



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01798**

BY: **MR. LAUZON (STORMONT-DUNDAS-SOUTH GLENGARRY)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **ADAM VAUGHAN**

Response by the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National day

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their desire to pronounce April 14, Poor House Commemoration Day.

While the Government of Canada does not have any current plans to officially designate the aforementioned date, it does recognize the importance of the role that all Canadians citizens from every walk of life played in creating our current nation. These Canadians will always remain part of the shaping of our today's nation, no matter how big or small that role may have been.

As for the purpose of your petition, the Government of Canada can establish a special day, week, month or year through the following:

- **Royal Proclamation:** under the Great Seal of Canada, issued by the Governor General in the name of the Sovereign, further to an Order-in-Council (and a Memorandum to Cabinet presented by the sponsoring Minister). This is a very formal way, which Privy Council Office discourages. The Fire Prevention Week, in October, is proclaimed that way, and has been observed since the 1880s; National Aboriginal Day was established by Royal Proclamation in 1996 and Canadian Multiculturalism Day in 2002.

- **Legislation:** either through a government sponsored bill or a private member's bill. However, this is a lengthy process, especially for private member's bills, which are subject to a draw before being debated in the House of Commons. To proceed with a private members' bill, one should follow up with a Member of the House of Commons who would agree to sponsor such a bill. A Memorandum to Cabinet presented by the sponsoring minister is usually required.