



The Monarchist League of Canada



The difference the League has made:

A Chronology of Events & Activities reflecting the work of the Monarchist League of Canada

No compendium could completely list all the accomplishments of a busy national organization during decades of service. This Chronology gives highlights of diverse activities carried out by the League from 1970-2023.

1970 League is founded on Feb 17 by John Aimers. Holds first meetings (over 600 attend in Ottawa) to counter moves by Prime Minister Trudeau to weaken the Monarchy.

1971 Campaigns successfully for Royal Arms of Canada to remain on Canadian passports.

1972 Testifies before Joint Senate-Commons Committee on Constitution of Canada. Successfully campaigns to retain the Crown on Ontario license plates.

1973 Campaign results in Post Office's issuing two Queen stamps for Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa. Twenty League members journey to London for Princess Anne's Wedding.

1974 *Monarchy Canada* magazine initiated with news/views of Canada's Crown.

1975 Gains assurance from ON Premier Davis of opposition to provincial Advisory Committee report suggesting Queen be dropped from Canadian Citizenship Oath. Many Lieutenant Governors become branch Patrons.

1976 Lobbies and advertises to ensure that The Queen opens Montreal Olympics as Canada's Head of State.

1977 Newfoundland Branch obtains signatures of over three-quarters of province's population on Declaration of Loyalty for Queen's Silver Jubilee. 90 League members journey to London to celebrate Jubilee.

1978 Testifies before Joint Committee of Commons & Senate against the republican provisions of Bill C-60 (a new Constitution for Canada, proposing to make the Sovereign only a figurehead), and wages major public opinion campaign helping to secure unanimous Provincial opposition to the Bill and its eventual withdrawal.

1979 Testifies to Minister of Defence's Task Force Review on Unification of Canadian Forces re: monarchical traditions and insignia.

1980 Testifies before Senate Committee to advocate retention of "Dominion Day." Holds first national Dinner to celebrate 10th Anniversary of League. Initiates Awards to recognize members' service and distinguished Canadians' public support of The Crown.

1981 Produces sticker of The Queen for use on mail: reaction to lack of Royal stamps at Post Offices. 120 members join celebrations of Prince of Wales' Marriage in London.

1982 Sponsors national speaking tour by British MP and Monarchist Sir John Biggs-Davison.

1983 Encourages "Royal Week" near Victoria Day to encourage annual celebration of Canada's Monarchy. NL Branch presents first Colours to the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

1984 Assists CBC in production of video history of Canada's Monarchy, "The Maple & The Crown." Co-hosts Study Conference on Monarchy held at University of Toronto. Toronto Branch participates in Royal Tattoo in presence of The Queen.

1985 Submits to Mulroney administration *Canada's Monarchy, Authentic Evolution*, with detailed recommendations for enhancing Canada's monarchical identity. Countess Mountbatten of Burma is Guest of Honour at 15th Anniversary National Dinner-Dance.

1986 Toronto Branch initiates Queen's Birthday Parade to honour HM's Official Canadian Birthday.

1987 Defeats attempt by Secretary of State David Crombie to remove Queen from Canadian Citizenship Oath. Participates in National Forum on Heraldry in Ottawa, leading to The Queen's authorizing establishment of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

1988 Lobbies MPs to request Government erect Equestrian Statue of The Queen on Parliament Hill (unveiled in 1992).

1989 Influences Canadian Heraldic Authority to clarify position of Queen as source of its Grants. Assists Alberta Provincial Museum in exhibit on 1939 Royal Tour.

1990 Testifies to ON & AB Legislative Committees on Canadian Constitution; and submits Brief to Federal Constitutional (Spicer) Commission.

1991 At time of Gulf War, blocks announcement of Government's new Gallantry Decorations set to eliminate Victoria Cross as Canadian Decoration. Then wages successful campaign leading to HM's creation of Canadian Victoria Cross in 1993.

1992 Marks The Queen's Ruby Jubilee with National Banquet in presence of HM's cousin, King Michael of Romania, accompanied by Queen Anna & Princess Margarita.

1993 Contacts all MPs to offer materials and explain the reason why Canada's Oath of Allegiance is to The Monarch.

1994 Testifies before Commons Committee in support of Citizenship Oath remaining Oath to The Queen, a position subsequently endorsed in the Committee's Report. Exposes the breaking of The Guide Promise to The Queen. Promotes Canada's first Royal Genealogical Chart, Canada's Kings & Queens. Establishes Canadian Monarchist News.

1995 Organizes series of regional Celebrations and events/projects to mark League's Silver Jubilee. CTV Anchor Lloyd Robertson addresses Toronto celebration, accepts honorary membership.

