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PO Box 1057, RPO Lakeshore West, Oakville, ON L6K 0B2

905-855-7262 800-465-6925 www.monarchist.ca



THE MONARCHIST LEAGUE OF CANADA - 52nd ANNIVERSARY 1970-2022

THE QUEEN AND HER CANADIAN REALM

A brief summary of Elizabeth's decades of service to the Maple Kingdom

As Sovereign of 15 Commonwealth Realms, and contrary to public misinformation circulated by the too-often profoundly inaccurate media circus surrounding her, The Queen acted individually as monarch of each, according to each nation's constitutional arrangements (written and unwritten); the organic laws of each; and the constitutional "advice" tendered to her by her Prime Minister in each realm. Occasionally, she spoke as head of all the Realms without such "advice" - such as in her annual Christmas Day broadcast to the Commonwealth, her 2010 address to the General Assembly of the United Nations and her Pandemic address in 2020. This brief survey records but a few of the principal occasions when Her Majesty most notably acted as Queen of Canada.

An example from early in The Queen's reign is an apt beginning of this catalogue. The Queen gave her consent to the passage by the Canadian Parliament of *The Royal Style and Titles Act 1953* which assented to the issuance of a Royal Proclamation whereby it was made clear that The Queen was Queen of Canada. In that same year, the Coronation Oath found The Queen swearing "to govern the peoples" of each of the realms specified - as senior Dominion the name of Canada followed only that of the United Kingdom - "according to their respective laws and customs."

A reinforcement of Elizabeth's role as Canadian Monarch occurred in 1957 when, for the first time in the nation's history, the Sovereign opened Parliament in Ottawa. The Speech from the Throne began with the constitutional reality clearly explained to the Senators and MP's assembled: "I greet you as your Queen. Together we constitute the Parliament of Canada." Her Majesty would again open Parliament in 1977, during a brief Silver Jubilee visit to the Ottawa region - but not, to the disappointment of many, for her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

The 1959 Royal Tour by The Queen and Prince Philip was "historic" for several reasons. First, it was similar in scope and duration to the memorable 1939 tour by her parents, a lengthier journey than any of the much more frequent and focused Royal Homecomings to Canada undertaken throughout the reign. Second, again like 1939, an important component of The Queen's presence was her traveling to the United States - but this time not as Queen of the United Kingdom but as Queen of Canada, when she joined General Eisenhower in the inauguration of the 2300-mile St Lawrence Seaway. Canadians would subsequently feel moved as their

Queen represented them on the soil of France for several D-Day commemorations and at the re-dedication of the Vimy Memorial - as well as on many occasions in London ranging from dedication of the Canadian Memorial in Green Park to the re-opening of the refurbished Canadian High Commission in February, 2015. Famously HM remarked during a visit to California with President Reagan in 1983, "I am going home to Canada tomorrow." How proud we all felt.

The 60's and 70's brought contrasting images to Elizabeth's Canadian role. In 1964, a handful of anti-monarchy demonstrators in Quebec City, their cause aided by heavy-handed police wielding truncheons, brought vast publicity and superseded the attention due a magnificent address by The Queen (penned by Gover-





nor General Georges Vanier) to the Parliament of the Province, a nuanced and thoughtful reflection as nascent separatist sentiments were emerging from “the Quiet Revolution.” But in 1967 The Queen was greeted warmly at Montreal’s Expo ’67, and in 1976 a confident Monarch brought her immediate family to cheer Princess Anne competing in equestrian competition at Bromont, the first time it had gathered outside Britain – having accepted the Trudeau government’s invitation to open the Montreal Olympics – this in the face of Separatist Premier René Lévesque asking her to stay away.

During the Centennial year, The Queen created the Order of Canada as the beginning of a distinctive Canadian Honours System, one which has burgeoned during ensuing decades with the creation of many federal and provincial honours, each one personally approved by the Monarch – most recently the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers and the Canadian Polar Medal of 2015. In line with the popular “Canadianization” of the Crown, in 1988 The Queen delegated Prince Edward to present to the Governor General Letters Patent creating The Canadian Heraldic Authority, which has gone from strength to strength in excellence and popularity by melding the ancient art of heraldry with many distinctively Canadian blazons. The Queen must give her approval to the Royal Crown’s appearance in Grants of Arms, as in every aspect of its use on uniforms, in military decorations and the countless other ways it lends unique prestige and authority wherever it appears.

The 1970’s also gave birth to the practice of The Queen’s joining personally in celebration of the centenaries of

provinces within Confederation – and the new Royal Homecoming style with greater frequency but an itinerary more tightly-focused both geographically and thematically. Her second son, Prince Andrew, spent two terms at an independent boarding school, Lakefield College. The Queen opened the Commonwealth Games at the conclusion of a three-province Homecoming in 1978 – an occasion featuring her youngest son, Prince Edward, participating in his first Royal walkabout.

During the final two decades of the Century, The Queen dealt with many realities of a turbulent yet growing Canada – in 1990 memorably declaring during a homecoming amidst divisions over Constitutional arrangements: “I am not just a fair-weather friend, and I am glad to be here at this sensitive time.” But 1982 found her on Parliament Hill to proclaim the completely patriated Constitution, and in 1987, she was able to make a happy return to Quebec during a sadly-brief period when it appeared national unity was possible. In 1990, she exercised a rare constitutional power of creating additional senators at the request of Prime Minister Mulroney so that his controversial Goods & Services Tax could proceed through Parliament after it had received the support of the elected Commons.

The unveiling of The Queen’s equestrian statue on Parliament Hill was a highlight of the Canada 125 celebrations of 1992 – as was that of a second equestrian bronze on the grounds of the Saskatchewan Legislature in 2005. Both the Golden Jubilee of 2002 and the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 were celebrated throughout the country with coinage and postage stamps, village fairs and charity

drives and superb educational booklets from the federal government, as well as a generous distribution of Jubilee Medals to many citizens who had made a contribution to their country in myriad ways.

Some of The Queen’s most loyal Allies – not subjects – are found in many of Canada’s First Nations, who see her as an honest broker and friend in their ongoing search for a just place within the Canadian family. Not unusually Her Majesty is handed petitions by Aboriginal people as occurred during her 1997 homecoming for the Cabot landing quatercentenary – and, in accordance with Constitutional practice, she assured them that she would make her Ministers aware of their contents and concern. Her esteem for some of the earliest occupants of Canada was made manifest once again as she presented a granite plaque, hewn from the grounds of Balmoral Castle, and bearing the ciphers of Victoria and Elizabeth, to the First Nations University in Regina in 2005, as “a reminder of the special relationship between the Sovereign and all First Nations people.”

The above cannot begin to capture a fraction of the deeply-woven relationship between Canada’s Sovereign and peoples, the breadth and complexity of which led to Ottawa’s appointment in 2009 of the first full-time Canadian Secretary to The Queen in the person of Kevin MacLeod, CVO; and that in 2019 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau chose to appoint a successor, Donald Booth. Also significant in maintaining that relationship was Canada’s Parliament, reflecting the wish of the Sovereign and joining the other Commonwealth Realms in 2013 in unanimously passing An Act assenting to

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LA REINE ET SON ROYAUME CANADIEN

Un bref résumé des décennies de service d'Elizabeth au Royaume d'Érable

En tant que Souveraine de 15 royaumes du Commonwealth, et contrairement à la désinformation publique diffusée par le cirque médiatique trop souvent profondément inexact qui l'entoure, la Reine a agi individuellement en tant que monarque de chacun d'entre eux, conformément aux dispositions constitutionnelles (écrites et non écrites) de chaque nation, aux lois organiques de chacun d'entre eux et aux "conseils" constitutionnels qui lui ont été présentés par son Premier ministre dans chaque royaume. À l'occasion, elle s'est exprimée en tant que chef de tous les royaumes sans ces "conseils", comme lors de son émission annuelle de Noël au Commonwealth, de son discours de 2010 à l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies et de son discours sur la pandémie en 2020. Ce bref aperçu ne reprend que quelques-unes des principales occasions où Sa Majesté a agi en tant que Reine du Canada.

Un exemple du début du règne de la Reine constitue un bon point de départ pour ce catalogue. La Reine a donné son consentement à l'adoption par le Parlement canadien de la Loi sur le titre et le style royaux de 1953, qui a sanctionné la publication d'une proclamation royale indiquant clairement que la Reine était la Reine du Canada. La même année, dans le serment du couronnement, la Reine a juré de "gouverner les peuples" de chacun des royaumes spécifiés - en tant que do-

minion supérieur, le nom du Canada ne suivait que celui du Royaume-Uni - "selon leurs lois et coutumes respectives".

Le rôle d'Elizabeth en tant que monarque canadien a été renforcé en 1957 lorsque, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de la nation, la souveraine a ouvert le Parlement à Ottawa. Le discours du Trône a commencé par expliquer clairement la réalité constitutionnelle aux sénateurs et aux députés réunis : "Je vous salue en tant que votre Reine. Ensemble, nous constituons le Parlement du Canada". Sa Majesté ouvrira de nouveau le Parlement en 1977, lors d'une brève visite du jubilé d'argent dans la région d'Ottawa - mais pas, à la déception de beaucoup, pour son jubilé d'or en 2002.

La tournée royale de 1959 de la Reine et du prince Philip a été "historique" pour plusieurs raisons. Premièrement, sa portée et sa durée étaient semblables à celles de la mémorable tournée de 1939 effectuée par ses parents, un voyage plus long que les visites royales au Canada, beaucoup plus fréquentes et ciblées, effectuées tout au long du règne. Deuxièmement, comme en 1939, un élément important de la présence de la Reine a été son voyage aux États-Unis, mais cette fois-ci non pas en tant que Reine du Royaume-Uni, mais en tant que Reine du Canada, lorsqu'elle s'est jointe au général Eisenhower pour l'inauguration de la Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent, longue de 2300 milles. Les Canadiens seront par la

suite émus lorsque leur Reine les représentera sur le sol français lors de plusieurs commémorations du Jour J et lors de la nouvelle dédicace du Mémorial de Vimy, ainsi qu'à de nombreuses occasions à Londres, de la dédicace du Mémorial canadien à Green Park à la réouverture du Haut Commissariat du Canada rénové en février 2015. HM a fait une remarque célèbre lors d'une visite en Californie avec le président Reagan en 1983 : "Je rentre au Canada demain." Nous étions tous très fiers !

Les années 60 et 70 ont donné une image contrastée du rôle canadien d'Elizabeth. En 1964, une poignée de manifestants anti-monarchie dans la ville de Québec, leur cause étant soutenue par une police lourdement armée de matraques, a fait l'objet d'une vaste publicité et a supplanté l'attention due à un magnifique discours de la Reine (rédigé par le gouverneur général Georges Vanier) au Parlement de la province, une réflexion nuancée et réfléchie alors que les sentiments séparatistes naissants émergeaient de la "Révolution tranquille". Mais en 1967, la Reine a été accueillie chaleureusement à l'Expo 67 de Montréal et, en 1976, une monarque confiante a amené sa famille immédiate pour encourager la princesse Anne qui participait à une compétition équestre à Bromont, la première fois qu'elle se réunissait en dehors de la Grande-Bretagne, après avoir accepté l'invitation du gouvernement Trudeau à ou-



vrir les Jeux olympiques de Montréal, et ce, malgré le fait que le premier ministre séparatiste René Lévesque lui ait demandé de rester à l'écart !

