

# List of Canadian monarchs

Listed here are the monarchs who reigned over Canada, starting with the **French colony of Canada**, which subsequently became a **British colony**, followed by the British **Dominion** of Canada, and, finally, the present-day sovereign state of **Canada**.<sup>[11]</sup> The date of the first claim by a monarch over Canada varies, with most sources giving the year as 1497, when **John Cabot** made landfall somewhere on the North American coast (likely either modern-day Newfoundland or Nova Scotia) and claimed the land for England on behalf of **King Henry VII**.<sup>[20]</sup> However, some sources, instead, put this date at 1535, when the word *Canada* was first used to refer to the French colony of Canada,<sup>[21]</sup> which was founded in the name of **King Francis I**.<sup>[22][23]</sup> Monarchical governance subsequently evolved under a continuous succession of French, British, and eventually uniquely Canadian sovereigns.<sup>[28]</sup> Since the first claim by Henry VII,<sup>[29]</sup> there have been 33 sovereigns of Canada, including two sets of co-sovereigns.<sup>[37]</sup>
























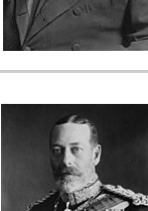
While Canada became a Dominion within the **British Empire** upon **Confederation** in 1867,<sup>[38][39][40][41]</sup> the concept of a fully independent Canada sharing the person of the sovereign with the **United Kingdom** and other countries, such as **Australia** and **New Zealand**, only emerged gradually over time through constitutional convention,<sup>[42]</sup> and was officially confirmed with the passage of the **Statute of Westminster** in 1931.<sup>[43]</sup> Since then,<sup>[31]</sup> the Canadian Crown has been legally distinct from those of the other **Commonwealth realms**, with its own separate and distinct monarch.<sup>[N 1]</sup> Although the term *king of Canada* was used as early as the beginning of the reign of **George VI**,<sup>[45]</sup> it was not until 1953 that the monarch's title was made official, with **Elizabeth II** being the first monarch to be separately proclaimed as Queen of Canada, as per the **Royal Style and Titles Act**.

## Sovereigns of Canada

### The French Crown (1534–1763)







Portrait	Regnal name	Reign		Full name	Consort
<span><span><span></span></span></span> Sovereigns of <b>New France</b>					
<span></span>	<b>Francis I</b> (1494–1547) House of Valois	24 July 1534	31 March 1547	Francis	<b>Eleanor of Austria</b>
<i>Territorial claim:</i> 1534: in Francis' name, <b>Jacques Cartier</b> laid claim to New France ( <b>Canada (New France)</b> ) and <b>Acadia</b> . <sup>[46]</sup>					
<span></span>	<b>Henry II</b> (1519–1559) House of Valois	31 March 1547	10 July 1559	Henry	<b>Catherine de' Medici</b>
<span></span>	<b>Francis II</b> (1544–1560) House of Valois	10 July 1559	5 December 1560	Francis	<b>Mary, Queen of Scots</b>
<span></span>	<b>Charles IX</b> (1550–1574) House of Valois	5 December 1560	30 May 1574	Charles Maximilian	<b>Elisabeth of Austria</b>
<span></span>	<b>Henry III</b> (1551–1589) House of Valois	30 May 1574	2 August 1589	Alexandre Édouard	<b>Louise of Lorraine</b>
<span></span>	<b>Henry IV</b> (1553–1610) House of Bourbon	2 August 1589	14 May 1610	Henri de Bourbon	<b>Margaret of Valois</b> , <b>Marie de' Medici</b>
<span></span>	<b>Louis XIII</b> (1601–1643) House of Bourbon	14 May 1610	14 May 1643	Louis	<b>Anne of Austria</b>
<span></span>	<b>Louis XIV</b> (1638–1715) House of Bourbon	14 May 1643	1 September 1715	Louis-Dieudonné	<b>Maria Theresa of Spain</b> , <b>Françoise d'Aubigné</b>
<i>Territorial changes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1655: acquired concrete claim to <b>Placentia</b>.</li> <li>1713: ceded <b>Acadia</b>, <b>Placentia</b>, and <b>Hudson Bay</b> to <b>Anne</b>.</li></ul>					
<span></span>	<b>Louis XV</b> (1710–1774) House of Bourbon	1 September 1715	10 February 1763	Louis	<b>Marie Leszczyńska</b>
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1763: ceded the <b>Colony of Canada</b> , along with the rest of <b>New France</b> , to <b>George III</b> .					

