The Diamond Jubilee Window

A Celebration of the Crown in Canada

In exiting the Senate Chamber, one encounters and admires the sober and elegant neo-Gothic foyer. Here one admires, too, the portraits of the sovereigns as well as their likenesses carved in stone. Now there is also a striking stained-glass window bearing the images of our two longest-serving Queens, Victoria and Elizabeth II. This recent addition is a tribute to their long reigns, each reaching its 60th year.

The Diamond Jubilee Window is also a tribute to principles that suffuse our country's identity. Light filtered through a rich range of colours may be seen as a metaphor for Canada and its Crown. It can be seen as a representation of the many hands that built Canada, first under the French Crown, then the British Crown, and finally the Canadian Crown. It can be taken to symbolize the Aboriginal peoples and the many cultures that have come together under the Crown. In brief, the window represents the diverse components of Canadian society.

It is this history that developed under the Crown; these people whom the Crown serves. All Canadians share in the institution commemorated in the Diamond Jubilee Window. Her Majesty expressed this in personal terms during her Golden Jubilee Tour of Canada in 2002: "It is a privilege to serve you as Queen of Canada to the best of my ability, to play my part in the Canadian identity, to uphold Canadian traditions and heritage, to recognize Canadian excellence and achievement, and to seek to give a sense of continuity in these exciting ever-changing times in which we are fortunate enough to live."

Her Majesty's words continue to have meaning in the 60th year of her reign. They speak to her extraordinary record of service and dedication to this country. The Diamond Jubilee Window is an appropriate way to celebrate this service and, in addition, to acknowledge the central role of the Crown both in our parliamentary system of government and in the life of Canada.

I would like to add my voice to those of the many Canadians who will take this year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as an opportunity to express loyalty and affection to Her Majesty and to thank her for her service to Canada.

Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

EIIR

Introduction

A Celebration of the Crown in Canada

Above the Senate entrance to the Centre Block of Canada's Parliament Buildings is a glowing stained-glass window. It depicts the two reigning queens in Canada's history: the Sovereign at Canada's Confederation in 1867, Queen Victoria; and the current Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II. A ribbon in the glass declares "Diamond Jubilee," linking these two queens in another way: both have achieved the rare milestone of their 60th year as sovereign.

The Diamond Jubilee Window, in fact, is a gift to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth from the Senate of Canada to celebrate the 60th year of her reign in 2012. By connecting these two queens, great-great-grandmother and great-great-granddaughter, the window casts a light on the important history of Canada and its Crown.

The Crown in Canada

A Constitutional Monarchy

Canada is a monarchy; its head of state is the Sovereign. Under Canada's Constitution, the country is governed by democratically elected federal, provincial, and territorial governments, who carry out their duties under the authority of the Crown.

The roots of this system of government run through Canada's written history. They began with the establishment of the Crown in Canada with the first permanent French settlements in northeastern North America in the early 17th century. Known as New France, the colony and its inhabitants existed under the sovereignty of the French kings through the rule of governors. In 1763, many of France's North American possessions were ceded to the British king, George III, in the Treaty of Paris. New France then became part of British North America.

The Crown's history in Canada is signalled in the French and British Royal Arms carved into the south wall of the Senate Chamber.

Like the French Crown had been, the British Crown was central to the governance of these colonies. It differed, however, from the absolute monarchy of the French *ancien régime*. It had evolved into a system of parliamentary supremacy and responsible government, a model that would eventually guide Canada's development. In the early years of British rule, however, the colonies were entrusted to governors who wielded considerable power and authority. The model of responsible government was established in British North America in the middle of the 19th century. Nova Scotia was the first to adopt it, in 1848, followed soon after by other colonies in what would become Canada at Confederation in 1867.

The framework of responsible government in a federal system was the achievement of the Fathers of Confederation in their negotiation of a united Dominion of Canada within the British Empire in the 1860s. Remaining central to this government, however, was the Crown, and the new country stayed true to its history as a constitutional monarchy. Indeed it was Queen Victoria who, in the 30th year of her reign, assented to the *British North America Act* (now known as the *Constitution Act, 1867*).

The Crown served to reinforce Canada's identity as the country continued to evolve over some tumultuous decades. After coming of age on the battlefields of France and Flanders in the First World War, Canada saw its full legal autonomy formalized in the *Statute of Westminster* in 1931. Thereafter, Canada emerged as a distinct entity within the Commonwealth with a unique relationship to the Crown.

A Queen of Canada

Upon the death in 1952 of King George VI, his daughter Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. She was proclaimed Queen of Canada, the first monarch recognized by this specific title. It was another step in asserting Canada's autonomy under its enduring framework of constitutional monarchy.

Her Majesty's relationship to Canada began with her first Royal Tour of the country in 1951 as Princess Elizabeth. On that tour, as well as the 22 that have followed, the Queen has established ever-deeper ties with the Canadian people. She has visited every province and territory and has often been heard to refer to Canada as "home."

Queen Elizabeth reads the Speech from the Throne in the Senate Chamber in 1957.

