



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

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PETITION No.: **421-02904**

BY: **MR. ALDAG (CLOVERDALE—LANGLEY CITY)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

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Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**National historic sites**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for the submission of this petition.

Canada's historic places reflect the rich and varied heritage of our nation, and provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about our diverse history—including the history, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. The Government takes its role to protect Canada's cultural heritage and share it with Canadians very seriously. It also recognizes that the successful protection of historic places depends on a range of partners and jurisdictions working together collaboratively to save and renew historic places.

The Government currently supports the protection of historic places through a system of investments, grants and contributions, and tax incentives. One such measure is the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places, administered by Parks Canada. This program supports heritage conservation and presentation by matching funds raised by eligible non-federal custodians of national historic sites, heritage lighthouses and heritage railway stations.

Programs from other federal departments also contribute to the restoration and re-use of heritage buildings in communities across the country. The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF), administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage, provides funding to construct, renovate and equip cultural spaces, including heritage

facilities, in Canadian communities of all sizes. Projects have included designated historically significant buildings both in private ownership as well as those owned by provincial governments and municipalities. Further, the federal government supports a number of tax incentives and grants. A broad range of Canada's cultural activities are supported by registered charities and arts, culture, and heritage organisations. On the tax side, the *Income Tax Act* provides generous incentives to encourage individuals and corporations to donate to support heritage properties and historic sites. In addition to the Charitable Donation Tax Credit for individuals and deduction for corporations, there are further incentives for gifts of ecologically sensitive land and certified cultural property, in particular a tax exemption for accrued capital gains. These incentives encourage gifts to organizations that have the mandate and the capacity to preserve and maintain important properties for the benefit of the public.

The Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector's landmark study initiated in 2018 will seek ways to improve the federal government's understanding of and interactions with charities and non-profit organizations. It is expected to examine the impact of federal and provincial laws and policies governing charities, non-profit organizations, foundations, and other similar groups, and to examine the impact of the voluntary sector in Canada.

Departmental budgetary priorities for the upcoming fiscal year are currently being reviewed as part of the federal Budget process. The Department of Finance is conducting pre-budget consultations and providing Canadians with the opportunity to share ideas on how best to grow Canada's economy and to inform the development of Canada's economic approach in 2019. In this regard, the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in its report, *Preserving Canada's Heritage: the Foundation for Tomorrow*, are welcomed and appreciated. Parliament will determine the final spending plans and annual economic policy statement for the upcoming year based on a series of economic, social and political factors, which would include any proposed tax changes as necessary.

Ongoing efforts to support the protection of historic places are being shaped by research into the economic, social, and environmental impacts of historic places conservation, upon which options for enhancing heritage preservation measures can be based.