



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01937**

BY: **MR. ERSKINE-SMITH (BEACHES-EAST YORK)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 4, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SEAN CASEY**

Response by the Minister of Canadian Heritage

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Canadian heritage

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government thanks the petitioners for expressing their views regarding the designation of a national flower for our country.

When the Government of Canada wishes to create an official symbol, one of the factors considered is if the symbol is, as much as possible, representative of all of Canada. Over time, a number of symbols from Canada's natural environment have been formally established through various mechanisms such as proclamations, orders in council, and acts.

Although Canada does not have a national floral symbol, the maple tree was officially recognized as Canada's arboreal emblem in 1996. Additionally, the maple leaf has been associated with Canada since the 1700s and is widely used as a symbol for the country.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and interest in the national symbols of Canada.