

MEDIA RELEASE



CANADIAN GARDEN COUNCIL CONSEIL CANADIEN DU JARDIN

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Canadian Garden Council Requests Parliament to Designate 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden

OTTAWA – The Canadian Garden Council (CGC) is proud to proclaim **2022, Canada's Year of the Garden** to celebrate the centennial of Canada's ornamental horticulture sector on the occasion of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association's 100-year anniversary.

The **Year of the Garden 2022** invites Canadians across the country to commemorate Canada's garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture and create legacies for a sustainable future. The CGC is calling on Members of Parliament to officially designate 2022 as **Canada's Year of the Garden**.

A recent Nanos poll found four in five Canadians favour designating 2022 as the Year of the Garden.

"We are very supportive of proclaiming 2022 as **Canada's Year of the Garden** in celebration of CNLA's centennial," says Phil Paxton, President of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. "Our members are dedicated to providing products and services that contribute to the quality of life of Canadians and a sustainable development of Canada. We also believe that gardening and gardens will be an important factor in the post-COVID recovery; there could be no better time to celebrate Canada's garden culture."

Canada's passion for gardening has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the summer of 2020, Canadians sheltered at home and turned their yards into practical and beautiful garden sanctuaries, and research suggests that this trend is set to continue. According to a recent NANOS poll, four in five Canadians expect to spend the same or more time gardening in 2021 than they did in 2020.

"Canada a garden nation? A nation of gardeners? You bet," says Alexander Reford, President of the Canadian Garden Council and Director of Reford Gardens - Jardins de Métis. "Gardening is a shared passion from coast to coast to coast. Not only do our gardens allow us to enjoy the flavours and



freshness of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers, our flowerbeds and forests nourish our health and happiness. Our society needs more gardeners, and Canadians are leading the charge to garden to make a better planet. The ***Year of the Garden 2022*** is an inclusive national celebration of what we are and where we are going — a nation of gardeners.”

The legacy of the ***Year of the Garden 2022*** will be an improved quality of life for Canadians through sustainable development to fight climate change, impart significant health and well-being benefits and drive economic growth.

Canadians who support the ***Year of the Garden 2022*** are encouraged to express their support for an official designation to their local Member of Parliament.

You can visit www.yearofthegarden.ca for more information.

About *Year of the Garden 2022*

The ***Year of the Garden 2022***, a Centennial Celebration of our horticulture sector, from January 1 to December 31, will commemorate Canada’s rich garden heritage, celebrate today’s vibrant garden culture, and create legacies for a sustainable future. The ***Year of the Garden 2022*** will permit members of Canada’s Garden-Family to make the population aware of the products, services, and experiences available to them to enhance their passion, their love, their engagement and their contribution to Canada’s garden culture. To date, this initiative has received broad support from all branches of the Garden-Family and the corporate community. The Canadian Garden Council is working to facilitate the participation of all Garden-Family members and of every Canadian, no matter where you are. To do so, the Canadian Garden Council is inviting corporate Canada and various levels of government to join the growing momentum of this unique celebration, a world first.

About Canadian Garden Council:

Founded in April 2014, in collaboration with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), the Canadian Garden Council is a not-for-profit corporation that fosters awareness and development of Canada’s garden culture. Council membership reflects partnerships among all sectors of the horticulture, public garden, gardening, tourism and associated industries on a regional, provincial and territorial basis, enabling the Council to address the full range of issues facing the garden experience sector. Our Vision is to champion the garden experience sector’s contributions to the well-being of Canadians, the sustainability of our communities and to promote the joys and benefits of gardens, gardening, urban and municipal landscapes and living green infrastructure.

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