



January 26th, 2015

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa Ontario
K1A 0A2

Re: Tri-national action on Monarch butterflies

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

The Monarch butterfly is an iconic species for Canadians as well as Mexicans and Americans. Unfortunately, migrating Monarch populations appear to be plummeting from as many as one billion in 1996 to 35 million in 2013.

Nature Canada was delighted when you, President Obama and President Peña Nieto commissioned a tri-national Task Force in February 2014 to examine the plight of migrating North American Monarch butterflies and report back with findings and recommendations to the 2015 North American Leaders' Summit.

As the summit has been postponed, Nature Canada urges you to convene a tri-national meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the Task Force's findings and agree to action to conserve Monarch populations through better science and recovery actions coordinated among the three countries. Nature Canada also urges you to propose to Presidents Obama and Peña Nieto that representatives of all three countries come to the meeting prepared to commit the resources necessary to achieve Task Force recommendations. When the Summit is scheduled later this year, we hope that you, as host, will ensure that Monarch conservation figures prominently on the agenda.

Canada has a tremendous opportunity in 2015 to advance monarch butterfly conservation efforts across North America. With Canada's leadership and the collective efforts of all three countries, Monarch populations can rebound, so that this species and their remarkable migrations can be appreciated for generations to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Eleanor Fast
Executive Director

cc. Ambassador Francisco Suárez, Embassy of Mexico
Ambassador Bruce A. Heyman, Embassy of the United States