



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-04212**

BY: **MR. MILLER (VILLE-MARIE-LE SUD-OUEST-ÎLE-DES-SOEURS)**

DATE: **JUNE 6, 2019**

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

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National parks

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

On August 28, 2002, the Crown signed a contract with Center Czech Inc., which was published at the Registry Office of the Montréal Registration Division under number 5385357. The same year, Parks Canada signed an emphyteutic lease to cede an area of land for the purpose described in Article 7.2 of the contract, namely, “a building to be used as a centre for the activities [sic] of the Czech Community and other communities.” When this contract was signed, the Czech cultural centre project was consistent with the Agency’s plan to develop the Lachine Canal, which had been closed to navigation since 1971 and was then in the early stages of a major revitalization.

The contract was signed for a duration of 99 years, and the Agency must comply with its contractual obligation. Therefore, the project submitted by the Center Czech Inc. must be in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in the emphyteutic lease (Article 7.2).

The Lachine Canal is a piece of cultural heritage marked by history and innovation. Parks Canada works to offer a safe and enriching visitor experience to this site every day, all while working to fulfill the objectives of the latest Management Plan, tabled in 2018. Whether by investing in canal infrastructure, adding a new path segment, organizing events and

activities to promote site history, or developing partnerships with universities, Parks Canada is working hard to make the Lachine Canada an iconic and inspiring landmark, and to protect and enhance it for neighbouring communities and visitors, both now and in the future.