

Ontario Civics textbooks and their errors concerning the Canadian Crown

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These textbooks are found on the Ontario Ministry of Education's "Trillium List." As stated on the Ministry of Education website:

The Trillium List contains the titles of those textbooks approved by the Minister of Education for use in Ontario schools. The textbooks named on the Trillium List have been subjected to a rigorous evaluation in accordance with the criteria specified in Section 4 of Guidelines for Approval of Textbooks.

Section 4 of the Guidelines for Approval of Textbooks:

Requirements Congruence With Curriculum Policy

a) The content must be consistent with that in one or more elementary subjects or secondary courses described in Ontario curriculum policy documents, or with that in one or more Kindergarten learning areas, and must support at least 85 per cent of the expectations for a Kindergarten learning area, an elementary subject in a specific grade, or a secondary course (i.e., a course in a specific grade in a secondary subject/discipline).

b) In the case of a series, at least one title in the series must support at least 85 per cent of the expectations for a Kindergarten learning area, an elementary subject in a specific grade, or a secondary course. Individual titles in a series that do not support 85 per cent of the expectations for a learning area, subject, or course are not eligible for evaluation.

c) If non-print material (for example, a CD-ROM or manipulative material) makes up part of a textbook, and if the whole textbook package of which it is a part supports at least 85 per cent of the expectations for a Kindergarten learning area, an elementary subject in a specific grade, or a secondary course, this material will be eligible for consideration and will be included in the evaluation.

d) A multimedia package that supports at least 85 per cent of the expectations for a Kindergarten learning area, an elementary subject in a specific grade, or a secondary course will also be considered to be a textbook and will be eligible for evaluation.

Conformity to Ministry Policy on Placement of URLs

If URLs are provided for student use in student textbooks, they must only be URLs for websites of the federal, provincial, and/or territorial governments of Canada. These URLs are permitted in order to allow for links in student textbooks to current information, while also ensuring content reliability. If cited, such URLs will be placed in the area of the textbook from the table of contents through to the glossary and/or index. All other URLs for student use must be placed in the teacher's guide that accompanies the student textbook.

For the purpose of acknowledgement of sources used in student textbooks (e.g., a poem, short story, cartoon, photograph), including Canadian government sources, a publisher may be required, through licensing agreements, to cite the URL of the copyright holder. To meet such requirements, the URL of the copyright holder must be cited and must be placed only in the acknowledgement section of the textbook.

Provision of a Teacher's Resource Guide

Textbooks must be accompanied by a teacher's resource guide. This guide must be provided in both languages of instruction (English and French) if the textbook is translated.

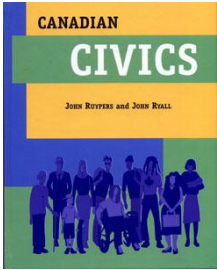
Canadian Orientation

The content must have a Canadian orientation. It must acknowledge Canadian contributions and achievements and use Canadian examples and references wherever possible. It must use Canadian spelling conventions and SI units (units of measurement of the *Système international d'unités*, or International System of Units) for measurement references. The vocabulary and examples should be familiar to Canadians.

Canadian Product

Textbooks must be manufactured in Canada and, wherever possible, are to be written, adapted, or translated by a Canadian citizen or citizens or by a permanent resident or residents of Canada.

Textbooks examined in this report:

Textbook Information	Errors
<p>Canadian Civics © 2005</p> <p>Authors: Ruypers, John, and John Ryall. Publisher: Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd. ISBN: 1552391531 ISBN-13: 9781552391532 Grade: 10 Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open Course Code: CHV20 Distributor: Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd.</p> 	<p>No mention of Statute of Westminster No mention of Responsible Government No mention of Confidence Convention</p> <p>Page 28 – Queen is not given a separate section in “The Executive” (the governor general is). Statement is made “Today, the British monarch is represented by the governor general.”</p> <p>Page 29 – The governor general is a figurehead, a ruler in name only.”</p> <p>Page 30 – The prime minister is only referred to as the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons. No mention of “confidence.”</p> <p>Page 154 – “Citizenship and English Canadians” states that Parliament and so forth are based on the “English System” and that “The English Monarchy has been a part of Canada for much of its history.” Goes on to say that “Some movement away from the British influence has taken place, however” – flag, Canada Post and anthem cited as examples.</p>

Civics Now © 2006

Authors: Gordon, Doug, Jack MacFadden, and Jennifer Watt.