# The English and British Crowns (1497–1931)

Portrait	Regnal name	Reign		Full name	Consort
 Sovereigns of the colony of Canada <sup>[N.2]</sup>					
	<b>Henry VII</b> (1457–1509) House of Tudor	24 June 1497	21 April 1509	Henry	<u>Elizabeth of York</u>
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1497: in Henry's name, <u>John Cabot</u> laid claim to lands that soon came to be called "Canada". <sup>[N.2]</sup> The English Crown did not concretely exercise this claim until the reign of King George III, when the colony of Canada was officially ceded from France to Great Britain.					
	<b>Henry VIII</b> (1491–1547) House of Tudor	21 April 1509	28 January 1547	Henry	<u>Catherine of Aragon</u> (1509), <u>Anne Boleyn</u> (1533), <u>Jane Seymour</u> (1536), <u>Anne of Cleves</u> (1540), <u>Catherine Howard</u> (1540), <u>Catherine Parr</u> (1543)
	<b>Edward VI</b> (1537–1553) House of Tudor	28 January 1547	6 July 1553	Edward	None
	<b>Mary I</b> (1516–1558) House of Tudor	19 July 1553	17 November 1558	Mary	<u>Philip II of Spain</u> , England, both the Sicilies & Ireland (co-sovereign)
	<b>Philip II</b> (1527–1598) House of Habsburg	25 July 1554	17 November 1558	Felipe	<u>Mary I</u> of England, Spain, both the Sicilies & Ireland (co-sovereign)
	<b>Elizabeth I</b> (1533–1603) House of Tudor	17 November 1558	24 March 1603	Elizabeth	None
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1583: in Elizabeth's name, <u>Sir Humphrey Gilbert</u> laid claim to the island of <u>Newfoundland</u> .					
	<b>James I</b> (1566–1625) House of Stuart	24 March 1603	27 March 1625	Charles James	<u>Anne of Denmark</u>
	<b>Charles I</b> (1600–1649) House of Stuart	27 March 1625	30 January 1649	Charles	<u>Henrietta Maria of France</u>
<i>Interregnum</i>		30 January 1649	29 May 1660		
	<b>Charles II</b> (1630–1685) House of Stuart	29 May 1660	6 February 1685	Charles	<u>Catherine of Braganza</u>
<i>Note:</i> 1670: created <u>Rupert's Land</u> .					
	<b>James II</b> (1633–1701) House of Stuart	6 February 1685	1 December 1688	James	<u>Mary of Modena</u>
<i>Vacant</i>		1 December 1688	13 February 1689		
	<b>Mary II</b> (1662–1694) House of Stuart	13 February 1689	28 December 1694	Mary	<u>William III</u> of England & Ireland & II of Scotland (co-monarch)
	<b>William III</b> (1650–1702) House of Orange-Nassau	13 February 1689	8 March 1702	William	<u>Mary II</u> of England, Scotland & Ireland (co-monarch)
	<b>Anne</b> (1665–1714) House of Stuart	8 March 1702	1 August 1714	Anne	<u>Prince George of Denmark</u>
<i>Note:</i> 1713: <u>acquired Acadia</u> , <u>Placentia</u> , and <u>Hudson Bay</u> from <u>Louis XIV</u> of France.					
	<b>George I</b> (1660–1727) House of Hanover	1 August 1714	11 June 1727	George Louis	<u>Sophia Dorothea of Celle</u>
	<b>George II</b> (1683–1760) House of Hanover	11 June 1727 <i>old calendar</i>	25 October 1760 <i>new calendar</i>	George Augustus	<u>Caroline of Ansbach</u>
	<b>George III</b> (1738–1820) House of Hanover	25 October 1760	29 January 1820	George William Frederick	<u>Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz</u>
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1763: <u>acquired Canada</u> from <u>Louis XV</u> of France; changed its name to <u>Province of Quebec</u> . 1778: in George's name, <u>James Cook</u> laid claim to lands that later came to be called <u>Vancouver Island</u> . 1791: <u>created</u> the provinces of <u>Upper Canada</u> and <u>Lower Canada</u> out of the Province of Quebec. 1818: <u>ceded</u> Rupert's Land south of the <u>49th parallel</u> to the United States; acquired the <u>Louisiana Purchase</u> north of the 49th parallel from the United States.					