1996 www.monarchist.ca becomes first Loyal Society site on Web. Trial memberships attract many new supporters.

1997 Red Box program furnishes monarchical teaching aids to schools and youth groups. Supplies first summer Intern to Lieutenant Governor of ON. Assists in presentation of *Five Hundred Years of Royal Canada* mural to The Queen at Rideau Hall.

1998 Exposes Chretien Government's refusal to second a Canadian public servant to Buckingham Palace in line with previous practice, elicits promise from PM to do so in future. Campaigns successfully for Canada Post policy: Queen's Stamp must be stocked by all outlets & HM's picture hung based on "community demand." Also campaigns successfully for Oath of Citizenship to remain Oath to Queen as per Bill C-63. Testifies before Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee on proposed Royal Assent changes.

1999 Releases first comprehensive triennial Survey on Cost of Canadian Crown (74 cents per citizen yearly) Exposes Premiers' near-unanimous opposition to leaked Prime Ministerial staff "millennium project" to make Canada a republic.

2000 Campaign forces Canada Post to reverse its refusal to issue stamp honoring Queen Mother's 100th Birthday: subsequently launched by Governor General in presence of League members invited to Rideau Hall. Organizes Birthday celebrations across Canada. Receives Armorial Bearings, proclaimed on Accession Day, and containing two Royal Crowns by HM's permission. Testifies before Commons Committee and Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee on Citizenship Oath. Victoria Branch places pictures of Queen in scores of Vancouver Island postal outlets.

2001 Joins commentators and his Cabinet colleagues in rebuking Foreign Affairs Minister Manley's call for a republic. Testifies before Senate Rules, Procedures & Rights of Parliament Committee on Royal Assent procedures. Ottawa Branch successfully campaigns to retain Armorial for the amalgamated City. Pressures Bank of Canada to reflect HM's role as Canada's Sovereign on new \$20 banknote. Victoria Branch organizes first Branch advertising campaign. Produces League Flag for sale.

2002 Hails national polls revealing surging support for Monarchy. Adrienne Clarkson first sitting GG to attend League event: Golden Jubilee Service & Reception, Toronto. Welcomes member of Royal Family for first time: HRH Prince Michael of Kent addresses functions and presents League Awards in Toronto, Calgary and Victoria on 12-day national tour organized by League. Successfully campaigns for stamp, coin, HM's pictures and other Jubilee materials to be issued by federal government. Launches bilingual Jubilee website, begins national distribution of free Jubilee lithos of Queen, organizes celebrations of Jubilee throughout Canada. Supplies summer intern to serve Lieutenant Governor of NS. Issues second Survey on Cost of Canadian Crown: \$1.10 per Canadian per annum. Partners in awarding of Golden Jubilee Medal; over 100 members so honoured.

2003 Campaigns against Bill C-25 to remove Allegiance to Queen from Public Service Oath. Welcomes HRH Duke of York to Reception at Queen's Park. Distributes materials honoring 50th Anniversary of Coronation.

2004 Defends Governor General in spending/travel controversy. ON members participate in Lieutenant Governor's book drive for First Nations communities. Hosts HRH The Princess Royal in Toronto at youth and members' receptions. Holds Young Adult Conference. Exposes federal government "confusion" in respect of the roles of The Queen and the Governor General as – at Canadian D-Day 60th Anniversary ceremony in Normandy.

2005 Mounts national campaign opposing deletion of Queen's name from Canadian diplomatic Letters of Credence. Releases third survey of the Cost of the Canadian Crown: \$1.54 per Canadian annually. Celebrates League's 35th Anniversary at Reception with The Earl & Countess of Wessex. Takes leading role in debate over nomination of Michaëlle Jean as GG.

2006 Produces *The Canadian Monarchy*, full-colour educational booklet about the Maple Crown, with distribution to MPs, schools and youth groups.

2007 Robert Finch of Hamilton becomes Dominion Chairman on 37th Anniversary of League founding. Canada Post issues the first permanent, definitive rate, self-adhesive stamp of The Queen for letter mail, after decades of League's lobbying,

2008 Leads successful campaign to restore pictures of Queen to BC Ferries. Distributes new Official Portrait of HM and the federal government's *Crown of Maples/La Couronne canadienne*.

2009 Promotes Crown via social media. Tweets Charles & Camilla's tour – a first for a Royal homecoming. Releases fourth Survey on Cost of Canadian Crown: \$1.53 annually per Canadian.