Publisher: Nelson Education Ltd.

ISBN: 0176301941 ISBN-13: 9780176301941

Grade: 10

Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open

Course Code: CHV20

Distributor: Nelson Education Ltd.



No mention of Statute of Westminster
No mention of Responsible Government
No mention of Confidence Convention

Page 31 – Claims that the Canada Act 1982 brought home the written constitution.

Page 48 – “Canada is a constitutional monarchy based on the British model, which is why the queen is head of the Canadian government.”

Page 49 – “In order for bills to become law, they must receive royal assent (signing) by the queen or her representative.”

“The queen’s representatives are ceremonial positions with little actual power or authority.”

Civics Today © 2000

Authors: Watt, Jennifer, Ivor Sinfield, and Charles Hawkes.

Publisher: Irwin Publishing

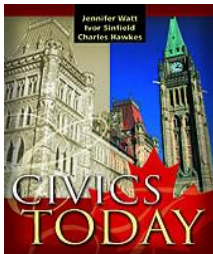
ISBN: 7725-2829-2 ISBN-13: 9780772528292

Grade: 10

Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open

Course Code: CHV20

Distributor: Nelson Education Ltd.



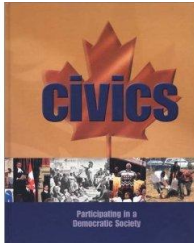
Statute of Westminster mentioned (page 21) by not explained.

No mention of Responsible Government
No mention of Confidence Convention

Page 34 – Infers that the Queen is nothing more than a British connection

Civics: Participating in a Democratic Society © 2000

Author: Skeoch, Alan.
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Ryerson
ISBN: 0-07-086389-X ISBN-13: 9780070863897
Grade: 10
Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open
Course Code: CHV20
Distributor: McGraw-Hill Ryerson



Minimalistic and incorrect explanation of Statute of Westminster (Page 71)

No mention of Confidence Convention

Page 35 – Republic of Canada highlighted in “Fight for Responsible Government”

Page 36 – Lord Durham credited with bringing Responsible Government to Canada. Nova Scotia not mentioned.

Page 44 – “As a result, the British Monarch is Canada’s head of state. In constitutional monarchies the title “head of state” is largely ceremonial.”

Page 49 – “Called the Canada Act, this law said that no future act of the British Parliament would apply for Canada.”

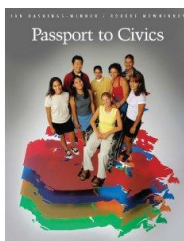
Page 50 – Queen referred to as “British Monarch”

Page 51 – section on governor general is filled with errors, including “The governor general holds office for five years. This term can be renewed once” and that the governor general’s role is “purely ceremonial.”

Page 58 – “The lieutenant governor is appointed by the governor general on the advice of the provincial premier.”

Passport to Civics © 2008

Authors: Haskings-Winner, Jan, and Robert Mewhinney.
Publisher: Pippin Publishing Corporation
ISBN-13: 9780887511257
Grade: 10
Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open
Course Code: CHV20
Distributor: University of Toronto Press



No mention of Statute of Westminster

Page 14 – “You might be wondering why the Oath of Citizenship is sworn to the Queen of Canada . . . In Canada, the British monarch is considered the head of state (the main representative of the state or country) because of our British past.”

Page 28 – “the executive branch consists of the governor general, who represents the monarch . . .”

Page 30 – “The role of the governor general is somewhat controversial. Some Canadians believe that since we are an independent country we do not need a representative of the British monarch and the position should be eliminated. Others like the tradition of the role, and appreciate the duties performed by the governor general.”

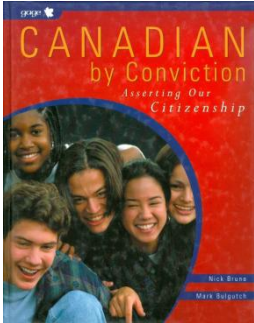
- governor general is the representative of the British monarch, or the “Crown’s Representative.”

- serves for a five-year term

Page 53 – “Canada’s democratic system ensures that the government remains accountable to its citizens through elected representatives. This is called responsible government.”

