
THE QUEEN IN PARLIAMENT

PAUL MARTIN SEEMS NUANCED SUPPORTER OF CROWN

The man likely to become Canada's next Prime Minister seems a nuanced monarchist with a clear understanding of the role of the Crown. In a statement authorized by the Liberal leadership candidate's Press Secretary for publication in CMN, the former Finance Minister suggests that he has little interest in opening up for debate the question of the Monarchy, and that no contradiction exists between Canada's shared Monarchy and national independence.

"Paul's position is that he believes launching a debate on the monarchy is a low priority for Canadians right now so it would be a low priority for him. Given that Queen Elizabeth has served Canadians with distinction and dignity for 50 years, opening a debate in Canada over severing our ties to the monarchy, during her anniversary year, would likely prove to be very divisive. The key issue is ensuring that Canada has the freedom to assert its role in world affairs. Important events in Canadian history, such as the Statute of Westminster and the repatriation of our Constitution, have already clearly established Canada's independence and sovereignty as a nation. While Canada's ties to the Crown may be highly symbolic, there is no aspect of our current arrangement that would prevent Canada from acting independently in shaping our own country and in taking a much greater role in shaping global affairs."

ALLIANCE LEADER HARPER AMBIVALENT ON MONARCHY

Despite highly-laudatory comments about The Queen after his October Private Audience of Her Majesty, Opposition Leader Stephen Harper's ambivalent attitude towards the Crown was revealed in his January 10, 2003, letter of response to a Monarchist League member's query, a copy of which was recently made available to *Canadian Monarchist News*.

"The Canadian Alliance has never taken a position on the monarchy," he wrote, "although we have called for many other changes to our political system. We recognize that many Canadians support the current role of the monarchy in Canada. The monarchy has certainly influenced the history and institutions of Canada. With respect to Bill C-18, we have welcomed the new measures to improve the current Citizenship Act, in particular the change to the oath of citizenship [ed – which, in brief, retains The Queen but adds 'Canada']. We believe that this change will serve to encourage loyalty and allegiance to Canada. I will, however, forward your letter to our critic for citizenship and immigration, MP Diane Ablonczy, to consider further your concerns about the new oath. If and when the time comes to engage in a meaningful discussion of the future role of the monarchy, the Prime Minister must assure Canadians that all citizens will have a real voice in this debate. The Alliance strongly supports the use

of referenda for constitutional amendments. Thank you once again for taking the time to share your thoughts on this matter."

DEPUTY ALLIANCE LEADER HILL A STRONG MONARCHIST

Grant Hill wrote a League member the following in response to a query about the Oath for Public Servants as changed by Bill C-25: *"Like you, I believe the Queen is still our constitutional monarch, and swearing an oath is both legitimate and proper in our country. I did not vote in favour of that motion, and considered it to be an insult to our constitutional democracy..."* Dr Grant Hill, MP – Opposition Deputy Leader (CA – Macleod).

NEW TORY LEADER MACKAY & FORMER OPPONENTS ALL MONARCHISTS

The following comments were transcribed from the CBC-televised debate of PC leadership candidates held on May 13, 2003.

Peter MacKay, MP: *"I do support maintaining the Monarchy. I think it is an important part of our heritage... it is important part of our recognition of who we are, where we came from, but I think there is a lot more to that than just the Queen."*

Scott Brison, MP: *"I support the Monarchy, and I hope my mother has heard that."*

David Orchard: *"I am a strong supporter of the Monarchy. I am opposed to Canada becoming a republic. The Monarchy is a long and cherished tradition in Canada, we should keep it."*

Jim Prentice: *"With respect to the Monarchy, I think things are fine the way they are. I think that is a symbol of this nation at this point that we should not interfere with."*

ALLIANCE MP PAYS CORONATION ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE IN COMMONS ON JUNE 2

Mr. Werner Schmidt (Kelowna, Canadian Alliance): *"Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 1953, the young Princess Elizabeth was crowned Queen Elizabeth II. At her coronation, she said the event was "not a symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone, but a declaration of our hopes for the future". Indeed, since her Majesty's accession to the Throne, Canada's accomplishments have been as varied and numerous as they are historic: the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the patriation of the Canadian Constitution and the creation of Nunavut. As our Head of State throughout these years, and on these occasions, she has unfailingly typified continuity, stability and integrity. Today, at the unveiling of her official portrait commemorating the 50th year of her reign, Queen Elizabeth II remains a symbol of continuity, stability and tradition in a world that is under a barrage of constant change."*