Her Majesty has taken part in Canada's growth as a nation. In 1957 (and again in 1977), she opened Parliament by personally delivering the Speech from the Throne, the only sovereign of Canada to do so. She inaugurated the new St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 with President Dwight D. Eisenhower and visited him in the United States, making the first foreign visit ever made by a Queen of Canada. In 1967 she celebrated the country's centennial on Parliament Hill and attended Expo '67 in Montreal. Accompanied by her family, she opened the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976. Among other tours, she returned in 1977 and in 2002 to celebrate her Silver and Golden Jubilees. She visited the newly created territory of Nunavut in 2002, and she celebrated the centennial of Alberta and Saskatchewan with their people in 2005. Events during her recent tours such as a visit to the First Nations University of Canada in 2005, the laying of the cornerstone of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in 2010, and the celebration of the Centennial of the Royal Canadian Navy, also in 2010, show Her Majesty's involvement in issues important to Canadians.

In 1982, the Queen took part in the most significant event in Canada's constitutional history since her great-great-grandmother assented to the *British North America Act*. On April 17, Queen Elizabeth signed the Proclamation of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, completing a process that brought Canada's Constitution, formerly a statute of the British Parliament, under complete Canadian control. The Constitution could now be amended in Canada without reference to the British Parliament. The stroke of the Queen's pen also gave Canada the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. (It is worth noting that the table upon which the Proclamation was signed is kept in the offices of the Speaker of the Senate as a treasured element of Canada's history.) Preceded by the *Canadian Bill of Rights* of 1960, an early attempt to codify human rights in federal law, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is an important statement of Canada's values and the guiding principle behind all Acts of Parliament. Interestingly, this constitutional milestone was marked in the 30th year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, the same year of Queen Victoria's reign in which she assented to the country's creation.

The members of the Royal Family also play an active role in the life of Canadians as representatives of the Crown. They periodically tour Canada, connecting with Canadians and their current affairs. Many members of the Queen's family serve as Colonels-in-Chief of regiments of the Canadian Forces. They are also very much involved in promoting the values of duty and service that are an intrinsic part of the Canadian identity. The Queen, for example, is the Sovereign of the Order of Canada, part of her awards system that recognizes the good achieved by Canadians. Members of the Royal Family serve as patrons of other awards, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program for young people, and of charity work, such as that carried out by The Prince's Charities, a network of charities of which the Prince of Wales is patron or president. In these ways, the Crown and its representatives are truly woven into the fabric of Canadian society.

Queen Elizabeth II signs the Proclamation of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, patriating Canada's Constitution.

EIIR

The Diamond Jubilee Window

A Mosaic of Glass

The Diamond Jubilee Window was created to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign and to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In doing so, it underscores the importance of the Crown in Canada. It is installed above the Senate entrance to the Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

The Diamond Jubilee Window is made of 500 pieces of antique mouth-blown and machine-made glass.

The Queen unveils the model for the Diamond Jubilee Window at Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence, on June 30, 2010.

The window was created by artists Christopher Goodman and Angela Zissoff of Goodman Zissoff Stained Glass Studio, based in Kelowna, British Columbia. The design was based on specifications provided by the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, with the advice of the Canadian Secretary to the Queen of Canada and the Usher of the Black Rod, Kevin MacLeod. Her Majesty approved the design, and she unveiled a model of the window at Rideau Hall (the residence of her Canadian representative, the Governor General) during her tour of Canada in 2010. Comprising 500 pieces, the window took six weeks to complete.

The process of creating the window involved several steps. A scale design was transferred to a *cartoon*, a life-sized black and white drawing. *Cutlines* were then added to delineate each piece of glass, creating a pattern to follow. The glass used in the window came from many countries, including England, France, Germany, and the United States, giving it a particular range of hues based on the native materials of each. While some pieces are of machine-made glass, many are of antique mouth-blown glass. This traditionally prepared material allows for effects not achievable through machine-made glass.

Once cut, the pieces of glass were traced with black and fired. They were then lightly adhered in place on a large glass easel. From here, Ms. Zissoff painted the pieces with grey and black to provide shading and detail. This is seen particularly in the portraits of the two queens, which were also shaded with a skin tone and fired. Gold elements were achieved by sand-blasting red onto clear glass and then silver-staining the pieces. Maple leaves were cast in a mould and fused with additional layers to create a sparkling, three-dimensional effect.

Two Queens Representing a Single Crown

The Diamond Jubilee Window is composed of three main sections. The largest are two lancets (tall, narrow, pointed windows) set side by side. They are surmounted by a four-lobed flower shape known as a *quatrefoil*.

Both lancet windows depict a queen in three-quarter profile, each facing the other. On the left, Queen Victoria wears a veil crowned with a small diadem made of diamonds. This likeness is based on her Diamond Jubilee portrait of 1897. On the right, Queen Elizabeth wears the "snowflake diadem," which was designed in 2008 and approved by Her Majesty. It does not materially exist, but the concept is used on Canada's Sacrifice Medal and on the Operational Services Medal. Made of alternating shapes of maple leaves and snowflakes, it symbolizes her status as Queen of Canada. Both queens wear the diamond necklace and drop earrings made for Queen Victoria in 1858. Queen Elizabeth chose this set of jewellery for the portraits in the window.

