

Monarchist Apologetics



How to defend our Queen and Her
role in the 21st century

A tutorial developed by

Barry R. MacKenzie

Co-Chairman and Communications Officer

**New Brunswick Branch
Monarchist League of Canada**

Common Republican Arguments

- “The Monarchy serves no purpose!”
- “It’s a waste of money!”
- “Monarchy is undemocratic!”
- “Canada needs to cut its ties to Britain and grow up!”
- “The Queen doesn’t even live here!”
- “Canada should have an elected head of state!”
- “The Queen only represents those with British heritage!”
- “Getting rid of the Queen would solve the Franco-Anglo debate.”
- “Prince Charles isn’t qualified (or fit) to be King!”
- There are other, derogatory remarks that are commonly made about our Sovereign and the Royal Family (re: their heritage, intelligence, etc) that we will not lower ourselves to discuss at this time.

“The Monarchy serves no purpose!”

- Nothing could be further from the truth!
- The Sovereign is a non-partisan head of state that is above politics and thus universally acceptable to all (at least in theory).
- The Sovereign is the fountain of honours.
- The Sovereign provides continuity in a time when governments change frequently.
- The Sovereign is a political safeguard against politicians who outstay their welcome or abuse their power.
- The Sovereign and his/her representatives is an invaluable adviser on political and constitutional affairs to the government of the day.

“It’s a waste of money!”

- The monarchy costs Canadians very little!
- The most recent study by the League, conducted in 2009 with 2006-2007 stats, shows that the Canadian Monarchy (including the offices of the LGs and the GG, royal tours, and any other related expenses) costs Canadians just over \$50 million per year.
- That’s only \$1.53 per Canadian per year! You can’t get much at Tim Horton’s for that!
- It’s a small price to pay for what we get!
- Compare this figure with other places our taxes go:
 - National Gallery - \$47,142,072 (\$1.43/person)
 - National Battlefields Commission - \$9,467,358 (29 cents/person).
 - Canadian Broadcasting Corporation - \$1,114,053,000 (\$33/Canadian)
 - The Senate - \$80,600,479 (\$2.45/person)
 - The Library of Parliament - \$33,430,940 (\$1.02/person)

“Monarchy is undemocratic!”

- By having a non-partisan monarch, democracy flourishes.
- By representing the people, the Queen has the authority to dismiss a government that abuses its power or acts illegally.
- Republicans label all this as constitutional fiction. They are wrong! Just because these powers are rarely used, it does not render them useless.
- These powers provide a safety guard, or *Constitutional Fire Extinguisher* which safeguards democracy.
- Champion of democracy Winston Churchill would certainly have disagreed with this argument!
- Our monarchy is constitutional, not absolute.

“Canada needs to cut its ties to Britain and grow up!”

- Just because we share a Sovereign with Britain does not mean we’re somehow less mature as a nation.
- Are Australia and New Zealand also in need of “growing up?”
- Declaring Canada a republic would serve little purpose, as we are already a fully independent nation.
- Since when does getting rid of tradition and history equate with maturity?
- The Crown represents more than 400 years of constitutional development in this nation.
- Canada will continue to develop and flourish with the Crown as well as it would without it – if not better!

“The Queen doesn’t even live here!”

- While it is true that The Queen is rarely in Canada, this argument holds little water.
- The Queen is not a foreigner, but rather a non-resident -- a professional, globe-trotting head of state for a society which enjoys its existence in a border-less world.
- We cannot expect the Queen or members of Her family to be in Canada all the time, as we share our Sovereign and Royal Family with the other 15 nations of the Commonwealth.
- Just because the Queen isn’t a Canadian “citizen” does not mean she isn’t Canadian – anyone living in Canada, a nation of immigrants, should recognize this. Many Canadians divide their time between more than one nation, and yet they are our own.
- This does not mean that Canadians should not desire to have their Sovereign visit more regularly.

“Canada should have an elected head of state!”

- There is little to suggest that an elected head of state would serve Canada any better than our current hereditary system.
- Most importantly, the monarchy’s greatest value is the fact that it provides a non-partisan; someone above politics.
- There are many great advantages to an unelected HOS:
 - Can be objective in their advice and opinions
 - Adds something special to investitures, public ceremonies, etc., when the Sovereign or his/her representative is not representing a particular party or platform
- Monarchy works for many major leading powers in the world, whose governments are by no means held back by the hereditary nature of the Sovereign’s office.

“The Queen only represents those with British heritage!”

