

# Prayer for Canada

(Can be spoken or sung)

## English Version

O Canada, our home and native land,  
True patriot love, in all thy sons  
command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise  
The true north strong and free  
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand  
on guard for thee.  
God keep our land, glorious and free  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

Ruler supreme, who hearest humble  
prayer,  
Hold our Dominion, in thy loving care.  
Help us to find, O God, in thee,  
A lasting rich reward.  
As waiting for the better day,  
We ever stand on guard.  
God keep our land, glorious and free.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

## French Version

Ô Canada!  
Terre de nos aïeux,  
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!  
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter la croix!  
Ton histoire est une épopée  
Des plus brillants exploits.  
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,  
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits;  
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

## English Translation

O Canada!  
Land of our forefathers  
Thy brow is wreathed with a glorious  
garland of flowers.  
As in thy arm ready to wield the sword,  
So also is it ready to carry the cross.  
Thy history is an epic  
Of the most brilliant exploits.  
Thy valour steeped in faith  
Will protect our homes and our rights  
Will protect our homes and our rights.

### For your interest:

Our national anthem "O Canada" is one of the few national anthems that is actually a prayer. The tune was originally written by Calixa Lavallee, a French Canadian who lived from 1842 to 1891. Robert Stanley Weir wrote the four English verses in 1908 to the anthem. "O Canada" in both languages is a living testimony to the significant spiritual roots of our nation.

Truly we have been given so much as Canadians. Not only have we been given remarkable, natural resources, we have also been gifted with a wonderful spiritual heritage. In many ways, we, as a nation, are like Cinderella with amnesia. We've been chosen as a princess, and given many wonderful gifts, but we can't remember who we are. Some have described Canada as a nation without a soul. Etched in stone on our Peace Tower are three verses from the bible. Most significantly, one of the verses says: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea." That is why from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, tens of thousands of Canadians recently said this prayer in dozens of Marches for Jesus: "We choose this day, to declare with the founders of our nation, "He will have dominion from sea to sea. Jesus, have dominion from sea to sea."

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