

# Canada

## THE CROWN IN CANADA — I

### The Queen's Personal Canadian Flag



In 1962, Queen Elizabeth II adopted a personal flag for use in Canada. The design is made up of the arms of Canada with The Queen's own device — the initial 'E' — in the centre. The device is surmounted by the St. Edward's Crown within a gold chaplet of roses on a blue background.

When The Queen is in Canada, this flag is flown, day and night, at any building in which she is in residence. Generally, the flag is also flown at the saluting base when she conducts troop inspections, and on all vehicles in which she travels.

### The Royal Cypher

The Royal Cypher is The Queen's monogram (Elizabeth II Regina) below a crown. It is used in the insignia of Orders, decorations and medals, and on various badges.



### The Crown

When she ascended to the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II adopted a heraldic representation of the crown closely resembling the St. Edward's Crown, which was used for her coronation.



### The Governor General's Flag



While the coat of arms of the Governor General changes with each new Governor General, the flag remains the same: the crest of the arms of Canada on a blue field. The crest depicts a lion wearing the St. Edward's Crown, holding a red maple leaf in its front right paw, and standing on a wreath of red and white cloth. This flag was approved by Queen Elizabeth II in 1981.

## THE CANADIAN CROWN

Canada has long been a monarchy — under the kings of France in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, under the British Crown in the 18th and 19th centuries, and as a kingdom in her own right from Confederation onward.

Although Queen Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom, it is not on this basis that Canadians offer her allegiance. She is, quite separately, sovereign of Canada by deliberate choice of Canadians (Her Majesty is also Queen of Australia, of Jamaica, of New Zealand, and of numerous other Commonwealth countries).

The most recent reaffirmation of the monarchy in Canada is found in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which patriated our constitution from Britain. Any change to the position of The Queen or her representatives in Canada (the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors) now requires the unanimous consent of the Senate, the House of Commons and the legislative assemblies of all the provinces.

## The Sovereign Personifying the State

In our constitutional monarchy the Sovereign personifies the state and is the personal symbol of allegiance, unity and authority for all Canadians. Federal and provincial legislators, Cabinet ministers, public servants, military and police personnel, all swear allegiance to The Queen (not to a flag or constitution), as do new citizens at Canadian citizenship ceremonies. Canada's Constitution vests the executive powers of Canada in The Queen (although her representatives act on the advice of ministers responsible to the House of Commons or the legislative assemblies of the provinces). This explains why elections are called and laws are promulgated in The Queen's name.

## The Queen and the Governor General

With the Balfour Report of 1926, the Governor General ceased to represent the British government and became the personal representative of the Sovereign in Canada. This was confirmed by the *Statute of Westminster* in 1931, an act of British Parliament which gave Canada and other dominions the authority to make their own laws. Powers of the King were gradually transferred to the Governor General, culminating in 1947 with the Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor General, which authorized the Governor General to exercise all the powers of the Sovereign in Canada, on the advice of the Canadian government. As the Sovereign's personal representative in Canada, the Governor General is accorded the honours and privileges of a Head of State.

# Canada

## THE CROWN IN CANADA — II

### The Queen and the Lieutenant Governors

The relationship between the Sovereign and the Lieutenant Governors was not envisaged in the same way as it was with the Governor General at the time of Confederation in 1867. Rather than being considered as the Sovereign's direct representatives in the provinces, Lieutenant Governors were seen as the Governor General's representatives and agents of the federal government, which continues to be responsible for their appointment and the payment of their salary.

However, custom, evolution, convention and judicial decisions have changed the nature of the office. The Lieutenant Governors, though continuing to be federal appointees and holding some residual federal powers, are seen as the Sovereign's direct and personal representatives, embodying the Crown in the provinces. This means that Lieutenant Governors act in the name of The Queen in right of the province, just as the Governor General acts in the name of The Queen in right of Canada. Lieutenant Governors and the Provincial Crown, which they personify, symbolize the sovereignty of the provincial governments within the federation.

### Flags of the Lieutenant Governors

During the 1980s, the governments of Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Manitoba and Newfoundland received approval from the Governor General to use a new standard to identify their Lieutenant Governors as the Sovereign's representatives at the provincial level. The new standard is a royal blue flag with the shield of the arms of the province surrounded by a circlet of 10 gold stylized maple leaves, representing the provinces of Canada. Above the shield is a St. Edward's crown, which symbolizes the dignity of the Lieutenant Governor as the Sovereign's representative in the province.

Since 1952, the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec has used a blue flag charged with the arms of Quebec within a white disk; the so-called Tudor's Crown surmounts the arms, as it was the use at the time. Nova Scotia continues to use a flag approved by Queen Victoria in 1869: it includes the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack), charged with the shield of arms of the province within a white disk circled by a garland of green maple leaves.



*Ontario*



*Quebec*



*Nova Scotia*



*Prince Edward Island*



*New Brunswick*



*Saskatchewan*



*Manitoba*



*Alberta*



*British Columbia*



*Newfoundland*