



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

The National Battlefields  
Commission

Commission des champs  
de bataille nationaux

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

## **National Symposium on Parks and Grounds** **For the first time the Commission will host this event in Québec City from October 26 to 29, 2011**

**Québec, October 20, 2011** – As manager of the first national historic park in the country, the National Battlefields Commission is proud to present, in the superb city of Québec, the 14th edition of the National Symposium on Parks and Grounds, as well as the 17th Communities in Bloom National Awards Ceremony from October 26 to 29, 2011. This major convention will be held in the region for the first time, in partnership with Québec City and Communities in Bloom. Another premiere, this event will be certified according to the standard of accountable management.

Honoured to participate in the Communities in Bloom Program since 2004, the National Battlefields Commission expects more than 400 delegates from all parts of Canada, the United States and elsewhere to converge upon Québec City for the Symposium: parks and grounds professionals from all sectors, municipal officials and members of local committees, associations and businesses. It is a unique opportunity for them to network and exchange with fellow participants.

Held in Québec City for the first time, the Symposium will be under the theme “Healthy Living through Parks & Green Spaces”, with conferences on multi-purpose trails and grounds for recreation and health, today’s plant health challenges, community gardens and fitness activities, thought-provoking garden themes, public art in parks and green spaces innovations.

Since every event has environmental and social impacts, it is important to implement effective measures in order to mitigate these negative effects, such as sound management of residual material and waste minimization. Conscious of the fact and committed as it is to sustainable development, the Commission calls for the cooperation of all participants to make of this rally a certified event according to the BNQ 9700-253 standard of accountable management, a first for the Symposium’s organization.

With its stamp of authenticity, Québec City prides itself on being one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Created in 1908, Battlefields Park and its famous Plains of Abraham are without a doubt one of Québec City’s major assets. The site of the great Québec battles, this wide-open space is today a priceless urban park, the true lungs of the city. This peaceful haven is the favourite of thousands of city-dwellers and visitors. For many years the park has been among the most prestigious in the world, and proved to be the city’s festivities and rallying site *par excellence*. Rallying people is in our nature: each year four million visitors enjoy the park.

Under the authority of Communities in Bloom, the organizing committee is composed of specialists working in the field of green spaces. Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization based on the participation of hundreds of agencies throughout the country. The promotion and value of green spaces in urban settings are central to its mission.

In 1993, a small group of volunteers wanted to create a national challenge in Canada by drawing their inspiration from programs like “Britain in Bloom”, “Tidy Towns of Ireland” and “Villes et Villages Fleuris de France.” Two years later, in 1995, Communities in Bloom organized its first awards ceremony on Parliament Hill and paid tribute to 29 participating communities. Today, close to 500 Canadian communities take part in the national and provincial editions of this contest. An international challenge allows Canadian communities to compete with participants from the United States, Japan and Europe.

The program can be consulted at [www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca).



*In collaboration with:*



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