



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: 421-02858

BY: Ms. FINLEY (HALDIMAND-NORFOLK)

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2018

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: KEVIN LAMOUREUX

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Response by the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

House of Commons

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ORIGINAL TEXT

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REPLY

The Government thanks the petitioners for presenting their concerns regarding *Standing Order of the House of Commons* 36(1.1)(c), which dictates the size requirements on which a paper petition may be written, typewritten or printed on for certification and presentation to the House of Commons.

On November 7, 2017, the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) began a review of the House of Commons electronic petitions system. During the study, the Committee also examined the rules for paper petitions that appear to be unduly restrictive and incompatible with a desire to provide the public with opportunities to petition Parliament and government.

On November 8, 2018, the Chair of the Committee tabled the 75<sup>th</sup> report of the PROC entitled, "Approval and Updating of the House of Commons Electronic Petitions System." The government completely agrees with the recommendations in the report from the Committee to make the electronic

petitions permanent, more efficient and to change the maximum acceptable paper size for a paper petition.

On November 29, 2018, the House of Commons adopted unanimously the implementation of all the recommendations in the report. Consequently, *Standing Order* 36(1.1)(c) has been changed to allow paper petitions no smaller than 14 cm x 21.5 cm and no larger than 28 cm x 43.25 cm to be certified and presented to the House of Commons. This important change will better ensure the right of all Canadians to petition Parliament and participate in the democratic process to the greatest extent possible.

*Standing Order* 36(1.1) of the House of Commons has been amended as follows:

**Form of paper petitions.**

(1.1) In order to be certified, pursuant to section (1) of this Standing Order, every paper petition shall:

(a) be addressed to the House of Commons, the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, the Government of Canada, a Minister of the Crown or a Member of the House of Commons;

(b) contain a clear, proper and respectful prayer which may call for the expenditure of public funds;

(c) be written, typewritten or printed on paper no smaller than 14 cm x 21.5 cm and no larger than 28 cm x 43.25 cm;

(d) be free of alterations and interlineations in its text;

(e) have its subject-matter indicated on every sheet if it consists of more than one sheet of signatures and addresses;

(f) contain only original signatures and addresses written directly onto the petition and not pasted thereon or otherwise transferred to it;

(g) not concern a matter in which one or more of the heads of relief sought are currently sub judice; and

(h) contain at least twenty-five signatures from citizens or residents of Canada, other than Members of Parliament, and where the signatories have a fixed place of residence, their addresses.