Dror Bar-Natan: Oath Reference Card

(141013) Canadians know that the oath is ludicrous — they just don't like it that the mirror is being held by an immigrant.

(141114) Charter s. 1: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

(141114) Charter s. 2: Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association.

(140818) The Oath: *I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 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.*

(140818) The Australian Oath, since 1992: *From this time forward / I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, / whose democratic beliefs I share, / whose rights and liberties I respect, and / whose laws I will uphold and obey.* The Norwegian oath likewise does not mention the monarchy.

(140818) Appeal ruling (http://www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2014/2014ONCA0578.htm), par 76: "First, the appellants have the opportunity to publicly disavow what they consider to be the message conveyed by the oath. The opportunity to publicly disavow a message is relevant to the determination of whether there is a s. 2(b) violation. ...". Me: "Seeing that the judges in McAteer v. Canada, paragraph 76, explicitly permit the disavowal of what one considers to be the message conveyed by the oath of citizenship, and seeing that this message is best described by the words of the oath itself, I hereby disavow the message contained in the first 24 words of that oath".

(150213) Harper on niqab ban: "This is a society that is transparent, open and where people are equal, and I think we find that offensive." (Toronto Star). "Transparent" like the oath? "Equal" like the royals?

(150227) "Canada's not a monarchy. It's a democracy with a monarchist state religion."

(150303) I learned: "Canada is taking its state religion more seriously than I thought".

(150304) Rob Mason: "Last year, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that the literal interpretation of the oath to the Queen is wrong, but that new Canadians can still be required to pledge an oath that is literally untrue."

(150311) "Forced chanting of meaningless phrases".

(150723a) From "Becoming a Canadian", distributed at the oath ceremony: "When you take the oath you are promising to be loyal to the Queen of Canada, ...", "[The Queen took an oath to us]. Our Oath of Canadian Citizenship is our promise of loyalty back to the Queen."

(150723) Rell DeShaw, Manager of Citizenship Legislation and Program Policy at CIC: "[participation in activities to get rid of the monarch in Canada is inconsistent with taking the oath]".

(150723) Elizabeth Adams, Montreal Gazette: "When it came time to take the oath of citizenship, immigration guards suddenly filled the aisles. We were told to repeat the words in either French or English, but that our voices must be audible and our lips seen to be moving. The guards – mostly white men – meant business: they watched us like hawks and I saw one approach a Hasidic man and insist that he raise his head and speak aloud."

(151119) "Orwellian Doublespeak".

(151121) CIC web site: "In Canada, the Queen is the Head of State; therefore, in order to become citizens, all applicants for citizenship who are 14 years of age or older must swear or affirm to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors."

(151201) Police officers in Ontario get to choose!

(151203) From a 1:02PM email: "When as a young adult I learned the content of the Citizenship Oath, I have said that I could never have been a Canadian citizen if I had not happened to have been born here."