- Though she lives in the UK most of the year and speaks with a British accent, the Queen is a very multicultural person.
- She speaks French fluently (a real plus for Canada!)
- Among her ethnic strains are included:
 - Irish
 - Scottish
 - French
 - German
 - Chinese
 - Arab
 - Jewish
 - Mongol
 - Persian
 - Portuguese
 - and many more!

“Getting rid of the Queen would solve the Franco-Anglo debate.”

- René Lévesque, joined the nine other premiers in 1978 in acknowledging that any federal state needs at its head a neutral arbiter.
- Of course, many separatists advocate for the abolition of the monarchy, but it would not appease their demands.
- And would it be right to use a 400 year old institution as a bargaining chip?

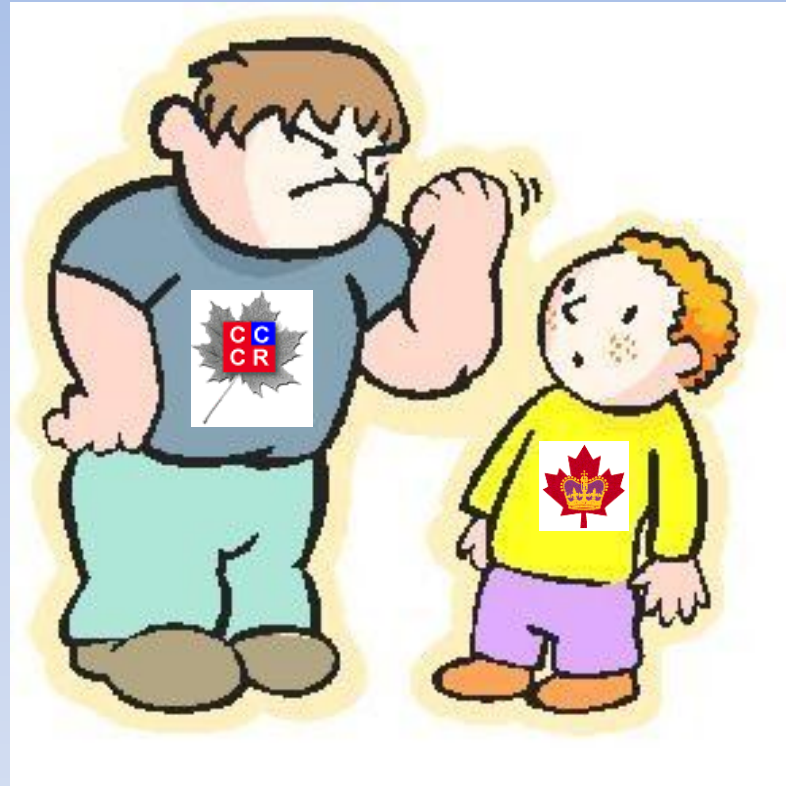
“Prince Charles isn’t qualified (or fit) to be King!”

- First of all, this argument is usually echoed by people who disapprove of Charles’ private life. There is not question that HRH has made mistakes, some of them serious. We expect our leaders to live lives on which we might model our own; however, as humans the royals make mistakes just like the rest of us.
- The Prince of Wales has spent a lifetime preparing and being prepared for the role for which he was born.
- To start tinkering with the line of succession would be to nullify the whole idea of monarchy.
- Just because some people don’t like HRH does not mean we have the right to suggest he give up the throne in favour of his eldest son, anymore than it would be right for the House of Commons to ask the Prime Minister to step down because they didn’t like him (I’ll let you think about that one a little bit...)

Some Arguments FOR the Monarchy

- Canada has always been a Monarchy
- It's more democratic than republic
- Transcends federal and provincial governments
- Provides continuity
- Hereditary nature of the monarch symbolises our faith in equality
- Sovereign/Governor-General as Advisor
- Powers are legitimized by neutrality
- Special relationship w/in Commonwealth
- Unites Canadians
- The Monarchy is Multicultural
- Good bang for our buck!
- It brings out the best in us
- Monarchy sets us apart in North America

Don't be bullied by Republicans!



Use what you've learned here to make a case for our Monarchy!

Want more information?

Check out the following websites:

<http://monarchist.ca/en/case-for-the-crown>

<http://pages.interlog.com/~rakhshan/parg.html>

<http://pages.interlog.com/~rakhshan/pmyth.html>

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1266245566496/1266202116409>

www.royal.gov.uk

God Save the Queen of Canada!



Dieu Protégé la Reine du Canada!