



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION NO.: 421-00059

BY: MR. SHIELDS (BOW RIVER)

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2016

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: THE HONOURABLE JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jody Wilson-Raybould', written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Impaired driving

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government acknowledges and recognizes the petitioners' concerns that the criminal law maintains public safety and holds accountable those who endanger it, including those convicted of impaired driving causing death.

The *Criminal Code* already contains a comprehensive set of offences that apply to injury and death caused by a person driving a vehicle. The offences of impaired driving causing death, driving with a blood alcohol concentration over 80 mg per 100 mL and causing death, and refusing a demand for a breath or blood sample when the person knows that he or she was involved in an accident that caused a death are all punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment. Manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death may also be charged.

Whether or not an offence is punishable by an MMP, courts have an obligation to impose sentences that are both proportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the offender.

The Government has committed to reviewing MMPs to ensure that they are in accordance with the fundamental principles of sentencing highlighted in the *Criminal Code* – most notably, that sentences handed down by Canadian judges reflect the severity of the crime and the moral blameworthiness of the offender. Furthermore, the Government will conduct a review of the changes in our criminal justice system and sentencing reforms over the past decade and will assess the changes, ensure that the safety of our communities is increased, getting value for money, addressing gaps and ensuring that current provisions are aligned with the objectives of the criminal justice system.

The Government recognizes that impaired driving is a significant concern to all Canadians and is committed to working with the provinces and territories to ensure the safety of our roads and highways.