Au cours de l'année du Centenaire, la Reine a créé l'Ordre du Canada, marquant ainsi le début d'un système distinctif de distinctions honorifiques canadiennes, qui s'est développé au cours des décennies suivantes avec la création de nombreuses distinctions honorifiques fédérales et provinciales, chacune d'entre elles étant personnellement approuvée par le monarque – plus récemment la Médaille du souverain pour les bénévoles et la Médaille polaire canadienne de 2015. Dans le cadre de la “canadianisation” de la Couronne, en 1988, la Reine a délégué le prince Édouard pour présenter au gouverneur général des lettres patentes créant l'Autorité héraldique du Canada, dont l'excellence et la popularité n'ont cessé de croître grâce à la fusion de l'art ancien de l'héraldique et de nombreux blasons typiquement canadiens. La Reine doit donner son approbation à l'apparition de la couronne royale dans les concessions d'armoiries, comme dans tous les aspects de son utilisation sur les uniformes, dans les décorations militaires et dans les innombrables autres façons dont elle confère un prestige et une autorité uniques partout où elle apparaît.

Les années 1970 ont également donné naissance à la pratique consistant à ce que la Reine se joigne personnellement aux célébrations des centenaires des provinces au sein de la Confédération – et au nouveau style de retour royal à la maison avec une plus grande fréquence mais un itinéraire plus étroitement ciblé à la fois géographiquement et thématiquement. Son deuxième fils, le prince Andrew, a passé deux trimestres dans un pensionnat indépendant, le Lakefield College. La Reine inaugure les Jeux du Commonwealth à l'issue d'un voyage de retour dans trois provinces en 1978, à l'occasion

duquel son plus jeune fils, le prince Edward, participe à son premier bain de foule royal.

Au cours des deux dernières décennies du siècle, la Reine a fait face à de nombreuses réalités d'un Canada turbulent mais en pleine croissance – en 1990, elle a déclaré de façon mémorable lors d'un retour au pays au milieu de divisions sur les arrangements constitutionnels : “Je ne suis pas une amie des beaux jours, et je suis heureuse d'être ici en cette période sensible”. Mais 1982 l'a trouvée sur la colline du Parlement pour proclamer la Constitution entièrement rapatriée, et en 1987, elle a pu faire un retour heureux au Québec pendant une période tristement brève où l'unité nationale semblait possible. En 1990, elle a exercé un rare pouvoir constitutionnel en créant des sénateurs supplémentaires à la demande du premier ministre Mulroney afin que sa taxe controversée sur les produits et services puisse être adoptée par le Parlement après avoir reçu l'appui des Communes élues.

Le dévoilement de la statue équestre de la Reine sur la colline du Parlement a été un moment fort des célébrations du 125^e anniversaire du Canada en 1992, tout comme celui d'un deuxième bronze équestre sur le terrain de l'Assemblée législative de la Saskatchewan en 2005. Le Jubilé d'or de 2002 et le Jubilé de diamant de 2012 ont été célébrés dans tout le pays avec des pièces de monnaie et des timbres-poste, des foires de village et des campagnes de charité, de superbes brochures éducatives du gouvernement fédéral, ainsi qu'une généreuse distribution de médailles du jubilé à de nombreux citoyens qui avaient contribué à leur pays de multiples façons.

Certains des alliés les plus loyaux de la Reine – et non des sujets – se trouvent dans de nombreuses Premières nations du Canada, qui voient en elle un intermédiaire et un ami honnête dans leur quête

permanente d'une place juste au sein de la famille canadienne. Il n'est pas rare que Sa Majesté reçoive des pétitions d'autochtones, comme ce fut le cas lors de son retour au pays en 1997 pour le quatercentième anniversaire du débarquement de Cabot – et, conformément à la pratique constitutionnelle, elle les a assurés qu'elle ferait part à ses ministres de leur contenu et de leurs préoccupations. Son estime pour certains des premiers occupants du Canada s'est manifestée une fois de plus lorsqu'elle a offert une plaque de granit, taillée dans le parc du château de Balmoral et portant les chiffres de Victoria et d'Elizabeth, à l'Université des Premières Nations de Regina en 2005, pour “rappeler la relation spéciale entre la Souveraine et tous les peuples des Premières Nations”.

Ce qui précède ne saurait rendre compte d'une fraction de la relation profondément tissée entre la Souveraine et les peuples du Canada, dont l'ampleur et la complexité ont conduit à la nomination par Ottawa, en 2009, du premier secrétaire canadien de la Reine à temps plein, Kevin MacLeod, CVO, et à la nomination par le premier ministre Justin Trudeau, en 2019, de son successeur, Donald Booth. Le Parlement du Canada a également joué un rôle important dans le maintien de cette relation, en reflétant le souhait de la Souveraine et en rejoignant les autres royaumes du Commonwealth en 2013, en adoptant à l'unanimité une loi approuvant les changements apportés à la succession au trône afin d'éliminer la discrimination fondée sur le sexe et la disqualification des personnes en lice en cas de mariage avec un catholique romain. Attaquée par les séparatistes, la loi a ensuite été confirmée par les tribunaux.

De la présentation par la Reine d'un calice à sa Chapelle royale des Mohawks, et de l'autorisation de la création d'une nouvelle Chapelle royale dédiée à Sainte Catherine au Massey College, à Toronto,



en 2017, aux éléments des Forces canadiennes qui montent fièrement la garde au palais de Buckingham (Sa Majesté était colonel en chef de plusieurs régiments canadiens) ; des foules qui l'accueillent lors des nombreuses fêtes du Canada sur la colline du Parlement à la joie du personnel domestique des palais gouvernementaux à travers le pays qui l'accueille "dans sa maison à... .." ; qu'il s'agisse de laver la vaisselle avec le gouverneur général désigné Michael Jean lors d'un pique-nique à Balmoral ou de grandes cérémonies d'État, Elizabeth II était une reine aimée de son peuple canadien.

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY CHAIRMAN FINCH

Robert Finch, Dominion Chairman of the Monarchist League of Canada, provide the best information available in response to many Canadians' questions in the wake of the new Reign

WHAT CANADIANS "OFFICIALLY" WILL ATTEND THE CORONATION ?

If indeed only 2000 seats are to be available at the Abbey, rather than the 8000+ of 1953, the heaviest impact will fall upon the Realms - which fact we hope is not lost on Palace officials. Certainly the Governor General and Prime Minister. We urge Mr Trudeau to invite the Leader of the Opposition to accompany him, and to attempt to see he is seated in the Abbey, as an important demonstration of unity transcending their stark partisan differences. Another appropriate stroke for the remaining allocation of the Realm would be to invite a few "ordinary Canadians" chosen by lottery or other imaginative random process.

WHEN WILL THERE BE A NEW OFFICIAL CANADIAN PORTRAIT OF THE KING?

I have some sympathy here for why this cannot occur overnight - but the good news is - it will happen! Imagine all

the Realms, all the Royal Patronages and Military connections and so forth of the new King and Queen. Each wants a unique picture taken by the organization's professional photographer. The Palace, where the Household is itself in transition, is certainly sensitive to Canada's needs in this respect.

WHEN WILL THE KING & QUEEN COME HOME TO CANADA IN THEIR NEW ROLE?

It is likely that the three senior Realms - Canada, Australia and New Zealand - will be the first to welcome the couple, perhaps relatively speaking back-to-back. The Canadian homecoming will focus on major population centers and be longer than the short visits that Charles was able to undertake as Prince of Wales

WILL THERE BE A CORONATION MEDAL, AS HAPPENED IN 1953?

12,500 Coronation Medals were awarded to Canadians in 1953. Sources suggest that the federal government door has had a change of heart after its Jubilee decision, and may now be open to a Coronation Medal, with wider distribution - after all our population then was about 15

million, today is 38.5 million. It is also possible that - instead or as well as the Medal - a Coronation medallion could be given to every school-aged child in Canada. One thing is abundantly clear to me: the Government of Canada is actively seeking ways to celebrate the Coronation.

WHAT ABOUT COINS, PAPER CURRENCY & STAMPS REFLECTING THE NEW REIGN?

It is suggested that coins will be the first to bear the King's image, simply because they're already annually dated. I sense that there is some debate as to The King's appearing on the \$20 bill. For instance, it would upset the gender balance on bank notes, a concern for this government. Some are suggesting that Elizabeth II be retained on the bill as a historical figure and a lasting tribute. I have told officials that the League would support this idea if it came to be. We need to pick our battles. I feel confident, if for no other reason than the recent sales of its excellent Jubilee stamp of The Queen, that Canada Post will issue a definitive of our new Monarch - possibly more, such as a montage of images for the Coronation. But the latter is highly speculative.

diennes qui montent fièrement la garde au palais de Buckingham (Sa Majesté était colonel en chef de plusieurs régiments canadiens); des foules qui l'accueillent lors des nombreuses fêtes du Canada sur la colline du Parlement à la joie du personnel domestique des palais gouvernementaux à travers le pays qui l'accueille "dans sa maison à... .."; qu'il s'agisse de laver la vaisselle avec le gouverneur général désigné Michael Jean lors d'un pique-nique à Balmoral ou de grandes cérémonies d'État, Elizabeth II était une reine aimée de son peuple canadien.

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êtes ma reine si bien-aimée ; et je prie pour vous tous les jours de ma vie".

Les yeux d'une reine normalement stoïque se sont remplis de larmes et, laissant sa main dans la fidèle étreinte de la sœur, elle a répondu : "Merci, ma sœur. Vous me touchez profondément." Le train est bientôt parti à travers la Prairie sans limites.

Là, à l'image de l'expérience de plusieurs millions de personnes dans le Royaume de l'érable, deux Canadiens se sont rencontrés brièvement et se sont aimés profondément.

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changes in the Succession to the Throne to eliminate gender discrimination, and the disqualification of those in line should they marry a Roman Catholic. Attacked by Separatists, the Act was subsequently upheld by the Courts.

From The Queen's presenting a chalice to her Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, and authorizing the establishment of a new Chapel Royal dedicated to St Catherine at Massey College, Toronto, in 2017, to elements of the Canadian Forces proudly taking their turn in standing guard at Buckingham Palace (HM was Colonel-in-Chief of many Canadian Regiments); from the throngs greeting her on many

Canada Days on Parliament Hill to the delight of the domestic staffs at Government Houses across the land welcoming her "to her home in..."; from washing dishes with Governor General-designate Michael Jean at a Balmoral picnic to grand ceremonies of state, Elizabeth II was a Queen beloved by her Canadian people.

Yet amidst this inadequate catalogue of highlights of her Reign as Queen of Canada, one memory stands out above all others to the writer. In 1978, Elizabeth and Philip journeyed by train through small communities in central Alberta, stopping briefly at each one: Mundare, Bruderheim, Chipman, Lamont. At

Mundare, the good Sisters of St Joseph's Convent gathered on the platform. One of the older of the Order seized The Queen's hand, and said in French "Votre majesté, depuis longtemps vous êtes ma reine si bien-aimée; et je prie pour vous tous les jours de ma vie."

