



Canada: the largest country in the Commonwealth

Infographic by Caroline Boda & Quinlin Gray
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How is the British monarchy connected to Canada?

Canada joined the British Commonwealth in 1931 as an independent state. It is one of 56 countries in the modern Commonwealth and remains the largest geographically.

As a member country of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II served as Canada's Head of State for 70 years. This role was passed on to King Charles III upon the death of his mother on September 8, 2022.

“The mandate of the Commonwealth is to serve the needs of its member governments and their citizens in political, economic, and social development. The Commonwealth also provides a forum for deliberation, problem solving, consensus decision making, and action on matters of importance to its membership.”

Government of Canada

Did you know?

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Gov. Gen. Mary Simon, and Canada's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Ralph Goodale will be in attendance at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on September 19. Members of the RCMP will also attend to assist with logistics.
- Imagery of King Charles III will slowly be implemented on bank notes, passports, and other official documents without voiding documents with the late Queen Elizabeth II's imagery and name.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau implemented a 10-day period of mourning during which flags have been lowered to half mast across the nation in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II. The Canadian government also declared September 19 a holiday for federal government employees.

Queen Elizabeth II's most notable visits to Canada

Queen Elizabeth II visited Canada 22 times during her reign as monarch.

1951

While still a princess, Queen Elizabeth II makes her first visit to Canada during a month-long trip across the country.

1957

Queen Elizabeth II returns to Canada for the first time as Queen and opens Canada's parliament in Ottawa.

1976

Queen Elizabeth II travels to Canada alongside Prince Phillip and their four children to open the Montréal Olympics and watch Princess Anne compete.

2010

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates Canada Day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa during her final visit to Canada.



Sources

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