

The Monarchy in Prince Edward Island

Canada's History with the Royal Family

Canada was created in 1867. By most standards, Canada, though a relatively young country, has a long-standing association with royal families. Thirty-two kings and queens reigned over the country long before Elizabeth II was crowned Queen of Canada. Canada was explored, settled and grew during the reigns of British monarchs as far back as 1497.

Canada's Governmental System and the Monarchy

Canada is a federal state (that is, it has two levels of government, national and provincial) with a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. Our head of state is the Queen of Canada. She is also the Queen of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries within the British Commonwealth of Nations. Acts of parliament and many actions of our national and provincial governments are made in the name of the Queen, though the authority rests with cabinet and parliament.

The Queen of Canada

The official style and title of the Queen of Canada is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith." Most often, she is known as "The Queen." Canadians recognize her as "The Queen of Canada."

Did You Know?

The Queen is a shared monarch, which means that she is the Queen of a number of countries and the head of the Commonwealth of Nations and Queen of 16 of those nations, known as Commonwealth Realms. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries representing approximately 30

per cent of the world's people.

Constitutional Monarchy

As a Constitutional Monarch, the Queen's powers are exercised by the Prime Minister or Premier who are responsible to the elected representatives of the people in the House of Commons and the provincial legislative assemblies. Though largely symbolic, the Crown is an integral part of our governmental structure. The Canadian Constitution limits the power

of the Crown in government, creating a primarily symbolic role for the Queen. Because the Queen resides in Britain, she is represented in Canada by the Governor General and in each of the provinces by a Lieutenant Governor.

Did You Know?

The Honourable Antoinette Perry is our current Lieutenant Governor. She was sworn into office on October 20, 2017 and is the 42nd Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Parliamentary Democracy

Since nearly every aspect of Canadian life (i.e., marriage, employment, health and social benefits, food, television, etc.) is regulated or affected by governments, it is important that Canadians play an essential role in deciding how and by whom we are represented. Canadians elect members of the national House of Commons (MPs) and members of the provincial and territorial legislative assemblies (in Prince Edward Island, MLAs). Their primary role is to enact laws, authorize taxation and expenditures and represent the views of the people (the electorate).



On December 13, 2002, the Governor General of Canada at that time, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, presented a Full Achievement of Arms to the Province of Prince Edward Island. This honour was requested by Premier Pat Binns in 2001, the 150th anniversary of the granting of responsible government to Prince Edward Island. Incorporation of the Shield of Arms as the centerpiece recognizes our history as a British colony province, its position in Confederation, the founding peoples and natural resources.

What Special Significance Does Prince Edward Island Play in Canadian History?

On September 1, 1864, delegates from the British colonies in Atlantic Canada met in Charlottetown to discuss Maritime Union. They were joined by a large delegation from the colony of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) who successfully shifted the topic from Maritime Union to a union of all British North American colonies. All of the delegates are now known as The Fathers of Confederation. The delegation had their photograph taken on the front steps of Fanningbank, Government House, as seen below.



In 1867, the colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were united to form the new, self-governing country of Canada.

The Fathers of Confederation who framed the basis of our current written constitution gave the formal executive authority to the Queen, *“to be administered according to the well understood principles of the British constitution by the Sovereign personally or by the Representative of the Queen.”*

In essence, it meant responsible government, wherein the representative of The Crown, in Ottawa or the provinces, must accept the advice of that individual

(Prime Minister or Premier) who has the confidence of the elected representatives (MPs or MLAs) of the people. All the powers of the Queen are now exercised by her representatives, the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors.

Did You Know?

Lieutenant is pronounced “lef-tennant” in Canada, Britain and other Commonwealth countries.

Did You Know?

In 1990, the Honourable Marion Reid was the first woman named Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Lieutenant Governor’s Standard

The Lieutenant Governor has a personal flag called the Vice Regal Standard. It consists of the shield from the PEI Coat of Arms surrounded by a wreath of 10 leaves and a crown at the top, all on a royal blue background.



The flag is flown at Government House when the Governor is in residence and on the Governor’s car when

traveling to and from official functions. It may also be flown on any building in which the Governor is present.

What Do the Symbols on the Flag Mean?

The *Wreath of leaves* represents the 10 provinces of Canada.

The *Crown* represents royalty.

The *Shield of Arms* is the centerpiece of the Prince Edward Island Armorial Bearings and recognizes that period in the Island’s history as a British colony. It was granted as Armorial Bearings in 1905 by Royal Warrant of his late Majesty King Edward VII. A mature oak and three saplings growing on an island appear on the lower portion of the shield. The mature tree represents the “Mother” country, Great Britain, and the saplings, the three counties into which the province was divided in 1767.

