



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03239**

BY: **MR. BLANEY (BELLECHASSE-LES ETCHEMINS-LÉVIS)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SERGE CORMIER**

Response by the Minister of National Defence

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Canadian heritage

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces values the rich heritage of the Quebec City Citadelle, which houses a vice-regal residence and has been home to the 2nd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment since 1920.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention entrusts each country with the responsibility for preserving their world heritage sites. Canada fulfils its obligations to this convention through the Treasury Board Policy on Management of Real Property and the guidelines and restoration protocols for heritage buildings provided by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO). National Defence works with Parks Canada, which manages the FHBRO, and follows the same processes. National Defence has adhered to these guidelines for the restoration of the Citadelle. As part of restoration projects at the Citadelle, only damaged, unrepairable stones are replaced with similar sandstone to preserve the wall's heritage character. Because the original quarries are closed, "original" Sillery sandstone is no longer available for the Citadelle. Furthermore, it is important to note that American Bluestone has already been used for previous restoration projects at the Citadelle, including in 2007 and 2008.

The current restoration project focuses on repairing the masonry of the Citadelle's retaining walls. Once the contract was awarded, acquisition of materials was the sole responsibility of the supplier as long as certain specifications were met. The contractor originally selected American Bluestone to undertake the restoration. In September 2018, the

contractor decided to use Sillery sandstone from the Pintendre quarry, located near Lévis, for phases two and three of the project. While this is not original stone, the latter respects the guidelines submitted by the FHBRO, in the same way as Bluestone. Tests commissioned by the Government are underway to confirm the stones meet the contract's technical specifications.