

December 8, 2025

Presiding Official, Citizenship Ceremony
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Office
325 Milner Ave. 2nd Floor
Scarborough, ON M1B 5N1

Dear Presiding Official and To Whom It May Concern,

I take this opportunity as my first act as a Canadian citizen to publicly disavow the portion of the Citizenship Oath swearing allegiance to the current British monarch and his heirs and successors. I fully affirm my commitment to the remainder of the oath: to faithfully observe the laws of Canada, including the Constitution, which recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, and to fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

I undertake this disavowal because I find the act of swearing allegiance to a foreign, unelected, religiously exclusionary, hereditary monarch and his progeny an unacceptable vestige of colonialism. Indeed, the very words “His Majesty” are antithetical to the values and ideals of democracy, inclusivity, and equality that form the bedrock of the Canada I am proud to join today as a citizen. On a personal note, some of my family first landed in Montreal in 1849 fleeing starvation brought about by colonial and religious oppression under the very same British monarchy.

I am proud, and I believe it is fitting, that my first act as a Canadian citizen is to engage in this protected act of free expression.¹

Sincerely,

Richard Pfohl
Toronto, December 8, 2025

¹ See *McAteer v. Canada*, 2014 ONCA at paras. 76, 79 (newly sworn citizens “have the opportunity to disavow what they characterize as the objectionable elements of the oath”).