	<b>George IV</b> (1762–1830) House of Hanover	29 January 1820	26 June 1830	George Augustus Frederick	<u>Caroline of Brunswick</u>
	<b>William IV</b> (1765–1837) House of Hanover	26 June 1830	20 June 1837	William Henry	<u>Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen</u>
	<b>Victoria</b> (1819–1901) House of Hanover	20 June 1837	1 July 1867	Alexandrina Victoria	<u>Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha</u>
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1840: <u>united</u> Lower and Upper Canada into the <u>Province of Canada</u> . 1846: <u>acquired concrete claim</u> to the <u>Columbia District</u> north of the 49th parallel and Vancouver Island.					
 Sovereigns of the Dominion of Canada <sup>[N.3]</sup>					
	<b>Victoria</b> (1819–1901) House of Hanover	1 July 1867	22 January 1901	Alexandrina Victoria	<u>Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha</u>
<i>Canadian governors general:</i> <u>The Viscount Monck</u> , <u>the Lord Lisgar</u> , <u>the Earl of Dufferin</u> , <u>the Marquess of Lorne</u> , <u>the Marquess of Lansdowne</u> , <u>the Lord Stanley of Preston</u> , <u>the Earl of Aberdeen</u> , <u>the Earl of Minto</u>					
<i>Canadian prime ministers:</i> <u>John A. Macdonald</u> , <u>Alexander Mackenzie</u> , <u>John Abbott</u> , <u>John Thompson</u> , <u>Mackenzie Bowell</u> , <u>Charles Tupper</u> , <u>Wilfrid Laurier</u>					
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1867: <u>united</u> the Province of Canada (and created out of it <u>Ontario</u> and <u>Quebec</u> ), <u>Nova Scotia</u> , and <u>New Brunswick</u> into the federal <u>Dominion</u> of Canada. 1870: <u>created</u> the province of <u>Manitoba</u> . Joined Rupert's Land, the <u>North-Western Territory</u> (1870), <u>British Columbia</u> (1871), <u>Prince Edward Island</u> (1873), and the <u>British Arctic Territories</u> (1880) into the union.					
	<b>Edward VII</b> (1841–1910) House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha	22 January 1901	6 May 1910	Albert Edward	<u>Alexandra of Denmark</u>
<i>Canadian governors general:</i> The Earl of Minto, <u>the Earl Grey</u>					
<i>Canadian prime minister:</i> Wilfrid Laurier					
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1905: <u>created</u> the provinces of <u>Alberta</u> and <u>Saskatchewan</u> from part of the Northwest Territories.					
	<b>George V</b> (1865–1936) House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (until 1917) House of Windsor (after 1917)	6 May 1910	11 December 1931	George Frederick Ernest Albert	<u>Mary of Teck</u>
<i>Canadian governors general:</i> The Earl Grey, <u>the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn</u> , <u>the Duke of Devonshire</u> , <u>the Lord Byng of Vimy</u> , <u>the Marquess of Willingdon</u> , <u>the Earl of Bessborough</u>					
<i>Canadian prime ministers:</i> Wilfrid Laurier, <u>Robert Borden</u> , <u>Arthur Meighen</u> , <u>William Lyon Mackenzie King</u> , <u>Richard B. Bennett</u>					
<i>Territorial changes:</i> 1931: granted Royal Assent to the <u>Statute of Westminster 1931</u> , thereby creating the Canadian Crown and leaving <u>Newfoundland</u> as the only part of Canada's current territory left under the British Crown.					