Canadian by Conviction: Asserting Our Citizenship © 2000

Authors: Brune, Nick, and Mark Bulgutch.
Publisher: Gage Learning Corporation
ISBN: 0-7715-8198-X ISBN-13: 9780771581984
Grade: 10
Course Title: Civics, Grade 10, Open
Course Code: CHV20
Distributor: Nelson Education Ltd.



No mention of Confidence Convention

Page 21 – Durham Report is “ . . . one of the most important documents in Canadian history” and brings in responsible government.

Page 22 – “Responsible government also meant that, in time, the Governor would become a figurehead. Real power would rest with the person we now call Prime Minister, the leader of the party that wins the greatest number of seats in the Assembly (known today as the House of Commons).”

Page 25 – “A little over a decade later, the 1931 Statute of Westminster proved to be a political watershed. Essentially, it changed the British Empire into the British Commonwealth. All nations of the new Commonwealth, including Canada, could change, amend, or repeal any imperial (British) laws within their boundaries. That meant, in effect, that all countries within the Commonwealth, again including Canada, were fully autonomous, self-governing entities. Their own governments, not the one in London, England, had the final say.”

Page 36-38 – Entire section on “The Queen”

Page 36 - “In theory, her power is enormous. In reality, she has no power. Everything she does is limited by the Constitution, and by the notion that only an elected official can run a true democracy.”

Page 36 – “Many people find it irrational to have the Queen as Canada’s Head of State. They argue that the monarchy is a useless relic of our colonial past. They say it may have made some sense in Canada’s early years when so many people in the country were of British descent, but it has no place in modern, multicultural Canada. Besides, they say, what’s the value in an institution that is virtually meaningless in our daily lives?”

Page 36 – “Public opinion surveys suggest that most Canadians are still content to be subjects of the Queen, though it is true that only a minority feels a strong connection to the monarchy. Some are outright hostile, especially in Quebec where the Queen is viewed by many as a reminder of the painful fact that the British took control of Canada from the French.”

Page 37 – “Over the years, Canada has worked to make the royal connection less obvious.”

Page 37 – Canadian Crown linked to the abandonment of the Red Ensign in 1965.

Page 37 – “The Queen personifies the state. She symbolizes the rule of law. She humanizes authority. All of this may sound rather vague and unimportant, but at times in recent history, the monarch has had tremendous symbolic importance. During World War II, for example, King George VI . . .”

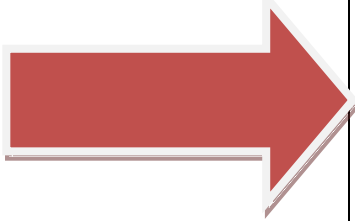
Page 38 – Questions given at the end of the section:

1. From weddings to funerals, Canadians have a keen interest in what happens to the Royal Family. Why do you think this is so?
2. What factors would lead a country to abolish its monarchy?
3. Suppose Canada eventually decided to end its ties with the monarchy. Whose face[s] would you choose to have on our coins?

Page 38 – Samuel de Champlain “. . . was the first Governor of Canada, between 1627 and 1635.”

Page 39 – Statute of Westminster implied, but not directly identified.

Page 43 – “Technically speaking, the Prime Minister is appointed by the Governor General. But that’s not what really happens. The Prime Minister is, with few exceptions, the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons.”



Page 256 – Definition of Parliament (this definition is reproduced, word for word, in the glossary of the Ontario Civics Curriculum Document):

“an elected assembly responsible for passing legislation and granting the right to levy taxes (federal legislature in Canada consists of the sovereign’s representative, the Senate, and the House of Commons.”

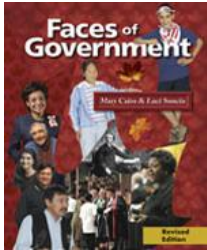
Page 257 – Definition of Responsible Government :

“a form of government in which a Cabinet, selected from members of an elected legislature, acts as the executive, making decisions for which it is then held collectively responsible and accountable to the legislature.”

Faces of Government ©2003

Authors: Cairo, Mary and Luci Soncin.
Publisher: Duval House Publishing
ISBN: 0-55220-464-2 ISBN-13: 9781552204641
Grade: 5
Distributor: Nelson Education

**This textbook is not on the Trillium List



Page 111 – Coat of Arms labelled. St. Edward’s Crown labelled “Imperial Crown.”