



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Petition e-289 (Dairy products)

Keywords

Dairy industry
Milk and dairy products
Small and medium-sized enterprises

E-petition initiated by Cory Harris from Burlington, Ontario

Petition details

Petition to the Minister of Health

Whereas:

- Humans have been consuming locally produced raw milk for thousands of years and have enjoyed the health benefits included therein, and raw milk contains enzymes and beneficial bacteria (probiotics) that are destroyed during the pasteurization process;
- Large scale industrially-produced dairy products present greater health risks which must be managed through pasteurization; milk produced on a small scale through local farms is subject to significantly lower risk levels;
- Health Canada's existing policy and regulatory framework fails to differentiate between these risk levels and prohibiting the sale and distribution of raw milk is not a reasonable approach and the risk profile for raw milk is lower than other foods available to consumers; and
- Canada is the only G8 country that prohibits the sale of raw milk to consumers, any health risks associated with locally produced milk are being managed effectively in other jurisdictions through the use of appropriate evidence based standards and certification programs. The Government of Canada can learn from these successes, and Canadians should have the freedom to choose to purchase pasteurized or raw milk.

We, the undersigned, **Citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Health** to Modernize and amend the Food and Drugs Act and the corresponding Food and Drug Regulations, to permit the legal sale of, and/or access to, raw (i.e. unpasteurized) milk and milk products through small scale certified herd share programs, or other such suitable arrangements, capable of managing any associated health risks in a responsible and reasonable manner.

History

Open for signature: April 13, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Closed for signature: August 11, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Presented to the House of Commons

Larry Miller (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound)

September 20, 2016 (Petition No. 421-00561)

Government response tabled: November 3, 2016

5116 signatures