

Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, 1952-2022

👑 King George VI died peacefully in his sleep on February 6th, 1952. Upon his death, the crown automatically passed to his eldest child, Princess Elizabeth.

👑 Princess Elizabeth was in a tree ("Tree Tops" Hotel) in Kenya when her father passed away. Across the British Empire & Commonwealth, the princess was immediately proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II.

- Canada was the first member of the Commonwealth (including the United Kingdom) to proclaim Elizabeth as Queen.

👑 In Canada, Ottawa proclaimed Elizabeth II:

Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

👑 Elizabeth was formally crowned on June 6th, 1953. At the time, Elizabeth was crowned Queen of the following countries:

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Pakistan
- Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka)

(*Remember that, due to the Statute of Westminster, 1931, the Crown in Canada was a distinct institution from its British counterpart)

👑 As well as being Queen, Elizabeth II was also proclaimed "Head of the Commonwealth." At that time, the Commonwealth was a growing collection of nations that were no longer under British rule, but wanted to retain an equal partnership with Britain within a larger organization. *Commonwealth Realms* were independent states that continued to recognize Elizabeth II as sovereign.

Learn more: www.thecommonwealth.org



Royal Cypher of Elizabeth II



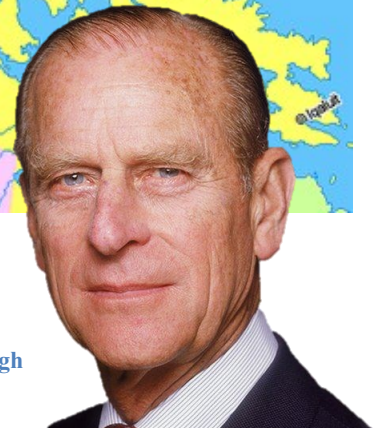


- 👑 The Queen was linked by many different relationships, including Treaty relationships, with Indigenous Peoples across the continent. Whether it was the *Peace and Friendship Treaties* with the Wabanaki Confederacy, *Silver Covenant Chain* with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, *Silver Covenant Chain of Friendship* with the Nations of the Great Lakes Region, or the *Numbered Treaties* with Nations across this continent, critical relationships exist between the Sovereign-of-the-day and First Nations. These relationships continue with her son, King Charles III.

Growing up in Northern Quebec, my grandmother would show us pictures of The Queen. Her Majesty was revered in the Arctic, since the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples is considered sacred.

- Governor General Mary Simons, Message Marking HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

- 👑 In 1953 the Canadian Government renamed the high Arctic islands "The Queen Elizabeth Islands" in honour of the coronation and as a way to assert Canadian sovereignty over the region.
- 👑 Elizabeth II visited Canada 22 times as Queen:¹ 1957, 1959, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1973 (twice), 1976, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2010.
- 👑 The Queen's husband, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, visited Canada 28 times: 1951, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1962, 1964, 1967 (twice), 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973 (twice), 1976, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2010, 2013.



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

¹ In 1951 she visited Canada as Princess Elizabeth (accompanied by her husband Prince Philip).

👑 When in Canada, or representing the country overseas, Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family used uniquely Canadian personal standards (reinforcing that the Canadian Crown was a unique and independent institution from those of other Commonwealth Realms):



👑 On February 1st, 1952, Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent announced that King George VI had accepted his recommendation that Vincent Massey be appointed Governor General (The Sovereign's representative in Canada). Massey was formally installed on February 28th, 1952, (22 days following the death of the King and accession of Elizabeth II as Queen). Massey's appointment marked an important evolution in Canadian history – the first Canadian-born representative of Sovereign.²

- The naming of a Canadian governor general reflected Canada's new sense of autonomy and identity in the post-war era. Since 1952, all of Canada's Governors General have been Canadian citizens.

👑 The Queen's image (effigy) on Canadian coins was updated four times during her long reign:



1953-1964



1965-1989



1990-2002



2003-2022

👑 The last official message issued by Queen Elizabeth II before her death on September 8th, 2022, was one of condolence to the James Smith Cree Nation following a devastating attack there on September 4th.

² Born in Québec City, Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil was appointed Governor General in 1755, representing the French King Louis XIII. This made Vaudreuil was first (and only) person born in North America to represent the French Crown in what would become Canada.

- 👑 Following the announcement of The Queen's death, Governor General Mary Simon released a statement saying:

Her reign encompassed the mandates of 12 Canadian prime ministers and 13 governors general. On 22 occasions, she undertook official visits to Canada, where she professed her love for our country again and again. She was a steadfast presence during some of the most tumultuous times of our lives, and most recently gave comfort to so many during the pandemic.

Some of the important Canadian dates during the reign of Elizabeth II:

- 👑 First Royal Tour of Canada (as Princess Elizabeth) - 1951
- 👑 First monarch to open Parliament (Ottawa) - 1957
- 👑 First visit to United States as Queen of Canada - 1957
- 👑 Appointed the first French Canadian Governor General (General Vanier) - 1959
- 👑 Named "Mother of all People" by the Salish Nation - 1959



The Queen was first depicted on Canadian currency when she was Princess Elizabeth in 1935.

- 👑 Opened the St. Lawrence Seaway - 1959
- 👑 Celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Charlottetown and Quebec Conferences - 1964
- 👑 Proclaimed the Canadian National Flag - 1965
- 👑 Presided over Centennial celebrations on Parliament Hill (Ottawa) - 1967
- 👑 Established the Order of Canada - 1967
- 👑 Established the Order of Military Merit - 1972
- 👑 Commemorated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the North- West Mounted Police - 1973
- 👑 Commemorated the signing of Treaties Six and Seven - 1976
- 👑 Opened the Games of the XXI Olympiad (Montreal) - 1976
- 👑 Celebrated Silver Jubilee and opened Parliament (Ottawa) - 1977
- 👑 Proclaimed the Constitution Act & Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - 1982
- 👑 Established the Canadian Heraldic Authority - 1988
- 👑 Unveiled her equestrian statue on Parliament Hill (Ottawa) - 1992



👑 Approved the creation of the Canadian Victoria Cross - 1993

👑 Commemorated the 500th anniversary of the arrival of John Cabot in Newfoundland - 1997

👑 Established the Order of Merit of the Police Forces - 2000

👑 Celebrated Golden Jubilee - 2002

👑 Presented a stone taken from the Balmoral estate to the First Nations University of Canada - 2005

👑 Rededicated the Canadian National Vimy Memorial (France) - 2007

👑 Commemorated the Siler Covenant Chain Relationship with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy - 2010

👑 Marked the 100th anniversary of the baptism of Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Henri Membertou - 2010

👑 Marked the Centennial of the Royal Canadian Navy (Halifax) - 2010

👑 Unveiled the cornerstone of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Winnipeg) - 2010

👑 Celebrated Diamond Jubilee - 2012

👑 Accepted title of “Commissioner-in-Chief” of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - 2012

👑 Approved the creation of the Polar Medal - 2015

👑 Approved the creation of The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers - 2015

👑 Created the Chapel Royal at Massey College - Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Kwe Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Amik (*The Queen's Anishinaabek Sacred Place*) – 2017

👑 Council at the Chapel Royal: First meeting of the Queen's Canadian Representatives with a National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations – 2019

👑 Celebrated Platinum Jubilee - 2022



The final portrait of Elizabeth II used on the Canadian 20-dollar bill.

*Attended the centennial celebrations of the entry into Confederation of Manitoba (1970), Northwest Territories (1970), British Columbia (1971), Prince Edward Island (1973), Saskatchewan and Alberta (2005).