A normally-stoic Queen's eyes filled with tears, as, leaving her hand in the Sister's loyal embrace, she replied, "Merci, ma sœur. Vous me touchez profondément." The train soon departed across the boundless Prairie.

There, mirroring the experience of many millions in the Maple Kingdom, two Canadians had met briefly, and loved deeply.

CHARLES III ACCEDES TO THE MAPLE THRONE AS CANADA'S KING WITH CAMILLA, QUEEN CONSORT

*To the Cree people Charles is Kisikawpisim Kamiyowahpahmikoot
(The sun watches over him in a good way)*

*& Our Queen Consort (whose great-great-great grandfather, a son of Hamilton,
ON, was Prime Minister of the Province of Canada)*

"Every time I come to Canada ... a little more of Canada seeps into my bloodstream - and from there straight to my heart." *NL, 1990*

"Canada is a celebrated champion of human rights, peacekeeping and diversity... with, if I may say so, Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples demonstrating a remarkable determination to forge an ever better society."
Parliament Hill, Canada150, 2017

"As I get older, it is particularly heartwarming to see my children coming to know and love this great country, just as the Queen and my late father have, and I and my wife in turn."
St John's, NL, 2022

"My wife and I were most concerned to hear of the appalling devastation caused by storm Fiona and particularly wanted to send our profound sympathy to the people of Atlantic Canada whose lives, livelihoods and properties have been so badly affected by this disaster. We have fond memories of our recent visit to your beautiful region and know that your resilience and sense of community will help you through these unbelievably difficult times. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the first responders, the military and to community members who are doing so much to support others during this extremely challenging period. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with all of you as you work to recover and rebuild."

*The first such message in
our King's reign was sent to the
people of Atlantic Canada,
September 28, 2022*



"ONE HEART AND VOICE" - ABSENT

The Accession of The King was proclaimed at Rideau Hall on September 10th in a ceremony to which, unfortunately, the public was not invited. It is beyond fathoming why this should have been so.

We understand that Rideau Hall continues to recover from staffing challenges arising from the Pandemic and the former Governor General's tenure. However, the absence of refreshments would not have deterred for one moment some thousands from the National Capital Region - and, we suspect, beyond - to gather on its grounds at short notice, who were not coming for such hospitality, anyway - but from mingled sorrow and "true patriot love". With a good PA system functioning, these folk could have played their part in celebrating Allegiance to our new King and herald the Reign even amidst the deeply-felt mourning for his beloved Mother, our Sovereign and friend. And they would have sung, proud and loud, *God Save The King* instead of leaving it to be played in front of a handful of officials.

Each one of those attendees would have told many others, and down the years, many more, that "I was there" at the start of the Reign. Each one would have felt even more deeply the weight of the occasion. Each would have expressed how difficult it seemed to be singing and cheering "*God Save The King*," the word

settling at first unfamiliar to those who long and instinctively had sung loyalty to our Queen - though also how right it was, in fulfilment of Elizabeth's dearest wish. Each one would be living testimony of our form of government under the Crown.

What a missed opportunity!

Some excuses we heard ran along the lines of "Suppose the crowds overflowed onto the streets." Well, suppose they did - as in capitals of other Realms and Cities - perhaps it would be. With good policing and barred roads. And for a few hours the quotidian round of toil might have been paused. The Dominion would survive!

Or "Suppose it rained" - does anyone think the crowds in London and Edinburgh - as it turned out blessed with rainbows rather than tears from the heavens - would have cared one bit? "Stern stuff" don't you know? Ottawa apparently didn't.

We prefer to think it was not from any lack of loyalty - Her Excellency and the Prime Minister's tributes could not be faulted, indeed Mr Trudeau could hardly hold back the fullness of his deeply-felt emotion. "Gracious tears." But more deadly was the want of imagination and a desire to capture a moment of our history, difficulties be damned - the conclusion of 70 years, the beginning of the era of three Kings. Such a deficit is much worse than honest republicanism.

CHARLES III & CAMILLA

Roi du Canada et Reine Consort

*Pour le peuple Cree, Charles est Kisikawpisim Kamiyowahpahmikoot
(Le soleil veille sur lui d'une bonne façon)*

**& Notre Reine Consort (dont l'arrière-arrière-arrière-grand-père, un fils
de Hamilton, ON, a été premier ministre de la province du Canada)**

"Chaque fois que je viens au Canada...
un peu plus de Canada s'infiltré dans
mon sang - et de là, directement dans
mon cœur."
NL, 1990

"Le Canada est un champion célèbre
des droits de l'homme, du maintien
de la paix et de la diversité [...] avec, si
je puis dire, l'engagement du Canada
en faveur de la réconciliation avec les
peuples autochtones, qui démontre
une remarquable détermination à
forger une société toujours meilleure."

*Colline du Parlement,
Canada150, 2017*

"En vieillissant, il est particulièrement
réconfortant de voir mes enfants
apprendre à connaître et à aimer ce
grand pays, tout comme l'ont fait la
Reine et mon défunt père, et moi et
mon épouse à leur tour."

St John's, NL, 2022

"Mon épouse et moi avons été très in-
quiets d'apprendre l'effroyable dévas-
tation causée par la tempête Fiona et
nous tenions particulièrement à en-
voyer notre profonde sympathie aux
habitants du Canada atlantique dont
les vies, les moyens de subsistance et
les propriétés ont été si durement
touchés par cette catastrophe. Nous
gardons un excellent souvenir de
notre récente visite dans votre belle
région et nous savons que votre rési-
lience et votre sens de la commu-
nauté vous aideront à traverser cette
période incroyablement difficile. Nous
tenons également à exprimer notre
profonde gratitude aux premiers in-
tervenants, aux militaires et aux
membres de la communauté qui font
tant pour soutenir les autres pendant
cette période extrêmement difficile.
Nos pensées et nos prières vous ac-
compagnent tous dans vos efforts de
rétablissement et de reconstruction."

*Le premier message de ce type du
règne de notre roi a été envoyé à la
population du Canada atlantique
le 28 septembre 2022.*



"UN SEUL CŒUR ET UNE SEULE VOIX" - ABSENT

L'accession du roi a été proclamée à
Rideau Hall le 10 septembre lors
d'une cérémonie à laquelle, malheu-
reusement, le public n'a pas été invité. Il
est difficile de comprendre pourquoi il en
a été ainsi.

Nous savons que Rideau Hall continue
d'avoir des problèmes de personnel de
longue date et qu'il n'aurait pas été en me-
sure d'offrir sa généreuse hospitalité ha-
bituelle, mais cela n'aurait pas dissuadé
un seul instant des milliers de personnes
de la région de la capitale nationale - et,
nous le soupçonnons, d'ailleurs - de se
rassembler dans son enceinte au pied
levé, qui ne venaient pas pour des rafraî-
chissements, mais pour exprimer leur
chagrin et leur "véritable amour patrio-
tique". Avec un bon système de sonorisa-
tion, ces gens auraient pu jouer leur rôle
en célébrant l'allégeance à notre nouveau
roi et annoncer le règne, même au milieu
du deuil profond de sa mère bien-aimée,
notre souveraine et amie. Et ils auraient
chanté, fièrement et à voix haute, God
Save The King au lieu de le laisser jouer
devant une poignée d'officiels.

Chacun de ces participants aurait dit à
beaucoup d'autres, et au fil des ans, à
beaucoup d'autres encore, que "j'étais là"
au début du règne. Chacun d'entre eux
aurait ressenti encore plus profondément
le poids de l'événement. Chacun d'entre
eux aurait exprimé combien il était diffi-
cile de chanter et d'acclamer "God Save
The King", mot d'abord inconnu de ceux
qui, depuis longtemps et instinctivement,

chantaient la loyauté envers notre Reine,
mais aussi combien il était juste de le
faire, en réponse au souhait le plus cher
d'Elizabeth. Chacun serait un témoignage
vivant de notre forme de gouvernement
sous la Couronne.

Quelle occasion manquée!

Certaines excuses que nous avons en-
tendues étaient du type "Supposons que
la foule déborde dans les rues". Eh bien,
supposons qu'elles le fassent - comme
dans les capitales d'autres royaumes et
villes - peut-être que ce serait le cas. Avec
une bonne police et des routes barrées.
Et pendant quelques heures, le labeur
quotidien aurait pu être interrompu. Le
Dominion survivrait!

Ou "Supposons qu'il pleuve" - quel-
qu'un pense-t-il que les foules de Londres
et d'Edimbourg - qui ont été bénies par
des arcs-en-ciel plutôt que par des larmes
venues du ciel - s'en seraient souciées?
Nous sommes plus robustes! Ottawa ne
nous considère pas comme tels.

Nous préférons penser que ce n'est pas
par manque de loyauté - les hommages
de Son Excellence et du Premier ministre
ne pouvaient être critiqués, et M. Tru-
deau pouvait à peine retenir la plénitude
de son émotion profonde. "Gracieuses
larmes". Mais le manque d'imagination et
le désir de saisir un moment de notre his-
toire, quelles que soient les difficultés, la
conclusion de 70 ans, le début de l'ère des
trois rois, ont été plus meurtriers. Un tel
déficit est bien pire qu'un républicanisme
honnête.

CHARLES IN CANADA

An overview of Canadians' long relationship with our new Monarch

Now King, the man we have known for decades as Prince of Wales showed Canadians multi-focussed interests, ranging from a concern for the built environment to sustainable farming practices to rainforest preservation; from humane architecture to his serving as a principal interlocutor between Islam and the West, and - above all - to his work among youth and enterprise through the Prince's Trust (and its extension into Canada) - all these initiatives and much more found increasing resonance amongst the inhabitants of the Maple Realm.

Throughout the last 52 years, as well as his holding many honorary appointments in the Canadian Forces, the personal presence in Canada of the Heir to Canada's throne, now our King, has long been a familiar sight.

As a young man, Charles dove under the Arctic ice cap, emerging with an inflated suit to make him somewhat resemble the Michelin Man of the tire manufacturer's advertising fame! However amusing the photograph, the dive was a deliberate and carefully staged event by the Trudeau government. No better image could have informed the world in July, 1970 of Canada's assertion to sovereignty over its northern lands and water passages, a role then being tested by both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Themed homecomings, linking the Prince's interests to Canadian values and concerns, have been a regular part of Charles' diary, whereby he came to know Canada, and Canadians gained impressions of the then Prince of Wales in person rather than through the often-distorted media stories.

Given that the Royal Family, like any family, has gone through its ups and downs, Canadians also have come to know Charles through our sharing in the good and bad times of his life. We hailed his bride, Diana, Princess of Wales, during the couple's triumphant Maritime tour in 1983, while in 1986 no less adulation accompanied a British Columbia tour culminating in their visiting Expo 86 in Vancouver. A warm welcome also came to them throughout an Ontario tour in 1991. It was on this occasion that Charles and Diana were memorably reunited with their sons, William and Harry, aboard HMY *Britannia*, which was docked in



Toronto Harbour.

In common with a world perhaps too easily forgetful of the deep unhappiness marriage breakdown inevitably brings to our own family and friends, Canadians eagerly consumed details of subsequent unhappiness in Charles and Diana's lives, and made judgments based on, at best, incomplete knowledge of all the circumstances involved. This emotional reaction to the very public breakdown of the Prince and Princess' relationship was rekindled in the genuine grief coupled with over-wrought emotions that accompanied Diana's tragic death in 1997.