2010 PM invites 11 League members to Queen's Dinner, Toronto. Website completely revised, fully bilingualized. Leads media analysis of Prince William's engagement. League members on GG selection committee appointed by PM, and subsequent permanent vice-regal appointments advisory body.

2011 50 members travel to London for William & Catherine's wedding. Sponsors nationwide breakfast parties for wedding watchers. GG invites members to Rideau Hall for arrival of newlyweds. Successful completion of campaign to return Royal designation to Navy and Air Force.

2012 Receives federal grant for Diamond Jubilee Neighbours & Newcomers events across Canada. PM Harper invites Chairman Finch to accompany him to London for Jubilee celebrations; 45 members also join London throngs on League trip, meeting GG at "Big Lunch" and Royals at re-opening of Cndn. High Commission. Partners in Diamond Jubilee Medal awards; many members so honored; two receive Medal from Prince of Wales. First bilingual issue of CMN. Young Monarchists who support Liberal Party lead successful opposition to Policy Conference anti-monarchy resolution. Educational booklet revised: first printing of 7000 sold out within four months. Greater Toronto Branch designs Jubilee poster posted in subway system, docents CNE Jubilee exhibition. At CFL request, League hosts Grey Cup event linking 100th Game to Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

2013 Publishes first French language educational booklet *La Monarchie Canadienne*. Promotes unanimous Parliamentary passage of the *Succession to the Throne Act*, promoting Canadian values by eliminating gender and religious discrimination in the Succession. Releases fifth Survey of cost of Canadian Monarchy: \$1.63 annually per person.

2014 Films four videos about League for social media. Complete revision of website. Holds first annual Silent Auction online.

2015 Organizes chain of 140 municipal celebrations across Canada to mark historic Reign of Queen on September 9th. Publishes first bilingual recruiting flyer.

2016 Encourages and records nationwide singing of *Happy Birthday* for Queen's 90th birthday on April 21, with the Governor General attending League celebration in Toronto on eve of the date. Launches new website of modern design. Issues sixth Cost of Canadian Crown survey: \$1.53 per capita annually. Begins regular electronic communications with members via MailChimp.

2017 Young monarchists who support NDP lead successful opposition to republican resolution at Party Conference. First Summer student Intern at Prince's Trust Canada. CMN relaunched in colour glossy magazine format.

2018 Campaigns successfully, supporting, for Commonwealth to vote Prince of Wales its future Head. CMN begins series of *Proposals for A 21st Century Transition* at conclusion of Queen's Reign. Continues outreach to First Nations as Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit addresses Accession Lunch.

2019 Becomes sole source of colour lithos of Queen as Canadian Heritage offers downloads only. Members invited to Rideau Hall event to mark relocation of Equestrian Statue of Queen during Parliament Hill rebuild. Issues 7th edition of *Cost of Crown* survey: \$1.68 per capita annually. Record result for sixth annual Silent Auction online.

2020 Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Founding: Canadian Secretary to The Queen addresses Accession Lunch. Issues uniform Branch guidance. Council of Honour formed of eminent Canadians supportive of League work. Holds Anniversary Appeal to raise funds, encourage bequests.

2021 Confronts pandemic by instituting virtual meetings via Zoom calls, more emphasis on advertising including social media and twice-weekly EComms to members which contain a variety of news, views and projects.

2022 Secures assurance the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Suite would remain at Queen's Park. Episode of CBC tv's popular drama *Son of a Critch* features youthful lead character outed to republican family as League member who wants to meet the Prince & Princess of Wales during their Newfoundland homecoming. Organizes Platinum Jubilee events across Canada. Leads multi-partisan campaign (including 70% of government backbenchers) to urge Government of Canada to issue Jubilee Medal as national Honour. When refused, six provinces issue their own Medals, approved by The Queen. Government of Canada tasks League with role of distributing to the public tens of thousands of its Platinum Jubilee Pin. Interprets significance of The Queen's death and Accession of King Charles III to public and media.

2023 Exceeds by 15% target of Department of Canadian Heritage \$170,000 grant (2022) by distributing over 80,000 copies of the League's educational booklets, primarily to schools and youth groups across Canada. 25 League members enjoy trip to London for Coronation. Participates in National Ceremony for Coronation in Ottawa. Translates Coronation's Order of Service in order that francophones can follow the event.

Our King speaks to Canadians while Prince of Wales

"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 ... 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... We must find new ways to come to terms with the darker and more difficult aspects of the past, acknowledging, reconciling and striving to do better... It is a process that starts with listening." (St John's, 2022) "We have met all sorts of people and I must say I am so full of admiration for the Canadian approach to welcoming so many people who are displaced from all these conflict-ridden parts of the world." (Ottawa, 2022)