

O sacred love of altar and of throne,  
 May thy immortal breath our spirits fire!  
 'Midst other races as we hold  
 Thy law whose sway we ever own,  
 May we as brethren all aspire,  
 With faith's control, while clear shall ring,  
 As from our sires in days of old,  
 The conquering cry, "For Christ and King,"  
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The words of the Canadian national song "O Canada / Terre de nos Aïeux" of which the above is a translation, were written in 1880 at Quebec by Hon. A. R. Routhier, now Sir Adolphe Routhier, music composed by Calixa Lavallée the eminent French Canadian musician then resident at the Ancient Capital. The idea of a national song was suggested by Mr. Ernest Gagnon who was in charge of the musical programme of the notable St. Jean Baptiste celebration held at Quebec in June 1880. The song was first sung on St. Jean Baptiste Day, June 24th, 1880, in the great hall of Laval University at Quebec, by a choir of 200 voices, accompanied by an orchestra directed by Mr. Ernest Gagnon himself. The song both on account of the spirit and patriotism of its words, and the inspiring strains of Lavallée's music at once met with favor. It spread throughout the whole Province of Quebec, and gained the greatest popularity, a popularity it has retained until to-day when it is generally recognized by French Canadians as the national song *par excellence*. A number of English translations of the song have been set to music, and of late years it has also gained considerable vogue throughout the Dominion.

Hon. A. R. Routhier whose name will forever be associated with the famous song of which he is the author is now Sir Adolphe Routhier, a knighthood having been conferred upon him. In this instance the bearer, eminent alike in the literary and judicial field confers distinction upon the title.

The above translation is intended simply to convey the sense of the original as a poem, and not of course for singing purposes.