## The Canadian Crown (1931–present)

In 1931 the Canadian Crown emerged as an independent entity from that of the British Crown due to the Statute of Westminster 1931.

Portrait	Regnal name	Reign	Full name	Consort
 Sovereigns of Canada				
	<b>George V</b> (1865–1936) House of Windsor	11 December 1931 20 January 1936 Governors general: The Earl of Bessborough, <u>the Lord Tweedsmuir</u> Prime ministers: Richard B. Bennett, William Lyon Mackenzie King	George Frederick Ernest Albert	Mary of Teck
	<b>Edward VIII</b> (1894–1972) House of Windsor	20 January 1936 11 December 1936 Governor general: The Lord Tweedsmuir Prime minister: William Lyon Mackenzie King	Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David	<i>none</i>
	<b>George VI</b> (1895–1952) House of Windsor	11 December 1936 6 February 1952 Governors general: The Lord Tweedsmuir, <u>the Earl of Athlone</u> , <u>the Viscount Alexander of Tunis</u> Prime ministers: William Lyon Mackenzie King, <u>Louis St. Laurent</u> Territorial change: 1949: <u>merged Newfoundland</u> (now Newfoundland and Labrador) into Canada, thereby putting all of Canada's current territory under the Canadian Crown.	Albert Frederick Arthur George	<u>Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon</u>
	<b>Elizabeth II</b> (1926–2022) House of Windsor	6 February 1952 8 September 2022 Governors general: <u>Vincent Massey</u> , <u>Georges Vanier</u> , <u>Roland Michener</u> , <u>Jules Léger</u> , <u>Edward Schreyer</u> , <u>Jeanne Sauvé</u> , <u>Ray Hnatyshyn</u> , <u>Roméo LeBlanc</u> , <u>Adrienne Clarkson</u> , <u>Michaëlle Jean</u> , <u>David Johnston</u> , <u>Julie Payette</u> , <u>Mary Simon</u> Prime ministers: <u>Louis St. Laurent</u> , <u>John Diefenbaker</u> , <u>Lester B. Pearson</u> , <u>Pierre Trudeau</u> , <u>Joe Clark</u> , <u>John Turner</u> , <u>Brian Mulroney</u> , <u>Kim Campbell</u> , <u>Jean Chrétien</u> , <u>Paul Martin</u> , <u>Stephen Harper</u> , <u>Justin Trudeau</u>	Elizabeth Alexandra Mary	<u>Philip Mountbatten</u>
	<b>Charles III</b> (b. 1948) House of Windsor	8 September 2022 <i>present</i> Governor general: <u>Mary Simon</u> Prime minister: <u>Justin Trudeau</u>	Charles Philip Arthur George	<u>Camilla Shand</u>

## Consorts

The Canadian monarch's consort—his or her spouse—has no constitutional status or power, but is a member of the Canadian royal family. In the United Kingdom, all female consorts have had the right to and have held the title of *queen consort*, as Canada does not have laws or letters patent under the Great Seal of Canada laying out the styles of any royal family members besides the monarch, royal consorts are, as a courtesy, addressed in Canada using the style and title as they hold in the UK. After informal discussions among the various Commonwealth prime ministers between 1954 and 1957, it was decided that the Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Elizabeth II, would not be granted the title of *prince consort*.<sup>[47][48]</sup>

Since Confederation, two sovereigns have reigned over Canada without a consort: Victoria, whose husband, Albert, died before Confederation, and Edward VIII, who married Wallis Simpson after his abdication.

## See also

- Constitutional history of Canada
- History of monarchy in Canada
- History of Canada
- List of governors general of Canada
- List of current heads of state and government
- Timeline of Canadian history

## Notes

- The English Court of Appeal ruled in 1982, while "there is only one person who is the Sovereign within the British Commonwealth... in matters of law and government the Queen of the United Kingdom, for example, is entirely independent and distinct from the Queen of Canada."*<sup>[44]</sup>
- From 1763 to 1791 the colony of Canada was known as "Quebec" prior to returning to the name "Canada" (Upper and Lower) which were unified in 1841.*
- In 1867, the separate colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick joined to form the Dominion of Canada. Subsequently, each of the other colonies in British North America eventually joined the union as provinces. Other provinces were created by the Dominion from its territories. Over time, Canada gradually gained increasing independence from the United Kingdom due to continued evolution in constitutional practice. However, it remained under the British Crown until 1931, when the Canadian Crown is generally accepted as having been created due to the enactment of the Statute of Westminster. The Dominion of Newfoundland continued as a separate British colony under the British Crown until it joined Canada in 1949.*

**Canada portal**  
**British Empire portal**  
**North America portal**  
**History portal**  
**Royalty portal**

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## External links

- [Government of Canada: The Kings and Queens of Canada: The Crown in Canadian History](http://canadiancrown.gc.ca/eng/1396027502283) (<http://canadiancrown.gc.ca/eng/1396027502283>).

- [Senate of Canada: Canada, A Constitutional Monarchy](https://web.archive.org/web/20071119120916/http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/senate/Monarchy/senmonarchy_00-e.htm) ([https://web.archive.org/web/20071119120916/http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/senate/Monarchy/senmonarchy\\_00-e.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20071119120916/http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/senate/Monarchy/senmonarchy_00-e.htm)).

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