However, like our counterparts throughout the Commonwealth, as time passed many Canadians gradually came to judge Charles less as a figure in a ghastly soap opera and more as whole man, with many talents along with - as all of us - flaws. The burgeoning of support for his various causes, and his evidently close relationship with his sons, led most to wish for him the same happiness so many of us have found in second marriages, in this case a union approved by The Queen and welcomed by William and Harry. This more sympathetic view was apparent by the time of Charles' marriage to Camilla Parker-Bowles in 2005 - and in the warm, welcome given the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall on their first Canadian homecoming as a couple in the fall of 2009.

The newlywed couple's first homecoming also reminded Canadians of Camilla's direct ancestral links to Canada, through a former Prime Minister of the Province of Canada, Sir Allan MacNab, a son of Hamilton, Ontario (and builder of Dundurn Castle) who was the Duchess' great-great-great grandfather.

It was followed by even more successful visits in 2012, 2014 and for Canada 150 Celebrations on Parliament Hill in 2017 - and a brief Jubilee tour last May to St John's. Ottawa and the Northwest Territories, during which our soon-to-be King addressed directly the issues of reconciliation with a potency only a monarch or heir could reflect.

QUEEN CONSORT?

We have all heard Camilla styled as Queen Consort, and so she is. It was perhaps important in thinking of her future role during recent years, and then in the early, unfamiliar days of the new Reign, to continue to use the title. But henceforth the League - and we suspect, most folk - will be referring to her as "Queen Camilla" and to the Royal couple as our "King and Queen," just as happened very quickly more than 85 years ago, and certainly was well established when George VI and Elizabeth came to Canada in 1939 - and were universally called "King and Queen." Yes, as we hope will be taught in the schools, Camilla is not Queen Regnant - the nature of her Coronation-within-a-Coronation, if it follows with precedent, will make that clear. But we can live without the mouthful of "Consort." We rather might think of our Royals as Father and Mother of the Commonwealth and its Realms, and mean no disrespect but affection, as referring to them as "King and Queen" or indeed "Charles and Camilla."

CHARLES AU CANADA

Un aperçu de la longue relation des Canadiens avec notre nouveau monarque

Les intérêts multiples du Prince de Galles, qui vont de la préoccupation pour l'environnement bâti aux pratiques agricoles durables, en passant par la préservation de la forêt tropicale, l'architecture humaine, son rôle d'interlocuteur principal entre l'Islam et l'Occident et, surtout, son travail auprès des jeunes et des entreprises par le biais du Prince's Trust, trouvent depuis des décennies un écho croissant auprès des Canadiens et, ces dernières années, le Prince's Trust a été étendu au Canada.

Au cours des 52 dernières années, en plus de ses nombreuses nominations honorifiques dans les Forces canadiennes, la présence personnelle au Canada de l'héritier du trône du Canada, maintenant notre roi, a longtemps été un spectacle familial.

Lorsqu'il était jeune homme, Charles a plongé sous la calotte glaciaire de l'Arctique et en est ressorti avec une combinaison gonflée qui le faisait ressembler quelque peu au bonhomme Michelin, célèbre dans la publicité du fabricant de pneus ! Aussi amusante que soit la photographie, ce plongeon était un événement délibéré et soigneusement mis en scène par le gouvernement Trudeau. Aucune meilleure image n'aurait pu informer le monde en juillet 1970 de l'affirmation de la souveraineté du Canada sur ses terres nordiques et ses passages d'eau, un rôle qui était alors testé par les États-Unis et l'Union soviétique.

Les retours au pays à thème, liant les intérêts du prince aux valeurs et aux préoccupations canadiennes, ont été une partie régulière du journal de Charles, ce qui lui a permis d'apprendre à connaître le Canada, et les Canadiens ont eu des impressions du prince de Galles de l'époque en personne plutôt qu'à travers les histoires souvent déformées des médias.

Étant donné que la famille royale, comme toute famille, a connu des hauts et des bas, les Canadiens ont également appris à connaître Charles en partageant les bons et les mauvais moments de sa vie. Nous avons acclamé son épouse, Diana, princesse de Galles, lors de la tournée triomphale du couple dans les Maritimes en 1983, tandis qu'en 1986, une tournée en Colombie-Britannique, dont le point culminant a été la visite de l'Expo 86 à Vancouver, a été accompagnée d'autant d'adulation. Un accueil chaleureux leur est également réservé lors d'une

tournée en Ontario en 1991. C'est à cette occasion que Charles et Diana ont été réunis de façon mémorable avec leurs fils, William et Harry, à bord du HMY *Britannia*, qui était amarré dans le port de Toronto.

À l'instar d'un monde qui oublie peut-être trop facilement le profond malheur que l'échec d'un mariage entraîne inévitablement dans nos propres familles et amis, les Canadiens ont absorbé avec avidité les détails du malheur qui a suivi dans la vie de Charles et de Diana, et ont porté des jugements fondés sur une connaissance, au mieux, incomplète de toutes les circonstances en cause. Cette réaction émotionnelle à la rupture très publique de la relation du prince et de la princesse a été ravivée dans le chagrin authentique doublé d'émotions excessives qui a accompagné la mort tragique de Diana en 1997.

Cependant, à l'instar de nos homologues du Commonwealth, de nombreux Canadiens en sont venus, au fil du temps, à juger Charles moins comme le personnage d'un affreux feuilleton que comme un homme à part entière, doté de nombreux talents et, comme nous tous, de défauts. Le soutien grandissant à ses diverses causes et la relation manifestement étroite qu'il entretient avec ses fils ont conduit la plupart d'entre eux à lui souhaiter le même bonheur que celui que tant d'entre nous ont trouvé dans un second mariage, dans ce cas une union approuvée par la Reine et ses fils.

Cette vision plus sympathique s'est manifestée au moment du mariage de Charles avec Camilla Parker-Bowles en 2005, et dans l'accueil chaleureux réservé au prince et à la duchesse de Cornwall lors de leur premier retour au Canada en tant que couple à l'automne 2009.

Le premier retour au pays du couple de jeunes mariés a également rappelé aux Canadiens les liens ancestraux directs de Camilla avec le Canada, par l'intermédiaire d'un ancien premier ministre de la province du Canada, Sir Allan MacNab, un fils de Hamilton, en Ontario (et constructeur du château de Dundurn) qui était l'arrière-arrière-arrière-grand-père de la duchesse.

Elle a été suivie de visites encore plus réussies en 2012, 2014 et pour les célébrations de Canada 150 sur la colline du Parlement en 2017 - et d'une brève tour-



née du jubilé en mai dernier à St. Ottawa et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, au cours de laquelle notre futur roi a abordé directement les questions de réconciliation avec une puissance que seul un monarque ou un héritier pouvait refléter.

REINE CONSORT ?

Nous avons tous entendu Camilla être qualifiée de Reine Consort, et c'est ce qu'elle est. Il était peut-être important, en pensant à son futur rôle au cours des dernières années, et ensuite dans les premiers jours peu familiers du nouveau règne, de continuer à utiliser ce titre. Mais dorénavant la Ligue - et nous soupçonnons, la plupart des gens - se référera à elle comme "Reine Camilla" et au couple royal comme notre "Roi et Reine", tout comme cela s'est produit très rapidement il ya plus de 85 ans, et certainement était bien établi lorsque George VI et Elizabeth sont venus au Canada en 1939 - et ont été universellement appelés "Roi et Reine". Oui, comme nous espérons qu'il sera enseigné dans les écoles, Camilla n'est pas Reine Régnante - la nature de son Couronnement-dans-un-Couronnement, s'il suit le précédent, rendra cela clair. Mais nous pouvons vivre sans le mot "Consort". Nous pourrions plutôt considérer nos souverains comme le Père et la Mère du Commonwealth et de ses royaumes, et ne pas leur manquer de respect mais leur témoigner de l'affection, en les appelant "Roi et Reine" ou même "Charles et Camilla".

Mace to Canada's Director of public Prosecutions and Deputy Attorney General who sent extraordinary message to her subordinates across the country after Queen's death

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPS) is described on its website as "a national, independent and accountable prosecuting authority whose main objective is to prosecute federal offences and provides legal advice and assistance to law enforcement."

Kathleen Roussel is Director of Public Prosecutions and Deputy Attorney General of Canada for the PPS. In this capacity, she is the effective of all federal Crown Prosecutors. She is reportedly highly regarded for, amongst other things, her regular communications with the over 1,000 employees, mainly fellow lawyers.

However, Ms Roussel proved to have a tin ear when on September 16, more than a week after The Queen's death, and on the verge of HM's funeral and of the proclaimed day of National Mourning in Canada, she chose to make her first comment on the Sovereign's demise, (the Sovereign, it will be remembered, in whose name all law in Canada is made and the violations of which are, in her name, prosecuted).

Here is what she communicated to her team: *Before we enter the weekend and the upcoming designated day of mourning on Monday, I want to acknowledge the many differing feelings and thoughts*

that have not been given much attention since the death of the Queen. For some of you, this has caused the significant historic and current harm caused by colonialism to resurface. For those who need assistance during this difficult time [here, she gave contact information for the government's "Employee Assistant Services"] ... I encourage you, in respect of the Truth and Reconciliation call to action #57, to learn more about colonialism and continue building strong allyship.

For a government employee, let alone the head of the Crown Prosecution Service, let alone someone who publicly must be neutral as to any matters of controversy, to link our Queen's death to the harm caused by "colonialism" a word which seems to be able to be shaped to mean anything the user wishes) is the epitome of poor taste. Even admitting past evils of aspects of colonial governance, to suggest that a rational person would imagine The Queen somehow to be implicated in them in her public life, let alone her private station, so as for prosecutors to need no doubt highly-capable professional services is absurd.

Then to invite her employees, in the



same breath, to learn more about "colonialism and [to] continue building strong allyship" - thereby suggesting something entirely outside the supposed concerns of her message as to the health of her subordinates - incredible!

Not to mention that a full week had passed since HM's death without a word of condolence and concern - let alone offers of assistance - to the many good people of PPS who must have deeply mourned and felt unsettled by the end of the Reign, the passing of a beloved Canadian and someone of whom so many - republican, monarchist or indifferent - were so very proud.

Shame on you, Madam! We cannot imagine that the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice would be as one with either your tone or your omissions. You might find instructive what the PM, your ultimate boss, we suppose, had to say on The Queen's death. He did not do as you; rather, he spoke as elected head of the nation on behalf of pretty well everyone: [youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSrVIWxHAK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSrVIWxHAK).

You certainly did not do that - and from what we have heard - many of your Crowns felt that what you wrote, and when you wrote it, lamentable.

SERMENT DES DÉPUTÉ(E)S DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

EXTRAITS - DE LOIS
CONSTITUTIONNELLES
DE 1867 à 1982

128. *Préalablement à leur entrée en fonctions, d'une part les sénateurs et les députés de la Chambre des communes, devant le gouverneur général ou la personne autorisée par lui à cet effet, d'autre part les conseillers législatifs et députés provinciaux, devant le lieutenant-gouverneur de la province ou la personne autorisée par lui à cet effet, prêtent et souscrivent le serment d'allégeance qui figure à l'annexe V de la présente loi.*

ANNEXE V

Serment d'allégeance

Moi, A.B., je jure fidélité et sincère allégeance à Sa Majesté la reine Victoria remarque. - Le serment étant à prêter au souverain régnant, adapter l'énoncé en conséquence.



