



Royal Cypher of Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada

👑 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.

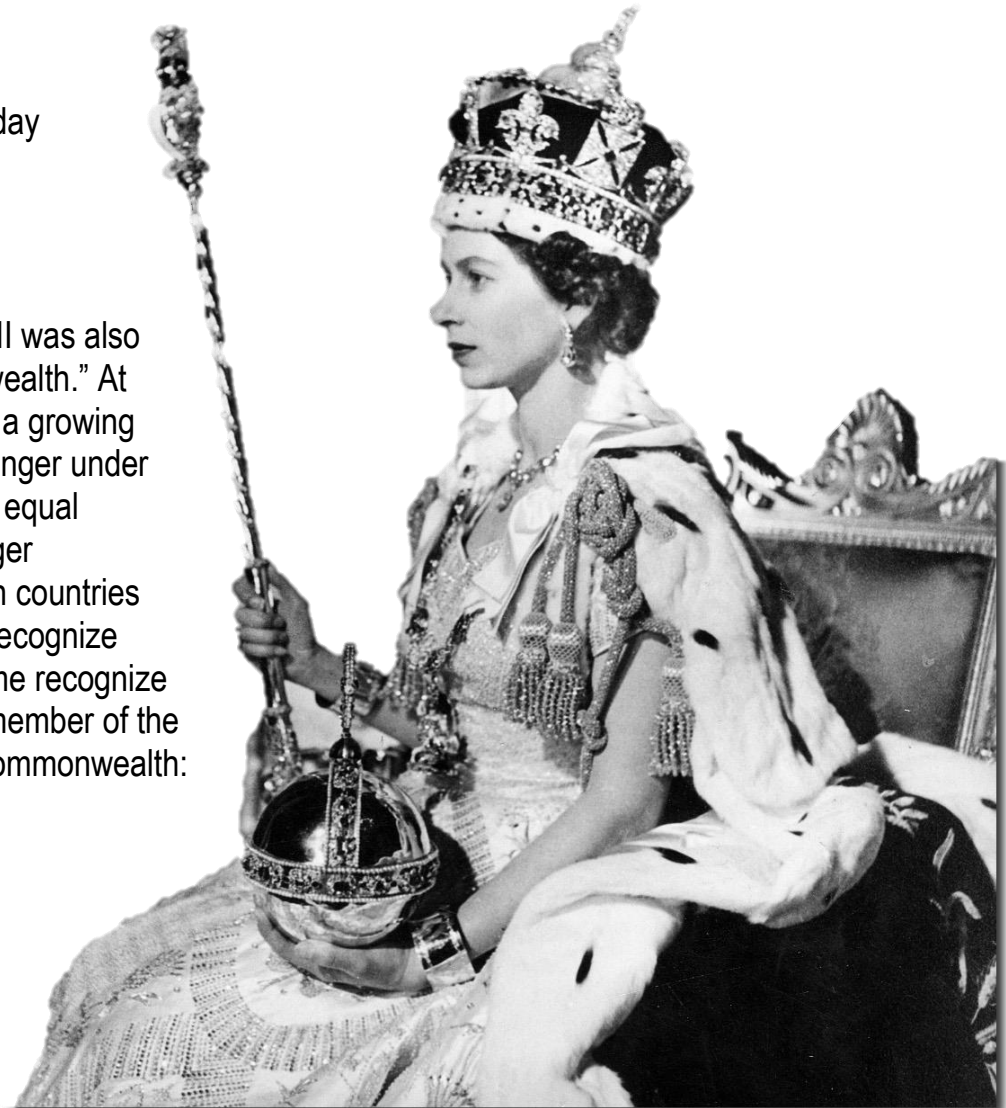
👑 Princess Elizabeth was in a tree (“Tree Tops” Hotel) in Kenya when her father passed away. Across the British Empire & Commonwealth, the princess was immediately proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II.

○ Fun Fact: Canada was the first member of the Commonwealth (including the United Kingdom) to proclaim Elizabeth as Queen.

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

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

👑 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. Some Commonwealth countries (called “Commonwealth Realms”) recognize Elizabeth II as sovereign, while some recognize other heads of state. Canada is a member of the Commonwealth. (Website of the Commonwealth: www.thecommonwealth.org)



👑 The Queen's Coronation dress, designed by British Fashion designer Norman Hartnell, was made of white satin and embroidered with the emblems of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, including Canada, in gold and silver thread.

👑 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

👑 In 1953 the Canadian Government renames the high Arctic islands “The Queen Elizabeth Islands” in honour of the coronation.



👑 It is important to remember that Elizabeth II’s role as “Queen of Canada” is politically and constitutionally separate from her being “Queen of the United Kingdom.” (Remember the 1931 Statue of Westminster)

👑 As Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II has her own personal standard for when she is acting as the Canadian Sovereign:



👑 In 1952 the prime minister of Canada recommended Vincent Massey to The Queen to be the Governor General (The Queen’s representative in Canada). This nomination marked an important evolution in Canadian history – the first Canadian-born representative of The Queen.

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

👑 Did you know? Victoria Day is Canada's official celebration of The Queen's Birthday (it is named after Queen Victoria, 1837-1901)

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



1953-1964



1965-1989



1990-2002



2003-present day

Important Canadian dates during the reign of Elizabeth II:

- 👑 First Royal Tour of Canada (as Princess Elizabeth) - 1951
- 👑 Ascended the throne as Queen of Canada - February 6th, 1952
- 👑 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
- 👑 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

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- 👑 Proclaimed the Constitution Act & Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - 1982
- 👑 Visited Her Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks at Six Nations of the Grand River - 1984
- 👑 Established the Canadian Heraldic Authority - 1988
- 👑 Unveiled her equestrian statue on Parliament Hill (Ottawa) - 1992 (Temporarily moved to Rideau Hall in 2019 while Parliament Hill renovations were undertaken)
- 👑 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
- 👑 Elevated Christ Church, near Deseronto (on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory), to become a Royal Chapel - 2004
- 👑 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 300th Anniversary of the Covenant Chain Relationship - 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
- 👑 Visits Canada House in London, England, to commemorative the 150th anniversary of Confederation - 2017

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).