Below each portrait are maple leaves of orange and blue, symbolizing Canada and linking it to the armorial shields beneath: that of the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom under the likeness of Queen Victoria, and that of the Royal Arms of Canada, proclaimed in 1921, below the likeness of Queen Elizabeth. The shields are decked with ribbons proclaiming the Diamond Jubilee years of each queen. Above the portraits are the queens' Royal Cyphers, or monograms: VRI (Victoria Regina Imperatrix) and E II R (Elizabeth II Regina).

At the bottom of each window appears a rendition of Canada's Parliament. On the left is the original Centre Block, built during Queen Victoria's reign. The British Union Jack flies on its central tower, which was known as the Victoria Tower in her honour. This building was destroyed by fire in 1916 and was replaced with the current Centre Block, depicted beneath the portrait of Queen Elizabeth. It is, of course, the only building most Canadians, including the Queen, have ever known to house the Senate and the House of Commons. It is surmounted by the maple leaf flag proclaimed by Queen Elizabeth and adopted by Canada in 1965.

The quatrefoil above the two lancet windows is emblazoned with an image of St. Edward's Crown. This is the crown used in the coronation ceremony of the Sovereign, and an image of it is found at the apex of the Royal Arms of Canada. Placed here, the Crown also completes the Royal Cyphers.

The artists describe the colours of the window as having a symbolic component. The red at the bottom represents the Senate, where the window is found, and the passion of Canada's nationhood. Above, concentric arcs of blue-greens and blues, the colours of the sky and ocean, symbolize the elevated, the rational and the enduring. The metaphor is continued with dark blue glass flecked with yellow at the top of the lancets, representing the night sky and its stars.

Beneath the window is placed, horizontally, a gilded high-relief sculpture of the Senate Mace, a ceremonial arm made of brass and gold. A tradition inherited from the British Parliament, the Mace is solemnly carried into the Senate Chamber at the beginning of every sitting and rests on the Clerk's Table until the sitting is adjourned. It is the symbol of the authority vested in the Senate by the Queen. The high-relief sculpture beneath the Diamond Jubilee Window was executed in 2011 by Dominion Sculptor Phil White. It is five feet long. It was turned and carved of basswood and gilded with 23-karat gold leaf.

The Diamond Jubilee Window celebrates the reigns of two remarkable queens. It also celebrates the importance of the Crown, a constant feature of who and what Canadians are as a people, in the growth and development of Canada.

1952 - 2012

The Senate and the Crown

Why is the Diamond Jubilee Window a fitting gift from the Senate to commemorate Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, and the Canadian Crown, and why is it appropriate that it be located over the Senate entrance to the Parliament Buildings?

By long tradition, all parliamentary ceremonies take place in the Senate Chamber. It is only in the Senate that all three elements of Parliament assemble, forming the apex of Canada's system of government. This assembly of the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons takes place at key moments in the parliamentary process: at the beginning of a new Parliament or a new session; at the investiture of a new Governor General, the Queen's representative in Canada; and at the approval by the Crown of bills passed by the Senate and the House of Commons (a process known as *Royal Assent*). This is why the thrones of the Sovereign of Canada and consort are permanently found in the Senate Chamber; while by convention, the Sovereign and Governor General never visit the House of Commons, it is in the Senate that all ceremonies involving them take place.

It is thus fitting that one of the best views of the Diamond Jubilee Window is from the doors of the Senate Chamber. There are many decorative references to the Crown in the Senate precinct: the painted monarchs' portraits in the foyer and the nearby Salon de la Francophonie; the corbels carved with the faces of sovereigns; the fine bust of Queen Victoria above the thrones in the Chamber; the numerous depictions of the Crown itself. Lighting the Senate foyer, the window enhances these reminders that the Senate is the House of Parliament in which the Crown is always present.

The "Red Chamber," as the Senate is sometimes called, is decorated with many images that evoke the Senate's close association with the Crown.

Conclusion

Very few monarchs reach the milestone of their 60th year on the throne. In its short history, Canada has had two such queens, and together their reigns account for well over half its years as a country.

That Canada peacefully became an independent federation while remaining a constitutional monarchy is remarkable. This fact of its history speaks both to its values as a nation and the sagacity of its sovereigns. Over the course of its history since Confederation under Queen Victoria, the nation has developed in pride, autonomy and independent identity. It has evolved from a former British colony into the unique bilingual and multicultural country it is today.

The Diamond Jubilee Window celebrates two remarkable queens. But in evoking the changes that have taken place from the reign of its first sovereign to that of its current queen, it also reminds viewers of the gradual emergence of the Canada that exists today and its continuing pride in its heritage of constitutional monarchy. Through their sovereigns, Canadians remember their past, but are confident in building their future.