Au-delà des attributions de la Ligue monarchiste du Canada, il y a le fait, pour



le meilleur ou pour le pire, que le Québec a pu établir, à toutes fins utiles, une "nation" distincte au sein du Canada.

Nous soulignons ceci seulement pour observer que le tapage fait par certains députés de l'Assemblée nationale au sujet de la nécessité de prêter le serment prévu dans les lois constitutionnelles 1876-1982 peut en effet être offensant pour ces députés qui se consacrent à la destruction du Canada, d'une part, ou qui comprennent mal le rôle du monarque du Canada dans notre politique, d'autre part ; Cependant, le fait de prêter ce serment depuis l'émergence du "séparatisme" en 1962 n'a pas empêché l'évolution décrite

ci-dessus, pas plus qu'il n'a empêché que plusieurs chefs indépendantistes soient convoqués par le lieutenant-gouverneur pour former des gouvernements du Parti québécois.

Qu'est-ce qui pourrait mieux prouver la libéralité de notre Constitution que de permettre qu'elle soit utilisée pour tenter de détruire le pays ? La notion selon laquelle ces sentiments devraient être instructifs de quelque façon que ce soit quant à ce que le reste du Canada devrait faire est bien sûr absurde. Et bien que nous soyons ravis de voir nos monarchistes québécois expliquer cela dans les médias, comme dans le matériel ci-dessus, nous ne devrions pas perdre le sommeil devant de telles manifestations périodiques d'opinion nationaliste extrême dans la province.

ECOMM Aux membres de la Ligue dans la Belle Province de notre officier supérieur dans la province, Karim Al-Dahdah:

Chers membres et amis québécois, on

vous encourage à partager votre opinion sur le serment au Roi en cliquant sur le lien ci-dessous. Un sujet qui occupe énormément l'espace médiatique ces derniers jours. Faisons entendre nos voix.

Faut-il le rappeler encore en 2022 et corriger cette grossière erreur que tous les médias québécois commettent, le serment n'est pas à la "monarchie britannique" mais au roi du Canada, chef d'Etat du Canada et incarnation de l'Etat canadien et de nos lois et institutions. Il s'agit donc d'un serment au Canada, le pays dont nous sommes tous citoyens, et non à un monarque ou pays étranger, ou "pape d'une Église étrangère".

lapresse.ca/debats/courrier-des-lecteurs/2022-10-20/appel-a-tous/que-pensez-vous-du-serment-au-roi.

COMMENTAIRES DE CERTAINS MONARCHISTES

de David Bruno, Montréal:

Je pense que c'est très simple – la plupart des Québécois et des Canadiens ne mettent pas beaucoup de réflexion ou de soins dans le serment, donc très franchement, ce n'est pas un problème. Cependant, pour ceux qui ont une pensée sur le serment, je dis ceci : il fait partie intégrante de notre système judiciaire, électoral et militaire et jusqu'à ce que cela change, et en tant que monarchie consti-

tutionnelle qui protège nos droits, alors le serment est important et doit être respecté. D'autre part, si les citoyens et les fonctionnaires ne l'aiment pas, allez-y et changez la constitution. D'ici là, la procédure est une procédure et vous devez jurer à notre couronne comme tout le monde.

de Jean-Raymond Diotte, Québec:

Je trouve le comportement des élus (es) du Parti Québécois et du parti Québec Solidaire absolument déshonorant pour les électeurs qui les ont élus et véritablement méprisant pour nous les Québécois fédéralistes qui considérons que le Canada est notre pays.

Premièrement, le sujet du Serment d'allégeance au Roi du Canada n'a jamais été un enjeu de la dernière campagne électorale. Ces politiciens et politiciennes Séparatistes qui se targuent des principes démocratiques de notre pays quand cela leur convient, et bafouent ces mêmes principes démocratiques à la première occasion, telle que dans la présente circonstance, me font tout simplement lever le cœur.

Ensuite, le Serment d'allégeance au Roi du Canada n'est pas qu'une simple formalité, c'est une obligation légale sous la Constitution du Canada. Nous sommes un pays de droit et la Cour Suprême du Canada a déjà tranché cette question

dans le renvoi relatif à la sécession du Québec en 1998.

La dernière élection générale au Québec n'était pas une élection référendaire à propos de l'Indépendance unilatérale du Québec. Mais, ces élus (es) délétères voudraient, par tous les moyens, ramener cette question à l'avant-plan, envers et contre la volonté expresse exprimée par l'ensemble des électeurs lors de cette dernière élection, et à l'encontre de la volonté du peuple québécois telle qu'exprimée lors de deux référendums sur le sujet depuis 1980. C'est une tactique de bas-fonds qui mérite d'être sanctionnée à mon avis. Les politiciens (es) Séparatistes ne peuvent pas faire fi des dispositions écrites de la Constitution du Canada, cela équivaudrait à piétiner sur l'un des principes fondamentaux de notre démocratie.

Conséquemment, tous les députés (es) qui refusent de prêter Serment d'allégeance au Roi du Canada devraient: 1) se voir priver de leurs salaires de député; et 2) se voir refuser le droit de siéger à l'Assemblée Nationale; et 3) perdre leurs sièges de Député en attendant qu'une élection partielle puisse être organisée pour les remplacer.

Un électeur canadien horripilé par le comportement de ces élus qui refusent de prêter Serment d'allégeance au Roi du Canada.

CONTROVERSY OVER OATH SWORN BY QUEBEC MNA'S

EXTRACTS FROM *THE CONSTITUTION ACTS 1867-1982*
128

...every Member of a Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly of any Province shall before taking his Seat therein take and subscribe before the Lieutenant Governor of the Province or some Person authorized by him, the Oath of Allegiance contained in the Fifth Schedule to this Act;

FIFTH SCHEDULE

Oath of Allegiance.

I A.B. do swear, That I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Note. – The Name of the King or Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the Time being is to be substituted from Time to Time, with proper Terms of Reference thereto.



Beyond the remit of the Monarchist League of Canada is the fact, for good or ill, that Québec has been able to establish for all intents and purposes a distinct "nationhood" within Canada.

We point this out only to observe that the fuss made by some National Assem-

bly Members about the need to take the Oath provided in *the Constitution Acts 1876-1982* may indeed be offensive to those MNAs' dedicated to the destruction of Canada, on the one hand, or misunderstanding the role of the Monarch of Canada within our polity, on the other; however, the taking of that Oath since "separatism" emerged c 1962, has not prevented the development rehearsed above; nor indeed has it precluded several leaders dedicated to independence being summoned by the Lieutenant Governor to form Parti Québécois governments. What could more prove the liberality of our Constitution than to permit it to be used to attempt to destroy the



country? The notion that those sentiments should be instructive in any way as to what the rest of Canada should do is of course nonsense. And while we are delighted to see our Quebec monarchists explain this in the media, as per the material below, we should not lose sleep over such periodic manifestations of extreme nationalist opinion in the province.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO QUEBEC MONARCHISTS FROM SENIOR OFFICER KARIM AL-DAH DAH

Dear members and friends from Québec, we encourage you to share your opinion (preferably written in French) on the Oath to the King by clicking on the link above. A subject that has been occupying a lot of media space in the last few days. Let's make our voices heard.

It is important to remember that in 2022, the oath is not to the "British monarchy" but to the King of Canada, head of state of Canada and embodiment of the Canadian state and our laws and institutions. It is therefore an oath to Canada, the country of which we are all citizens, and not to a foreign monarch or country, or "pope of a foreign church".

THREE CANADIANS REMEMBER THEIR QUEEN

Brig-Gen Selbie, Phil Richards and Gwyn Willmot each enjoyed a closer experience of The Queen than most Canadians, whether as a Colonel Commandant, a painter of HM or the last Canadian Lady-in-Waiting appointed during a homecoming here.

AN AUDIENCE WITH THE CAPTAIN GENERAL

*By Brigadier-General J.J. Selbie
OMM CD (Late RCHA & RCA) (Retired)
Past Colonel Commandant RCA*

Amongst her many Canadian patronages, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, held the Royal Appointment of Captain General of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery (RCA) in which capacity she functioned as ceremonial head of The Royal Regiment and personified our loyalty to the nation.

In the Canadian Armed Forces, the appointment of Captain General is unique to the artillery. During a Royal Artillery guest night at Woolwich in December 1950, His Majesty King George VI expressed a desire to change his title from Colonel-in-Chief to Captain General. This change took effect on 26 January 1951, thus reviving a rank which dates from the fifteenth century. (The rank of Captain General had been replaced by that of Field Marshal in 1736 although it did not actually disappear from common usage until about 1799.)

The Royal Canadian Artillery requested that His Majesty change his Canadian title as he had done for the Royal Artillery, and on 10 January 1952, His Majesty became our Captain General. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was graciously pleased, upon her coronation in 1953, to assume her late father's appointment.

Her Majesty is also Captain General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Honourable Artillery Company, the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, and the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

Appointed in the name of the Sovereign by command of the Governor General on the advice of the Minister of National Defence, the Colonel Commandant serves as honorary head of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. In this capacity, the incumbent promotes The Royal Regiment's distinctive heritage, identity, ethos, and *esprit de corps*; and upholds the unity of the Regimental Family of regular and reserve, serving and retired Gunners, extending from coast to



coast. The Colonel Commandant also serves as a direct link and channel of communication on regimental matters to the Captain General.

Following my retirement from the Regular Army after a thirty-seven-year career as an artillery officer, The Regiment asked me to take on the role of Colonel Commandant - which I did in 2014. Two years later, on 19 October 2016, the Captain General graced me with a customary audience at Buckingham Palace for the purpose of reporting to her the state of her Canadian Gunners. It was an unsurpassed highlight of my service, and as we reflect on the passing of our Queen, I am pleased to recall the experience for readers of the Canadian Monarchist News.

Regimental Headquarters having finalized arrangements in conjunction with the Palace only about seven weeks in advance of the audience, my first question was, "what to wear?". Happily, Army personnel staff were, at the time, developing an updated version of "Undress", known colloquially as "Patrol Dress" or, in some regiments, as "Blues". Traditionally, Undress was the proper order of dress to wear on such an occasion and so I immediately accepted the Regimental Colonel's suggestion that I wear a prototype of it, vice the more pedestrian green Service Dress which had been the norm since unification in 1968. Procuring the

prototype and having it appropriately tailored on such a short timeline proved, to borrow Wellington's words, "a damn close-run thing". I will always be indebted to the expert seamstresses of the uniform manufacturer, Logistik Unicorn, who had me report to their premises in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, there to undergo a final three rounds of fittings and alterations during the course of a single day - having proclaimed they would not release me before perfection had been achieved!

Five days later ("D Minus 3"), my wife, Anne, and I were ensconced in the Army & Navy Club (known to members as "The Rag") in St James's Square - our conveniently located "base of operations" for the audience. The first order of business on Monday (D Minus 2) was to have delivered to the Palace, for later presentation to the Queen, a maquette of the statue of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae sculpted by the renowned Ontario artist Ruth Abernethy, and erected by The Regiment the previous year at the National Artillery Memorial in Ottawa, on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the penning by McCrae (a Gunner as well as a physician and poet) of "In Flanders Fields". Essential to the achievement of this objective was the generous and enthusiastic assistance of our allied regiment, the Royal Regiment of Artillery who had earlier received the

maquette when it was shipped from Canada.

