



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

---

PETITION No.: **421-03625**

BY: **MR. OUELLETTE (WINNIPEG CENTRE)**

DATE: **MAY 6, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **ANDY FILLMORE**

---

Response by the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**Canadian heritage**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

The Government would like to thank the petitioners for requesting the revision of the Coat of Arms of Canada to include representation of the Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) as co-founders of Canada. The Department of Canadian Heritage is committed to ongoing engagement with representatives of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities and organizations for perspective, guidance and recommendations on appropriate adoption of Indigenous symbols into Government of Canada materials, primarily for educational and promotional purposes.

The Coat of Arms of Canada has elements that express the heritage and identity of the country as it was perceived in the early 20th century – for example, the crown of the Sovereign, the lion, unicorn and floral emblems of France and Great Britain. The sprig of three maple leaves represents the peoples of Canada, including the English and French settlers and the Indigenous peoples.

Use of the maple leaves over time, as exhibited in the Arms, evolved into the one strong iconic red maple leaf on the National Flag of Canada that represents all Canadians and stands for the values we proudly share as a nation.

Revising the Coat of Arms of Canada to include representation of the Indigenous peoples as co-founders of Canada would require meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples, through an extensive process overseen by the

Canadian Heraldic Authority, with the continued support of the Government. An adequate period of time should be dedicated to the analysis of this project, in order to examine its implications in the most respectful and comprehensive way.

The Government recognizes and appreciates the immeasurable contribution of Indigenous peoples to the establishment of this nation. It remains committed to advancing reconciliation and forging a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples, through cooperation and respect.