The Crown's Influence Still Surrounds Us Today - Some Examples Include:

- Names of streets.
- Our monarch's head is on all coins and on some stamps.
- Publicly owned land and companies are called Crown Land and Crown Corporations respectively.

Did You Know?

New Canadians pledge their allegiance to the Queen when they take their Oath of Citizenship.

"I swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, according to law and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen."

Did You Know?

The Lieutenant Governors of Prince Edward Island were not always born on the Island. Robert Hodgson, the 15th Lieutenant Governor, was the first Island-born Lieutenant Governor. He was also the first Islander to be knighted.

Did You Know?

Samuel de Champlain was the first Governor General in 1615.

Did You Know?

Canada's Governors General were not always Canadian residents or citizens. The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, the 18th Governor General of Canada was the first to be born in Canada.

Did You Know?

The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé was the first woman to be Governor General in 1984.

The Royal Visits to Government House

- 1951 - Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (luncheon)
- 1959 - Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, afternoon tea and dinner at Government House and stayed overnight-visited all provinces to commemorate the

- opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway
- 1964 - Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh - to commemorate the meeting of 1864 (Charlottetown and Quebec)
- 1967 - Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother
- 1973 - Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh - recognize the province's 100 years as a province of Canada
- 1983 - Their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales (stayed aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia)
- 1987 - His Royal Highness Prince Edward
- 1989 - Their Royal Highnesses Prince Andrew and Sarah, Duchess of York
- 2000 - His Royal Highness Prince Edward
- 2005 - Their Royal Highnesses Prince Edward & Sophie, Countess of Wessex (Garden Party at Government House)
- 2007 - His Royal Highness Prince Edward (stayed overnight at Government House)
- 2011 - Their Royal Highnesses Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (stayed overnight at Government House)
- 2014 - His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall (stayed overnight at Government House)
- 2015 - His Royal Highness Prince Edward (stayed overnight at Government House - Duke of Edinburgh Gold Recipients Ceremony)

Roles of the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors

The Governor General (the Queen's representative in Canada and the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces) is appointed by Her Majesty on the advice of the Prime Minister. Canada has 10 Lieutenant Governors representing the Queen in each of the provinces. The Lieutenant Governors are appointed by Commission under the Great Seal of Canada on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is selected by the Governor General as the individual who has the confidence of the elected representatives (MPs) of the people. Premiers are selected by the provincial Lieutenant Governors in the same way.

Some of the responsibilities of the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors include:

- Summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament or the Legislative Assembly on the advice of the Prime Minister or Premier and reads the Speech From the Throne at the opening of each session
- Swears-in members of the federal and provincial cabinets and is guided by their advice as long as they retain the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.
- Gives Royal Assent in Her Majesty's name to all bills passed by Parliament or the Legislative Assembly.
- Signs Orders-in-Council, and other state documents to give them the force of law. i.e. Bills, legislations
- Hosts and takes part in a wide range of ceremonial, cultural and community events.
- Recognizes achievement.
- Presents various honours at the national, provincial, and community level

Did You Know?

Canada's three territories have Territorial Commissioners whose roles are similar to those of Lieutenant Governors, but they represent the federal government instead of the Crown.

Did You Know?

Canada's current Governor General is Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette.

Government House

Government House, called Fanningbank, is the official residence and home of the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

The house is the centre for official functions and hospitality in the province. Many distinguished visitors, including foreign diplomats, are welcomed and entertained at Government House each year.

The administrative staff who support the work of the Governor have offices in Government House.

As it is a private residence, Government House is generally not open to the public other than by invitation. But on New Year's Day, a levee is held for any who wish to greet the Lieutenant Governor. The formal gardens are open during the summer months.



Did you ever wonder where visiting dignitaries sleep when they come for a visit? The bedroom shown above is where the Queen has stayed when visiting Government House.

During the school year, guided tours for students can be arranged by contacting Government House.

Think Fast!!!!

In one minute, name as many symbols or images that represent the monarchy as possible. (Hint: Think about some of the items you see or use every day.)

