



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-01054**

BY: **MR. SHEEHAN (SAULT STE. MARIE)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 12, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **STÉPHANE LAUZON**

Response by the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Curling

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their interest in recognizing curling as one of Canada's national sports.

The National Sports of Canada Act (1994) recognizes the game of hockey as Canada's winter sport, and the game of lacrosse as Canada's summer sport. There are many reasons to name a national sport: because it was developed or invented by Canadians, because of large participation numbers, because of Canadians' successes in the sport, or due to the sport's Indigenous roots. Consequently, there are many candidates to be named national sports.

For example, basketball was developed by Canadian James Naismith. Hockey, ringette, five-pin bowling and wheelchair rugby were all developed in Canada. Soccer and hockey are Canada's largest participation sports.

Canada has a proud history in many sports, from the Edmonton Grads basketball team's remarkable successes in the 1920s and 30s to sustained international results in speed skating, curling, ice hockey, freestyle skiing, rowing, wheelchair basketball and more. Lacrosse and canoe-kayak have strong roots in Indigenous culture.

We have much to celebrate in Canadian sport. At the recent Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, we cheered on Canadian athletes in swimming, athletics, rugby and soccer, and marvelled at their medal-winning performances. There are many sports and many sport moments that deserve our attention and recognition.

Given that there are multiple ways to celebrate and recognize Canadian sport achievement, the Government of Canada has no plans at present to amend the National Sports of Canada Act.