investigating a potential cause of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis /Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has also taken action to bring awareness to the issue of chronic immunological neurodegenerative disease by engaging with the research community. For example, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis issued a statement in their December 2016 newsletter on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis /Chronic Fatigue Syndrome that described it as a "chronic, complex, multisystem illness". The statement affirmed the need for more researchers to investigate the underlying pathology of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis /Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis is also committed to engaging with patients and patient advocates to build bridges with the research community on chronic immunological

neurodegenerative diseases. For instance, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis is also participating in a priority setting partnership with a focus on adult Fibromyalgia, through the James Lind Alliance. The purpose of this priority setting partnership is to: (1) engage patients, caregivers, and clinicians in a priority-setting exercise that would identify the scope of uncertainties in the management of adult fibromyalgia; (2) agree by consensus on a prioritized list of those uncertainties, for research; (3) publicize the results of the priority setting partnership and process; and, (4) to take the results to research funding bodies to be considered for funding.

The Government of Canada will continue to take action to increase our understanding of chronic immunological neurodegenerative disease.