PEI Monarchy Word Search

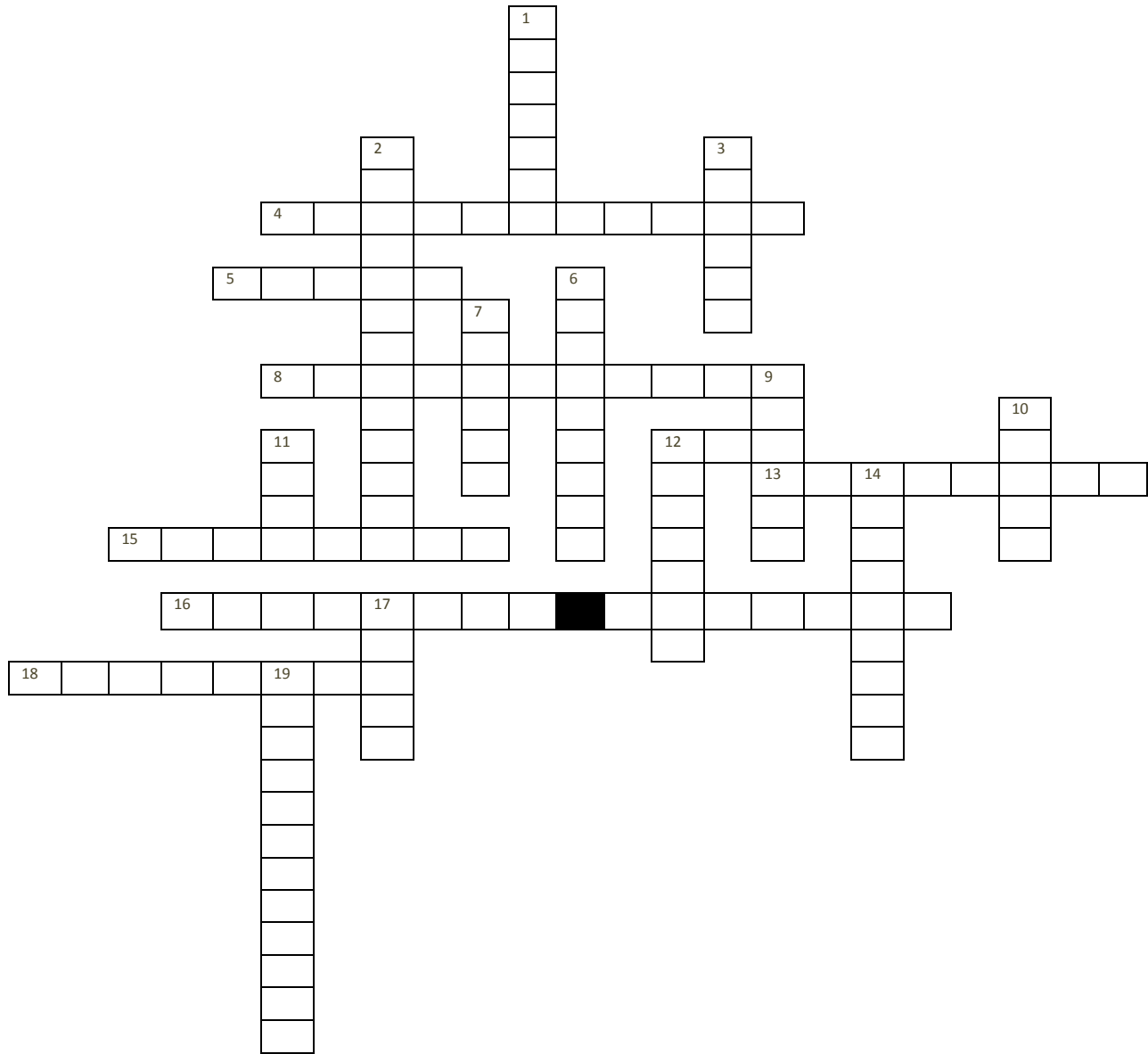
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<p>AIDEDECAMP ARCHITECTURE ARTIFACTS BILINGUAL CANADA CEREMONY COMMONWEALTH CONFEDERATION ELIZABETH FANNINGBANK GARDEN PARTY TOUR VICTORIAN</p>	<p>GOVERNMENT HOUSE HISTORY HODGSON LEVEE LIEUTENANT MONARCHY PEI QUEEN RCMP ROYAL ASSENT SOVEREIGN VICE REGAL</p>
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Further Study

- Book a tour of Government House by telephoning:
(902) 368-5480
- Research - The Great Seal of Prince Edward Island, and The Armorial Bearings of Prince Edward Island at: www.princeedwardisland.ca
- Read - How Canadian Govern Themselves at:
www.parl.gc.ca

PEI Monarchy Crossword



Down

1. First Island-born Lieutenant Governor
2. The Fathers of _____
3. Country created in 1867
6. Canadian form of government
7. Duke of Edinburgh
9. Center element of Lieutenant Governor's flag
10. Act of ruling as a King or Queen
11. Main colour of the Lieutenant Governor's personal flag
12. Leader of a provincial government
14. The Queen of Canada
17. _____ Family
19. Collection of 54 countries ruled by the Queen

Across

4. Lieutenant Governor's residence in Prince Edward Island
5. A female monarch
8. Three Northern provinces in Canada
12. Smallest province in Canada
13. Event to choose the leader of a government
15. Representative of the Queen
16. Queen's representative in Canada
18. Constitutional _____