Tuesday, ("D Minus 1") saw me busy with iron and boot polish, and a trip to the barber, before repairing that evening to the dining room of the club for dinner with General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman GBE KCB, Master Gunner St James's Park. The Master Gunner (an appointment dating to 1678) heads the Royal Artillery, reports to the Captain General on regimental matters, and is accorded the status of senior Gunner of the Commonwealth. Earlier in the year, I was delighted to have hosted the Master Gunner during his two-week visit to Canada on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the Royal Artillery. Subsequently, General Tim had taken a personal hand in helping to design and manufacture the base of the McCrae maquette, taking inspiration from Charles Sargeant Jagger's famous Royal Artillery Memorial in Hyde Park and using the same Portland stone. A regular visitor to the Palace, he quickly put my mind to ease over any concerns I harboured regarding the next morning's event.

D-Day dawned fair and fine. Hailing a taxi in front of The Rag, I admit to having felt a certain "frisson" when announcing our destination as Buckingham Palace. Having discerned the purpose of our journey and expressed satisfaction that an effigy of the sovereign still graced Canadian coinage, the driver made it his mission to confirm with police the correct entrance at which to drop us and to whisk us there with maximum dispatch. The correct entrance proved to be the front gate and from here it was, having checked-in with police and gotten an invitation from Anne to "break a leg", that I set off across the forecourt alone, but under the curious eye of the tourists lining the fence.

Receiving and returning a salute from the sentry, I passed through one of the portals to the inner courtyard. From the other side of the yard, a kilted figure standing in a doorway, and who turned out to be the Queen's personal piper, beckoned with a friendly wave. Being just two generations removed from Aberdeen, I took this as a good omen, and so it proved to be. It was then up two flights of stairs and into the office of Her Majesty's equerry, a charming RAF Wing Commander who greeted me warmly, offered a seat, and invited me to partake of not one but two glasses of water, thoughtfully set out on an adjacent table. After an opportunity for a quick "wash and brush up", we proceeded to the audience room where we rehearsed the entry "drill", including the traditional bow. A photogra-

pher in the room suggested positioning that would allow him to capture Her Majesty, me, and the McCrae maquette - which, to my relief, had arrived at the appointed time and place.

Back then to the equerry's office for a final instruction: "watch for Her Majesty to lift her handbag - the sign that your fifteen-minute audience has reached its end". A moment or two later, a footman appeared at the door and announced that Her Majesty would see me now. Entering the audience room at the side of the equerry, head and eyes straight to the front, it was only after raising my bowed head that the Queen entered my view - her face one which I had known from childhood as a photograph or painting, but which was now directly before me - her hand offered in greeting. It was an instant I will remember vividly, always.

"Good morning, Colonel Commandant, thank you for coming. I understand you have brought me something from Canada".

And so it began - with an examination of the McCrae maquette which she pronounced herself quite pleased with, noting with approval the connection to Jagger's work and suggesting it would find a home at Windsor Castle. We then took seats by the fireplace and at once, Her Majesty made me feel entirely at ease with a humorous account of her viewing on television a recent race at Woodbine in which one of her horses featured. My report on the state of The Regiment, elicited, *inter alia*, challenging questions on the physics behind our avalanche control operation in Rogers Pass. These, in turn led to observations on the hazards of *hors-piste* skiing, a discussion of plans for the forthcoming commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and then, a playful question as to which was the "luckier" country, Australia or Canada. And, regardless of the answer, how best to view lands as immense as these? Here we agreed - it was by train!

At this point, I put my foot in my mouth.

"Yes, Ma'am", I said. "I recall my parents taking me to the CPR station in Brandon, Manitoba in 1959, to view your train as it departed for the next stop on your visit itinerary".

"So many people say that sort of thing to me", she replied, with a smile. "It makes me feel like such a Methuselah!"

And so it went, a comfortable, wide-ranging, and good-humoured discussion denoted by a deep knowledge of, and active curiosity in, her peoples, their countries, and their affairs for which Her Majesty was so well-known.

All too soon, however, she lifted her

handbag, and it was time to withdraw. An expression of gratitude, a handshake, another bow, the words, "Your Majesty", and a lovely smile in return. The audience was over.

Returning to the equerry's office, the Wing Commander exclaimed, "Well done, Brigadier!" "Your fifteen-minute audience lasted half an hour!"

Having marched across the forecourt on arrival, I virtually floated across it on departure.

A chance to reflect on the experience over dinner with Anne that evening, in the heart of London, concluded a wonderfully memorable day during which I was profoundly honoured and proud to represent my Regiment and my Country to my Sovereign.

Queen Elizabeth will be remembered with respect, gratefulness, and affection throughout the Commonwealth and around the world. For those of us privileged to wear the cloth of our nation, we could ask for no finer exemplar of devotion to duty, servant leadership, discipline, courage, or perseverance. We will miss her dearly.

A REMARKABLE RECOLLECTION

by Gwynne Wilmot,
sometime Canadian Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen

After a very full day of participating in the Royal Tour, the Master of the Household (who organizes all events for Her Majesty) approached me.

"The Queen is very disturbed."

Naturally, I was most anxious, and replied, "Is there something I could do to assist?" His reply was "Yes", at which time I held my breath with considerable concern. "Her Majesty learned that a tour of the Royal Yacht has not been arranged for your children. Would they enjoy that?"

I was completely overwhelmed - here we were with very full and exciting days, coupled with late evenings at grand events, and The Queen was thinking of my family! Then the Master asked "What would be the best day for them?" My reply: "What would be the best day for you?" Remembering every day was busy, he knew Thursday at 4:00 pm would work best.

The remarkable aspect of this conversation was the complete consideration shown to me. So it is a pleasure to share this heart-warming experience as I take great delight to recall the thoughtfulness and respect exhibited by Her Majesty.

PAINTING THE QUEEN'S OFFICIAL DIAMOND JUBILEE PORTRAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

by Phil Richards

This project culminated in the unveiling of the portrait at Buckingham Palace in 2012, after which it was briefly in Rideau Hall where it is supposed to return after a tour of the provinces – photo shows the Saskatchewan welcome with Phil Richards on right shares with readers the process of painting the official portrait, and his recollections of Her Majesty during this time.

The painting of an official portrait is, by its nature, a collaborative process. The subject brings to the project a specific character and demeanor, as well as the nature of the office or position held. The artist's task is to communicate the personality and office of the subject to the viewer through the creation of an artwork. The collaboration begins with the choice of the portrait artist, a decision usually made by the subject being portrayed. This was the case with the official Diamond Jubilee Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, commissioned in 2010 by the Government of Canada, and unveiled at Buckingham Palace on June 6, 2012.

In February 2010, Kevin MacLeod, Canadian Secretary to the Queen, initiated a project, which was fully supported by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, inviting a number of Canadian artists to submit portfolios for a competition to paint a new, official state portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. This portrait was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne, and was to be completed for her Diamond Jubilee year, in 2012. A government committee was established to assemble a long list of artists for consideration, from which a short list of five portfolios was selected. The five portfolios were subsequently forwarded to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. There, Her Majesty examined the portfolios, along with the letter of intent that accompanied each one, and made her choice. I had the honour and good fortune of being the artist that she chose. This was the beginning of our collaboration.

The choice of portrait artist by the sitter is a more profound decision than many might think. It is really the coming together of two sensibilities that have found common ground. For all serious artists, their work is a testament to their personal philosophy, style, technical ability and commitment to their profession.



These things are revealed in the artist's work regardless of whether they are recognized or acknowledged.

The choice of artist also reveals something about the sensibility and background of the sitter. As the custodian of the greatest private art collection in the world, the Queen had spent her life surrounded by masterpieces from Western art history. To say that she had a refined aesthetic sense would surely be an understatement. Her knowledge and judgement would carry the weight of a lifetime of connoisseurship. If the Queen found merit in my work, then we could surely find common ground in our collaboration.

The viewing of my portfolio was Her Majesty's first contact with me, although indirect. A second indirect contact occurred on June 28th, 2010, three days before our first official sitting, which was scheduled for Canada Day, July 1st, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The Queen's personal assistant and senior dresser, Angela Kelly, phoned me from Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty had asked her to inquire as to what I would like her to be wearing for the portrait. Because the choice of dress and medals had been decided by Her Majesty in advance, the question came down to jewellery. As this was the Diamond Jubilee portrait, my response was, of course, "Diamonds, lots of diamonds!"

What impressed me about this phone call was the fact that the Queen had given some thought to my plans, as the artist, for the sitting. It was an indication of her ability to empathize, and it boded well for our future work together. The royal visit in 2010, as it turned out, was Her Majesty's final Canadian and North American tour, with a complex and exhausting itinerary that concluded with a speech to the United Nations General As-

sembly.

Our first face-to-face meeting took place at exactly 10:00 a.m. in the Tent Room at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa. I had been briefed on Royal protocol in advance, so when the Queen extended her hand, I took it with a bow of the head, and greeted her as "Your Majesty". Thereafter, I was to address her as "Ma'am". The Queen however, could choose the manner in which she would address me. She chose "Philip", which made sense as it was also her husband's given name. Although I prefer "Phil", I wasn't going to make an issue of it, given that this was the Queen! I later discovered, through her secretary, that the Queen had been amused to read in my letter of intent that I had been named after Prince Philip. Born in 1951, the year that Princess Elizabeth made her first visit to Canada, my Welsh-born grandmother had suggested that I be named after the prince.

After a brief chat, we got to work on the photo session. I usually do my own photography, but in this case, I was working with an Ottawa-based photographer who had previously taken official photographic portraits of the Queen for the federal government. The first part of the session focused on the new official photo, and then we moved on to my research photos. At this stage, I had to consult with the Queen on the general pose and positioning of head, hands and feet. She was a "real pro" when it came to modeling for the camera. During one break, the Queen told me that the last time she had been in Ottawa, on a previous tour, she had been caught in a torrential rainstorm at an outdoor event. Her clothes were completely soaked and she had to return to Rideau Hall, change her clothes and return to the event. The recounting of this story by the Queen made me more aware of the

preparations that were undertaken to arrange for this official photo session at Rideau Hall, and I was impressed by, and grateful for her commitment and strong sense of duty, not only to this specific project, but also to her lifelong role as constitutional monarch.

Before the Queen left the session, I showed her a book that I had made, concerning a previous portrait of mine, which I called a "Process Sequence Portfolio". It recorded the complete painting process from the earliest sketch to the final portrait. I told her that this was the approach I take with all of my portraits, and inquired if she would be willing to be consulted at each stage of the process. She said she would very much like to be part of the decision-making and looked forward to working together.

Our next, and most important meeting took place on February 17th, 2011, in Buckingham Palace, London. This was a private meeting, with no others present, in the Audience Room. From Canada, I had brought about twenty-five artworks, including pencil, charcoal and pastel sketches, grisaille and coloured painted maquettes, and a sculpted bust and figurine. My intention was to talk her through the development of the image and get her feedback both on the overall look of the image as well as specific details. She was quick and decisive in her aesthetic judgements and we found ourselves in complete agreement in almost every respect.

