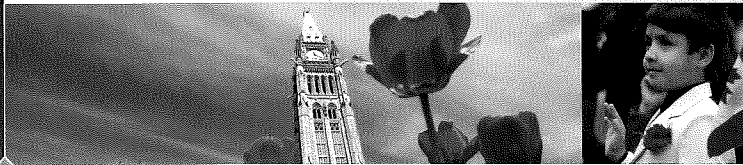




# Devenir citoyen canadien



## **Vous avez décidé de devenir citoyen canadien. Félicitations!**

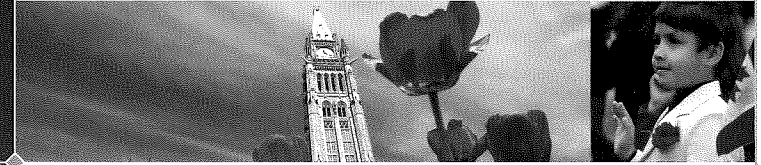
Ce dépliant explique le serment de citoyenneté canadienne. Lorsque vous prêtez serment, vous promettez d'être loyal envers la reine du Canada, d'observer les lois du Canada et de remplir vos obligations de citoyen canadien.

### Le serment de citoyenneté

Je jure (ou j'affirme solennellement)  
Que je serai fidèle  
Et porterai sincère allégeance  
À Sa Majesté la reine Elizabeth Deux  
Reine du Canada  
À ses héritiers et successeurs  
Que j'observerai fidèlement les lois du Canada  
Et que je remplirai loyalement mes obligations  
de citoyen canadien.



# Becoming a Canadian Citizen



## **Congratulations on your decision to become a Canadian citizen!**

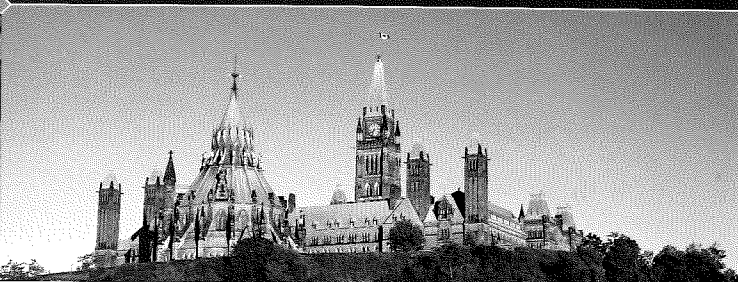
This pamphlet explains the Oath of Canadian Citizenship. When you take the oath you are promising to be loyal to the Queen of Canada, to follow the laws of Canada and to respect your duties as a Canadian citizen.

### The Oath of Citizenship

I swear (or affirm)  
That I will be faithful  
And bear true allegiance  
To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second  
Queen of Canada  
Her Heirs and Successors  
And that I will faithfully observe  
The laws of Canada  
And fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.



## THE CANADIAN CROWN



Canada is a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy and a federal state. We have both a Head of State and a Head of Government.

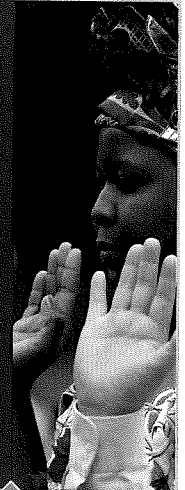
- The Head of State is the Sovereign (the reigning King or Queen), whose powers are limited by the highest law in our land, the Constitution.
- The Head of Government is the Prime Minister, who is a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of government.

The Crown is a symbol of the Queen (not the other way around.....) and of the authority of governments in Canada. It is the source of the legitimate exercise of state power and of the rule of law. It can be seen in many aspects of our daily life. You will notice the Queen's image on a coin, a \$20 bill or a postage stamp, and you might even meet Her Majesty or a member of the Royal Family during one of their frequent visits to Canada.

The Sovereign is represented in Canada by the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors. The Governor General is appointed by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister.

## ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN

In her coronation ceremony in 1953, the Queen took an oath of loyalty to us, her people. Our Oath of Canadian Citizenship is our **promise of loyalty back to the Queen**. When you take the Oath of Canadian Citizenship, you make a solemn promise to follow the laws of Canada and to perform your duties as a citizen. In return for your allegiance, **the Canadian state—the Crown**—guarantees to protect your rights and freedoms.



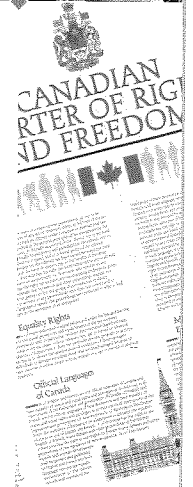
## CANADIAN LAWS AND THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

Canadian citizens have rights and responsibilities. These come to us from our history, are enshrined in Canadian law and reflect our shared identity and values. Our laws secure for Canadians an 800-year old tradition of ordered liberty which dates back to the signing of the *Magna Carta* of 1215 in England (also known as the *Great Charter of Freedoms*). These historic ideals of freedom and liberty have evolved over time and are summarized in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which was added to our Constitution in 1982. These include:

- Freedom of conscience and religion;
- Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of speech and of the press;
- Freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- Freedom of association.

Your principal duties as a Canadian citizen are to obey the law, to take responsibility for yourself and your family and to respect the rights and freedoms of others. A noble expression of citizenship is to serve your country voluntarily in the navy, army or air force.

**Congratulations!**





## Message from Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister

**Congratulations!** Today, you take your oath as a new Canadian, with all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Hundreds of years ago, French and British pioneers partnered with the First Nations and laid the foundations of Canada. More recently, our country has been settled by immigrants and refugees from all over the world. Generations have found freedom, democracy, prosperity and security.

From our Atlantic shores, across forests and plains, lakes and mountains, to the Pacific Ocean and up to the Arctic Circle, Canadians have built a prosperous society based on ordered liberty, enterprise, hard work and fair play.

Canada's history, symbols and institutions have been shaped by many events, such as the First and Second World Wars, and by individuals, such as our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, an immigrant from Scotland. Today, our history, symbols and traditions are yours to cherish.

Our success comes from our dedication to our founding values: freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

As Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister, I hope that you will help enrich our society and strengthen our shared identity. I am proud to welcome you as a new Canadian.

Chris Alexander  
Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister

Canada 



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

*As Prime Minister, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our Canadian family. In choosing to immigrate to Canada, and to become a Canadian citizen, you have chosen the best country in the world. No other is as rich in promise and potential as our beloved Canada – for you, your children and your children's children.*

*I also want to congratulate you. Achieving Canadian citizenship is no easy task. You have left your family, friends and homeland behind. You have met Canada's requirements for immigration and you have worked hard to get established here.*

*You are following in the footsteps of millions of people just like yourself. Throughout our history, immigrants from every corner of the world have chosen Canada to start a new life. They come for many reasons, including opportunity, sanctuary, equality, freedom, love, prosperity or adventure. The vast majority, I'm proud to say, achieve their goals and more.*

*We Canadians can trace our ancestries to every imaginable culture and faith, and we have achieved harmony in our diversity. Indeed, Canada is home to the most peaceful and prosperous society the world has ever known.*

*Our rights and freedoms flow from the thousand-year-old legal and parliamentary traditions we inherited from our founding nations, France and England. They are embodied in Canada's Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to whom you swore an oath of allegiance today. They have sustained our strong tradition of democracy and guided us throughout our proud history.*

*We Canadians aspire to equality of opportunity for all. We stay focussed on the future and put old arguments behind us. We accept responsibility for ourselves, our families and our communities, and we work together for a stronger, safer, better Canada.*

*Congratulations and thank-you again for choosing Canada. You have embarked on a new life for you and your family. Now you are part of our Canadian family. Welcome.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada*