



# THE MONARCHIST LEAGUE OF CANADA LA LIGUE MONARCHISTE DU CANADA

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## THE CASE FOR THE CROWN

### 9 Key advantages

#### **1 NATIONAL IDENTITY, STABILITY & PRIDE:**

Easy travel to and from the USA, trade and military alliances and American media can muddle Canada's distinct identity. Our governance focuses loyalty via allegiance to a monarch rather than to a politician or ideology. This difference underlies our distinct culture, energetic and yet tranquil. Constitutional monarchy – the Canadian way – provides stability. This is confirmed each year in the United Nations' Human Development Index, which regularly ranks Canada high up in the countries of the world. Change is inevitable, and much of it good; political leaders also come and go. Canadians voted in 22 federal elections during The Late Queen's reign! The Crown provides constancy amidst so much change. The Sovereign has the experience of decades, without the taint of a personal agenda. Such continuity constitutes an important anchor in our society.

#### **2 HEAD OF THE NATION VS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:**

Day to day our democratically elected representatives engage in healthy partisan debate on issues about which Canadians disagree. That is good. It encourages striving for partisan goals and personal success. The Prime Minister is our head of government and leader of a political party. As such, his actions are often controversial. The Sovereign, however, is a force of unity as head of the nation, and with his team of representatives is trusted by all Canadians. The monarchy protects and exemplifies the things Canadians agree about, and which remain constant, regardless of the results of an election in a notably tolerant and mature society. By presiding at events such as The Montreal Olympics, our country's 1967 festivities and the Canada150 celebrations, our Monarch emphasizes the non-partisan, unifying nature of great national occasions.

#### **3 GUARANTOR OF FREEDOM:**

Parliament – The King, the Senate, the elected Commons. No bill, regulation or spending is authorized without Royal Assent. Parliament is summoned and dissolved in The King's name. Also in his name, public officials and diplomats are appointed, treaties approved, cabinets commissioned. Normally, this is a formality. However, "the Royal Prerogative" ensures that the rule of law prevails, and provides a non-partisan, non-violent safeguard – a constitutional fire extinguisher as Alberta political scientist Frank MacKinnon has put it – should usual democratic processes ever be threatened. For example, even a popular government could not simply dispense with holding an election!

#### **4 REFEREE OF FEDERALISM: ELEVEN CROWNS –**

Canada is a federal state: our Constitution gives law-making power in certain areas to Ottawa, others to the provinces. Governments exercise this authority in the name of The King. Thus 11 Crowns exist in Canada – legally referred to as "The King in right of Canada" or "The King in right of" a province. The premiers, including the separatist René Levesque, underlined the importance of the Crown in their key 1978 Constitutional statement. Since the monarchy gives authority to each law-making entity, it also guarantees that the rule of law will be followed in dealing with disputes between Ottawa and the provinces. These facts explain the strong support by the provinces for the institution of monarchy, which reconciles regional identity with national unity.

#### **5 OATHS: USEFUL & PERSONAL:**

The deepest loyalties of humans are to other human beings. Oaths are taken to The King by our new fellow Canadians, legislators, judges, CF members and many

other public officials. Making their promise to the Sovereign rather than to a politician shows their ultimate loyalty is not to elected figures, but to the laws that make up the fabric of civilized society. Such Oaths underline that following the rule of law applicable to all must prevail over partisanship – acting to promote the well-being of a narrow segment of society. Oaths to The King also reflect Canada’s emphasis on the importance of the person, and of the dignity and equality of each individual: the moment new citizens take the Citizenship Oath they become full members of the Canadian family. Each Canadian gives allegiance to The King, so reciprocating the Crown’s decades of service to Canadians.

**6 A SHARED MONARCHY:** Canadians are fortunate to have as our monarch an instantly recognizable world figure. The King and members of the Royal Family link our diverse population to a far-flung Commonwealth, unique in that it seeks no military advantage. These nations – from New Guinea to Belize, from New Zealand to India – mirror the rich diversity of today’s Canada. In 2010, Queen Elizabeth II flew from Toronto to New York, where she addressed the United Nations. The night before, She proudly told an Official Dinner in Toronto that “I shall be travelling from this Northern Realm as Queen of Canada”. The Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors represent The King and perform most of the constitutional functions of the Sovereign in her name. This arrangement allows our country to share in the traditions of an ancient monarchy stemming out of Canada’s history, while at the same time we enjoy the services of distinguished fellow citizens – think of Major-General Georges Vanier, Lincoln Alexander, David Lam and Lynda Haverstock, to name but a few – who served Crown and country with great distinction.

**7 A REFLECTION OF OUR HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT:** Today’s monarchy stems from our history. Many of Canada’s first peoples chose chieftains whose role was much like that of other leaders in ancient times. Settlement by French and British people brought to Canada their own experience of monarchy. Many subsequent immigrants have also known the monarchical system of government. In 1867, the Fathers of Confederation

unanimously chose constitutional monarchy as Canada’s form of government. In 1982, Canada’s new Constitution entrenched the Crown so that only unanimous federal-provincial agreement could ever alter it. Parliament unanimously passing the *Succession to the Throne Act* in 2013 removed barriers of gender in determining our future monarchs.

**8 COMMUNITY, VOLUNTEERISM, RECOGNITION –** In their constant round of travels, The King, members of the Royal Family and his Canadian representatives bring encouragement to the communities and volunteer sectors: a vital part of our national existence. They inspire many to similar service. They create and award non-political honours to outstanding fellow citizens. These Royal and vice-regal activities do not often feature on national news programs. Opening a new library, visiting a Legion Hall, speaking to a school civics class or lunching with a local service club are not on the media’s radar. But they constitute the basis of our civil society, and bring significant pride and assistance to Canada’s communities.

**9 A REPUBLIC = DISTRACTING & UNDESIRABLE –** No one has yet proposed an alternative system of government for Canada which would in the same way reflect our nation’s history and be superior to constitutional monarchy in terms of the day-to-day functioning of the Canadian state. Canadians remember the wrenching constitutional debates of the last century. Such arguments did nothing to help practical concerns: the environment, crowded classrooms, access to health care and support for single-parent and low-income families. A presidential system would make Canada more closely resemble the United States, combining the role of head of state with head of government. As our American friends re-discovered during impeachment processes in the Trump administration, this proves an unhappy combination. Alternatively, the election of a president or governor general would simply create another politician, offer another level of personal ambition, necessitate another set of elections and make the holder of that office beholden to the interests of the different factions and groups to which the result was owed.

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