Until this meeting with the Queen, I had never met anyone who could examine an image of themselves with such objectivity. But then again, who else, in all of human history, has had their image reproduced as often as the Queen? Her image is ubiquitous, with her face appearing worldwide on billions of stamps, banknotes and coins, as well as in a vast number of photos and artwork.

At the beginning of our meeting, the Queen asked how I had been and, surprisingly, said that she had the impression that I had not been completely happy with the photo session at Rideau Hall, which was over seven months earlier. It amazed me that she had been watching so closely and had remembered these observations. I acknowledged that she was indeed correct, and that my wish for more experimentation with the lighting is what compelled me to carve the sculpted bust of Her Majesty. At that point, I picked up the painted sculpture and walked to the large window in the Audience Room, in order to illustrate the dramatic effect that lighting can have on the face.

I had also brought an eight by ten-inch

acrylic on canvas grisaille (grey scale) study of the Queen's face to the meeting at the Palace. I told Her Majesty that I thought this study represented a key moment in the production of the portrait, in that I had finally achieved the lighting, mood, and expression that I had been searching for. She picked up the sketch and said, "Oh, I like this. You've made me look friendly", to which I reflexively responded, "And you're not?" Luckily for me, she just laughed, realizing that she had walked right into that one.

I asked the Queen whether she had any favourites among all the portraits of her that had been painted. She responded that someone in her position should not really say, but then leaned forward, with a frown on her face, and half-whispered, "But you know, some of them don't look like me at all". So, I knew then, that contrary to what some contemporary artists and critics might claim, she did think that likeness in portraiture mattered.

During our discussion, I had mentioned that Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830) was my favourite British-born painter of the English royalty. The Queen replied that he was her favourite as well. She invited me to visit the "Waterloo Chamber" at Windsor Castle, which housed more than a dozen portraits by Lawrence that commemorated Wellington's victory over Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo. She then began to rhyme off, one by one on her fingers, the figures depicted, "The Duke of Wellington, Tzar Alexander I of Russia, Emperor Francis I of Austria, Charles X of France etc." When she got to "Pope Pius VII", I interjected that Lawrence regarded this as one of his favourite portraits, and considered the face of the Pope the best he had ever painted. The Queen seemed quite pleased to learn something new about a beloved work in her own collection. What amazed me was the breadth and depth of her knowledge of, and passion for, both history and art.

On opposite walls in the Buckingham Palace Audience Room hung two pendant portraits. Both were painted by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788). One depicted the Duke of Cumberland (c. 1777) and the other of the Duchess of Cumberland (c. 1777). While we examined the elaborately embroidered tulle fabric of the Duchess's dress depicted in the painting, the Queen commented that it must be difficult to paint that kind of material. I answered that yes, it is somewhat difficult, and time-consuming as well. However, it can also be a great deal of fun for an artist, and there is a real payoff in the dynamic visual excitement that can be achieved with a convincing illu-

sion of the fabric. I told her that I found it a more difficult task to make plain fabric look interesting in a painting, using only the effects of light and shade.

The Queen inquired as to the size of the Diamond Jubilee Portrait, compared to the Gainsborough paintings, both of which were 95" high and 56" wide. My painting of the Queen was to be 108" high by 72" wide, so I told her that my portrait would be substantially larger than the Gainsboroughs, which seemed quite big. Her response was, "Oh, very nice".

Her Majesty also asked about the type of paint that I would use for the portrait. I said that I painted in acrylic paints, which utilize a plastic polymer as a binder as opposed to oil paints, which use linseed oil as a binder for the pigment. She wanted to know whether I would varnish the finished painting. I informed her that I did not varnish the acrylic painting because once dry, the paint is quite stable, unlike oil, which continues to dry out and slowly oxidize, and thus needs varnishing to slow the process. She then inquired as to how the acrylic paint could be cleaned if it wasn't varnished. I explained that the acrylics are self-sealing when dry, and can be carefully cleaned using mild soap and warm water. She responded, "Well, I don't think these Gainsboroughs would take too kindly to mild, soapy water, do you?" She was laughing while she said it.

Her Majesty asked many questions about the portrait process during my audience with her. I was impressed not only by her inquisitive nature, but also by her engagement with the project, her focus on detailed information, and her ability to consider the painting of the portrait from the artist's perspective.

Near the end of our meeting, standing over the array of preparatory work, the Queen said, "You know, if I had been an artist, this is exactly the way in which I would like to have worked." I considered this as a great compliment and an indication that we had indeed found common ground.

Within a couple of weeks, my impression was confirmed in a letter from the Queen, via her personal secretary, in which she said that she had been "greatly impressed" with all the preparatory work, and was "content" to give me full approval to complete the project as I saw fit, based on that work. During the next eight to ten months, I completed preliminary maquettes, a final maquette and the final, full-scale portrait. At each stage, I emailed jpegs of the images to the Queen, and each time was given prompt approval, no matter where she was at the time. I remember that she travelled a great deal during 2011, and that one of the approvals

had been forwarded to me while she was in New Zealand.

It was hoped that, once the Diamond Jubilee Portrait had been completed and framed, it would be unveiled in Ottawa by the Queen herself on a visit to Canada during her Diamond Jubilee year of 2012. However, Her Majesty decided to refrain from international travel during that year, so the Canadian Office of the Prime Minister chose to raise funds privately, to have the portrait shipped to the UK where it could be unveiled by the Queen herself.

The specially constructed shipping crate that contained the framed portrait was so large that it would not fit in the storage compartment of a commercial airliner. The painting was brought to England on a Canadian military plane, which made a short stop in London while on its way to Afghanistan.

The unveiling took place on the morning of June 6th 2012, in the splendid White Drawing Room in Buckingham Palace. A number of guests, including my family members, were gathered along the window wall opposite the covered painting. Kevin MacLeod and I were waiting next to the large, closed double doors near the end of the room. The doors opened and a small group, led by the Queen, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston, entered the room. Kevin introduced me to the Queen with, "Your Majesty, Mr. Philip Richards". With a little flick of her left hand, the Queen informed Kevin that, "Oh, we know each other". I was glad to hear that I hadn't been forgotten.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper invited the Queen to unveil the portrait. With the pull of a cord, the red silk drapery fell away and revealed the painting. After the applause subsided, the Queen walked toward the painting. She examined the finished portrait for what seemed a long while in the large and completely silent room, then she turned to her left and proclaimed, "Philip, you've changed this since I last saw it". Jokingly, I responded, "Well, yes, it went from 6" (by 9") to this!", gesturing to the enormous 6' by 9' canvas. I knew that the only earlier rendition of the image that she had seen in person was the small 6" by 9" preliminary maquette.

"No", she said, "that's not it. It's these things on the desk. They look different." The objects she was referring to were a silver basket of red and white roses, an ivory medallion, silver and glass inkpots, a silver vase holding a single rose, and the original British North America Act. Indeed, these still life elements had been adjusted and slightly rearranged. She

wanted to know why I had made the changes. I explained that they were made to tighten the total composition, and that in spite of my best intentions, there are always changes made from the final maquette to the final painting, with the hope that those changes are improvements. She seemed satisfied with my explanation.

Looking back, I find several things remarkable about this exchange: first, that she initially ignored the dozens of people in the room, including the Prime Minister and the Governor General, to engage me in a private conversation about small, intimate details of the creation of the artwork; and second, that she had noticed and questioned the few minor changes which had been made to the final painting. Either she had an incredible visual memory, or she had referred to earlier maquettes before the unveiling. Either way, she displayed an extraordinary ability to step outside herself and into my shoes as a creator, and made some very astute observations after doing so.

The Queen went on to tell me that she thought the finished painting was "grand" and "marvellous" and that it looked like a tremendous amount of work. I explained that the work on the project had taken about 7 months, spread out over a 2-year period. I also explained that while all of the elements and symbols included in the painting had to be approved by the Canadian Prime Minister's Office, I had been determined to include a secret detail for Her Majesty, that would be revealed only at the unveiling.

Initially, when a number of my friends and relatives learned that I had been commissioned to paint a portrait of the Queen, their first question was, "Are you going to paint the corgis?". I had responded that, "No, I'm going to paint the Queen, not her dogs". But the idea stuck with me. When I met the corgis at Buckingham Palace, I actually had to step over them to enter the Audience Room for my meeting with Her Majesty. It was then that I decided that I had to find a way to get the corgis into the painting.

From the earliest stages of design, the painting's composition had involved a desk and a chair. I had arrived at the choice of a 19th century, leather covered bergère positioned next to the Queen's standing figure. These chairs often display "cresting" at the apex of the chair's back frame. Often in the form of leaves or flowers, these crests are sometimes carved in animal and human forms. I chose to depict on the crest of the bergère, a pair of heraldic corgis that appear to be looking toward the BNA Act on the desk. They are well-camouflaged

within the painting and are initially, difficult to discern.

During the unveiling, I told the Queen of the hidden corgis, and that their existence had been withheld from the PMO. The Prime Minister happened to be listening in and, standing beside me, feigned offence with a mock slap on the shoulder.

When I pointed out the corgis to Her Majesty, she could not, at first, make them out. The Governor General, who was also part of the conversation, stepped in and, getting very close to the canvas, traced the outline of the corgis with his finger. This prompted a, "Don't touch, David!" mock warning from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, delivered in a convincing museum security guard voice.

The final, truly private conversation I had with the Queen took place at the end of the unveiling ceremony. I presented Her Majesty with a two volume, 350 page "Process Sequence Portfolio" that was an annotated photographic record of the complete process involved in the creation of the portrait, from the earliest sketch to the unveiling.

I had produced many portfolios over the years for earlier commissions but none that had required two volumes. There were only two copies of this portfolio published: one for my own archives and one for the Queen.

I briefly flipped through the books explaining the manner in which the stages of progress had been recorded, and told her that I hoped that one evening, when she had "nothing better to do", she might browse through the volumes. The Queen laughed, then again expressed her fascination and appreciation for the process and thanked me for the "enormous amount of work" that had gone into the painting of this "marvellous" portrait. I thanked Her Majesty for her collaborative effort in this creative endeavour, and for her part in providing me with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We had both expected to meet again that evening at a Canada House (London) event, where the portrait was scheduled to be displayed. However, Prince Philip had been unwell that day, and his illness prevented the Queen from attending, so the unveiling at Buckingham Palace turned out to be our last meeting.

Looking back at my brief encounters with Her Majesty over the portrait's two-year production period, I have nothing but fond memories of a person whose intelligence, wit, dedication, warmth, empathy and stamina were truly inspiring. It was a privilege and an education getting to know more about the character and life of this most remarkable woman.

YOUNG MONARCHIST JUSTIN FEDEL, 18, FROM MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

*Shares his experience as he queued to pay respects
to his Queen at Westminster Hall*

Though we hope always reflecting the League's loyalty, economy of space and time mean that seldom do CMN and our EComms find space to share the deeply-felt emotions towards the person of our Queen that often accompanied our rational appreciation of the constitutional monarchy. However, the occasion of Elizabeth's death found Justin newly-arrived in Edinburgh to begin his studies at the eponymous University. At our request, within a few days of HM's death, he pivoted himself, got to London and shared with League members his experiences. The piece that follows evoked more positive comments than any article in the history of the League! With such loyalty, expressed unashamedly, we may perhaps feel that the Maple Crown has every reason to welcome the rising generation - Ed.

