

## The National Anthem

The national anthem, O Canada, was originally written in French in the 1880's. The vision is very clearly stated there: Because your arm is able to carry the sword, it can also carry the cross! Your history is the epic of the most brilliant exploits: And your bravery tempered with faith, will protect our households and our rights. Under the eyes of God, near a great river the Canadian grew in hope. He was born of a proud race blessed was his cradle. Heaven has blessed his life in this New World. Always guided by its light, he maintains the honour of his flag.

"O Canada" is one of the few national anthems that is actually a prayer.

### III. DECLARING CANADA'S DESTINY

Canada's destiny remains the same – to reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ...  
*"(8) that He would have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (9) And that all who dwell in the wilderness would bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him."* (Psalm 72:8-9, 11 NKJV)

*Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV – (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Prophetic Word given by Puritan Reformers around 1776 to British Empire Loyalists leaving America to settle in Canada. "Do not hinder these people. Let them move to Canada. Do not seek to incorporate the land of Canada into America. I am in the independence of America from Britain, and will mightily use this country. But Canada has been reserved by Me for the last days for a special work" (*The Light and the Glory*, Peter Marshall).

God is calling forth a nation of believers with strengthened hands and knees in order to "STAND"...we stand on guard...not just in the natural but in the spiritual...

*Hebrews 12:12-13 NKJV – (12) Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, (13) and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame many not be dislocated, but rather be healed. (Isaiah 35:3-6)*

(History and Quotes mostly taken from "Stand On Guard" by Faytene C. Kryskow)

# O CANADA, GLORIOUS & FREE! WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE!

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## INTRODUCTION

*1 Timothy 2:1-3a NKJV – (1) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.*

### I. PRAYING FOR GOVERNMENT

#### 1. Pray 'For' not 'Against' Government

*Daniel 2:21 NKJV - And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings...*

We are called to pray that whoever is in government will be given grace, wisdom, and strategies to fulfill their high calling.

#### 2. Government is Established by God

*Romans 13:1-4 NKJV – (1) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. (3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. (4) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

Government has been given a God-given mandate to help bring order, justice, fairness, and protection to the citizens.

#### 3. Non- Partisan

As believers we pray for all the members of parliament –that they would all be given the grace and the wisdom needed to serve the nation.

#### 4. Influenced by Righteousness

Pray that they will be influenced by righteousness;

-that they will be kept from corruption

-that they will choose a path of integrity and truth

- that they would not be motivated by selfish ambition
- that they will walk with a heart of one who is there to serve our nation

## II. RECOGNIZE CANADA'S HERITAGE

### 1. The Early Settlers

The earliest European settlers were commissioned by the King of France to “establish a Christian colony that would bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the First Nations.”

In 1497, John Cabot planted a cross on the shores of Newfoundland - its motto, “*Seek first the Kingdom of God.*” (Mt 6:33)

In a letter to France, Jacques Cartier exclaimed, “we who are unworthy, exercise on earth the power of the Lord and seek with all our might to bring those sheep of His flock who are outside into the fold committed to our charge...”

“His desire to serve the Lord Jesus was also witnessed to by the many episodes of his sharing with the Indian tribes he met; chiefly reading of the gospel of John, recounting the passion of Jesus and praying for the sick. He also debated with them and questioned them about religion; never fearing to challenge them with the gospel.”

Samuel de Champlain (Founder of New France)

They are “living without God and without religion...I thereupon concluded in my private judgment that I should be committing a great sin if I did not make it my business to devise some means of bringing them to the knowledge of God.”

Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve (Co-founder of Montreal)

“After stepping out of a boat and putting his feet on the soil Maisonneuve dropped to his knees to adore God. They all sang hymns to the Lord. The purpose of the colony was to bring about the glory of God and the salvation of the Indians.”

Jean de Brébeuf (Jesuit Missionary to the Huron)

“My God, my Savior, I take from Thy hand the cup of Thy sufferings. I vow never to fail Thee in the grace of martyrdom, if by Thy mercy, Thou dost offer it to me. I bind myself and when I have received the stroke of death, I will accept it from Thy gracious hand with all pleasure and with joy in my heart; to Thee my blood, my body and my life!”

Marie Guyart de L'Incarnatin (The Mother of New France)

In a dream, God took her to a vast country full of mountains, valleys, and heavy fogs. The Lord said, “It was Canada that I showed you. You must go there to build a house for Jesus.”

“She was dead to herself to such a degree, and Jesus Christ possessed her so completely that one may assuredly say of her, as of the Apostle, that it was not she who lived, but Jesus Christ in her, and that she lived and acted only through Jesus Christ.”

Jeanne Mance (Founder of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hospital in Montreal)

“There is nothing in the world that I would refuse to do to accomplish the divine and all-loving will of God. God's will is the only desire and love of my heart. Therein is my passion, all my affections, my only love, and my sole paradise. In a word, it's my God; the will of God is my God. The good pleasure of my God is my God.”

Marguerite Bourgeoys (Canada's First Schoolmistress)

“All I have ever desired most deeply and what I still most ardently wish is that the great precept of the love of God above all things, and of thy neighbor as oneself, written in every heart.”

Louis de Buade de Frontenac (Governor of Canada-Huguenot)

“As for me, I shall esteem myself happy in consecrating all my efforts, and if need be, my life itself, to extending the Empire of Jesus Christ throughout all this land.”

### 2. The Fathers of Confederation

#### The Name

The First Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, in a letter to the Queen of England explained why the Fathers of the Confederation wanted to call the new nation, “The Dominion of Canada” – He explained that the word dominion was taken from Psalm 72:8 and that, “the name was a tribute to the principles they earnestly desired to uphold.”

#### The Flag

Lester B. Pearson (PM-Flag Dedication Speech)

As a symbol of a new chapter in our national story, our Maple Leaf Flag will become a symbol of that unity in our country without which one cannot grow in strength and purpose....May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice; a land of decent God fearing people...strong in its adherence to those moral principles which are the only sure guide to greatness...God bless our flag! And God bless Canada!

#### Peace Tower

Above the east window in the tower is inscribed, “*He shall have dominion also from sea to sea*” (Psalm 72:8).

Above the south window it says, “*Give the king Thy judgments, O God, and Thy righteousness unto the king's son*” (Psalm 72:1).

The west window has “*Where there is no vision, the people perish*” (Proverbs 29:18).

Carved on the largest bell of the tower is “*Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace and good will to men*” (Luke 2:14).