

A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ESTABLISH A PERMANENT VIDEO RELAY SERVICES IN CANADA

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS ASL & LSQ users do not have access to telecommunications services which would allow them to communicate in their first language;

WHEREAS communications is a human right as declared by the United Nations (UN) Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and section 20 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom;

WHEREAS there is only limited access to VRS in Canada;

WHEREAS a permanent Canadian VRS system would enable Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind members to use conventional phones in order to communicate on a daily basis in both official spoken languages (English and French) and both Sign Languages (ASL and LSQ);

WHEREAS establishing and running an open competitive market for VRS would make VRS operational all day, every day, and allow all Deaf people to use phone services for all the same and varied reasons hearing people use and enjoy telecommunications services;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to immediately implement Motion M-305 which calls for a) reversing the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission’s decision to end the Video Relay Service (VRS) trial program hosted by TELUS-Sorensen which covered the region of British Columbia and Alberta; (b) restoring the VRS; and (c) immediately adopting VRS technology, in both official languages and in American Sign Language and Quebec Sign Language as needed, as an option for Canadian Deaf persons who require services that facilitate phone conversations, in addition to the current text-based Message Relay service.

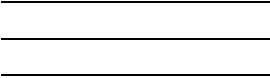
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Please return (postage paid) to: Peter Julian, M.P. for Burnaby—New Westminster
Room 184, Confederation Building, House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

(Aussi disponible en français)

BC Video Relay Service Committee

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Peter Julian, MP
Room 184 - Confederation Building
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