

**PETITION TO GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CONCERNING SICKLE CELL AND THALASEEMIC DISORDERS**

Whereas,

- Sickle cell and thalaseemic disorders are inherited and result in abnormal or inadequate haemoglobin production in those affected
- The life span of persons with severe sickle cell disease can be reduced as much as 30 years
- An estimate 5 to 25% of Canadians of African, Caribbean, Mediterranean and Asian descent carries the trait gene for sickle cell and thalassaemia
- Ontario and British Columbia are the only provinces in Canada that have universal newborn screening programs for sickle cell disease'
- The management of sickle cell and thalassaemic disorders does not uniformly conform to the highest standards in Canada
- Greater public awareness of these diseases and systemic genetic testing could be helpful in control and management of these disorders across Canada;
- The Parliament of Canada believes that the prospects and life circumstances of patients suffering from sickle cell disease and thalaseemic disorders must be improved through the development of a comprehensive national strategy for patient care

We, the undersigned, call upon the Government of Canada to:

- To adopt the Bill entitled Act respecting a comprehensive National Strategy for Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassaemic Disorders (number Bill C-221 in the 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament

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**Once completed, please return to Kirsty Duncan, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. NO STAMP REQUIRED.**

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