"In that moment all else fell away and it was as if I was alone in her presence."



It was with a mixture of happiness and sadness that I realized I would have the opportunity to pay my respects to Her Majesty lying in state at Westminster Hall. At the time, my mind was unable to comprehend the privileged nature of what I was about to do. In preparation, I laid out my best clothes; and when I affixed my league lapel pin, I began the journey of emotion.

This service of my - and our - loyalty began with queuing in Southwark Park. The night was cool, and being some distance from the Thames, we were sheltered from any serious wind. I felt a vibrant energy in the crowd. Even though the queue was slow to start moving, one could see a mixture of smiles and conversations all around. It even could have been the start for a happy occasion.

After some hours in the park, I moved through the first checkpoints and received a purple wristband to mark my right to stay in the line. We then traveled until we reached the Thames, from which a nice breeze blew into our faces and cooled everyone from the energy that had built up waiting in the park. Then a short stop, the queue increasing in speed. Following Tower Bridge it slowed again. It was roughly by this point that the vibrant energy turned into a crawl. However, despite the challenge that many were facing, the crowds neither lost size nor became moody; rather they opened themselves to others. Individuals from across the world showed each other and me great kindness and friendship, making what would otherwise be unpleasant necessity a wonderful experience.

I met many people from within United Kingdom and without. Countless conversations sprang up as we began to realize that was the best way forward - to smile and be happy just as we had felt at the start. After or in place of introductions always led to the question of the day, "Why are you waiting to see her?"

The responses, though similar in theme, were always unique in details. Stories of Her Majesty's impact on individuals, on families, on nations - all were brought up in these numerous talks. Experiences ranged from simple smiles at royal events to the carefully-considered speeches made by The Queen on solemn and joyous occasions alike. It was

amazing to hear the variety and scope of impacts that HM had made on subjects across the seas.

By the time my section of the queue reached the London Eye, one could be forgiven in thinking that those in line had been friends for years. I was lucky to meet a group of women from different parts of England who helped me not only stay warm physically, but also warm in my heart. Despite differences in our background, age and other factors, we turned into a little bubble of funny and moving stories which certainly made my experience queuing more memorable. This unity and profound sense of togetherness was best described by a young lady walking with me when she said, "We may all be different and have never met each other before. But we are all part of something greater than ourselves - we're part of her Reign."

And I felt there was nobody who embodied that spirit and idea better than The Queen. It is therefore no surprise that we're all here and I'm sure that she would want us to come together not just to celebrate an idea but also to celebrate each other in our regular day-to-day lives as her subjects. It was that moment that my emotion nearly jumped out at me. It was also at the London Eye that we took on a surplus of biscuits tea and coffee and with the help of one Scottish gentleman, a new batch of witticisms and jokes which served as the healthiest diet to achieve necessary patience. It was also at this point that the sun began to rise, revealing the magnificence of the Thames and London. In passing Westminster bridge the liveliness and emotion of the crowd and now the sun was up the city reflected that liveliness of which Her Majesty running so happily and so dutifully for over 70 splendid years.

Reaching Lambeth Bridge, we received a splendid morale boost in the form of the breathtaking sight that is the Palace of Westminster, the mother of all parliaments. As the sun shone the tops of the towers gleaming in the sun revealing in all its glory as the majesty of the event started to sink in.

In crossing the bridge, we received our last breath of wind which served to cool our backs as we were at the same time warned while standing in the sun. If there



was one part of these events that remained continuous throughout, it was the weather. I believe it must have been controlled by some greater power to ensure that myself and countless others could take part in what may be called a pilgrimage to the palace of Westminster.

Just outside Westminster, the mood reverted to an anxious energy as the quieter members of the crowd found it impossible to remain still and silent. And proceeding through the lines of rope and through security we were greeted by the many staff and officers who had worked through the night, still pleasant as they went about interacting with the crowds. This reflected the important of the event and arguably the character all those responsible for its organization for which many wish to thank them, and rightfully so.

Once through security I stood in front of one of many entrances to the Palace. As I gazed up I took in the splendid complexities that determined the character

of the place which I was about to enter. It was here, that the deep emotion I had been storing within me began to surface. Walking through to the Great Hall, the tapestry and splendour commanded me to realize what I was about to experience. It was so great that I had too pause and for a moment considered all that had happened and what was going to happen. Only then could my feet take me forward.

I turned into the Great Hall. Here I was to be struck emotion so profound I can say, I have not - ever - experienced anything like it, nor do I think I may ever again. There, lying in her coffin, draped under a most splendid banner top with a small arrangement of flowers and the glorious, glittering orb, sceptre and crown, brighter than any star sun. Yes, there, she lay. Never in my life have I witnessed such magnificence nor experienced such solemnity nor felt such an intensity of sadness and gratitude. As I moved alongside the towering presence of her Majesty's Guards facing away - ready to stop anything untoward at any moment if necessary - wearing splendid scarlet uniforms.

At that moment I became grief stricken as I turned to face the coffin. In that moment all else fell away and it was as if I was alone in her presence. I bowed, and in solemn gratitude repeated to myself the words of the King, "May flights of an-

gels sing thee to thy rest. Thank you Ma'am." As I turned away and began to walk my composure collapsed and I began to cry. To complete the experience, a man had turned just as I to face Her Majesty for the final time. We looked at each other, bowed to Her Majesty, then walked out together. As tears rolled down our cheeks, he uttered to me words I shall never forget, "that's our duty done, that's what she'd want, that and for us to carry on". As I left the gates I and many others could have been seeing crying. That divine presence had been too great to bear and had to be let out.

After some minutes I walked to a point where I could see inside the Abbey from outside the fence. I bowed, and again more grief flooded over me. And as I looked to the sky, I thought just how wonderful her reign was. I thought of all the happiness she had brought to us through her sacrifices and her service. She set the supreme example; she had lived for that which was greater than herself, and subsequently left the world in a better place than it was when her reign began. After some time, I composed myself and "carried on." It was then I realized why I and many others had come: it was in the hopes we would take her along with us - It was to receive one final piece of inspiration so that we might live our lives better tomorrow than we did today.



LEAGUE NOTES

EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET: 55,000 MAILED

As CMN went to press, the League's major Jubilee initiative, distributing 70,000 of our educational booklets, available in English and French editions, was closing in on reaching nearly 80% of our target, thanks in no small measure to members' publicizing it to local schools and youth groups.

LEAGUE FORMS CORONATION COMMITTEE

Given the need for the League to give input on the questions to be discussed, it has been decided to form a Coronation Committee. It will examine both what the League will recommend to federal/provincial governments to do in order to celebrate the Coronation and make it also a learning experience, as well as what projects the League - as a whole, as branches and as individual members - might be encouraged to undertake. The Committee will doubtless be asking the Dominion Office to send a questionnaire or survey of some sort in the course of its deliberations, so that all members' voices - and imagination! - may be heard.



Karim
Al-Dahdah

Chairman Finch is delighted to announce the co-Chairmen of this Committee will be **Jonathan Bradshaw**, of Toronto, a consultant with wide governmental experience, and also researcher/author of our last three editions of the *Cost of the Canadian Crown*. He will be joined by **Karim Al-Dahdah**, of Montreal. Karim is a businessman, fluently bilingual, and the League's principal spokesman in Québec.

As members we are grateful to the following who have agreed to serve: **Para Babuhara**, of Whitby, ON - fourth year student at University of Toronto, experienced in involvement with government and student groups. • **Étienne Boisvert**, of Drummondville, QC - former League spokesman and activist in Québec. • **Jonathan Brickwood**, of Toronto - well known to many as not only the Branch co-Chairman and long-time volunteer, but also as conductor of virtual meetings. Has a background in legislative and corporate sector employment. • **Tyson Gagnon**, of Prince George, BC - working on a History degree after recently graduating from high school, and an enthusiastic Young Monarchist who has undertaken a number of projects on our behalf. • **Bruce Hallsor**, KC of Victoria, BC - dis-

tinguished solicitor learned in the law, national media spokesman for the League, whose Gold Badge of Service he wears proudly. • **Danielle Lemire-Descary**, of St Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC - a retired librarian, long-time League member and a star in our Youtube film on monarchists in Quebec! • **Kevin McCormick**, of Sudbury, ON - President of Huntingdon University, Hon Colonel of the Irish Regiment of Canada and extensive experience working on boards and community issues. • **Paul Officer**, of Hamilton, ON - a Reservist, educator, with much experience in Indigenous issues and diverse communities. • **Cynthia Price**, of Montreal, QC - with extensive experience in corporate, non-profit and government sectors.

LEAGUE TIME CAPSULE GENTLY RE-PURPOSED: TRUSTEES NAMED



Jonathan
Brickwood

The following League members have been named by Chairman Finch to oversee the exciting opportunity offered by the gift of a custom Time Capsule, originally intended to mark the Platinum Jubilee of The Queen's Reign, and now to be extended to include Her Late Majesty's remarkable service to Canada. They are the following: **Jonathan Brickwood**, Convenor; with McGill University Professor Emeritus **Peter F McNally**, Anna Orban and of course "the Father of the Capsule," our friend and benefactor **Dr Oscar Vicente**. You will be hearing from them shortly.

CHANGES IN BRANCH LEADERSHIP

Chairman Finch has accepted, with regret, the resignations of *Mary de Toro* (Ottawa), *Jamie Burton* (Kingston), *Michael Gilmour* (Wellington-Waterloo) and *Darcie von Axelstierna* (Manitoba). He especially thanked Mary for her long and innovative service which gave the Branch an entirely new focus.

He is delighted to announce the following appointments of Branch Chairmen, with a mandate to implement the provisions of the 2021 Branch Development Plan, and so bring our branches to contemporary, out-ward looking and effective forces in their several communities:

Philippe Chartrand: Ottawa; **Daniel Guenther & Lawrence Prout**: Manitoba; **Neal Moogk-Soulis**: Waterloo-Wellington, ON.



Philippe
Chartrand



Daniel
Guenther



Neal
Moogk-Soulis

In paying tribute to *Sandra Barker*, who has been a constant presence in the absence of London Branch leadership, Chairman Finch also seeks leadership for a branch which for many decades was one of the most active and well-organized. Other Branches seeking a fresh start and a team of volunteers include Quebec City and Prince Edward Island.

VALERIE CADE: SILVER BADGE OF SERVICE



CONGRATULATIONS to long-serving Regina/S Saskatchewan Branch Secretary *Valerie Cade*, who received the League's Silver Badge of Service for her loyal and devoted work at the hands of His Honour Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor.

THREE NOVA SCOTIA MEMBERS AWARDED PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL



Barry
MacKenzie

The Lieutenant Governor of the loyal province of Nova Scotia, one of six to establish an Official Honour for The Queen's Jubilee, recently approved the award of the Medal to three members of the League: **Aron Spidle**, Dartmouth, acting as Branch Chairman after the decease of John Yogis; **Barry MacKenzie**, Antigonish, former Branch Chairman of New Brunswick and a constant media spokesman on behalf of the League; and **Brant Laidler**, Dartmouth, long-serving executive member.