

had a large French component and an increasingly multicultural character. In 1982, following the patriation of the constitution, Parliament changed the name of our national holiday to Canada Day.

Ironically, the charge of Britishness was unfair, since the political and geographic term “dominion” had not been coined by a Briton. Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, a Father of Confederation from New Brunswick, proposed calling Canada a dominion in 1866. Tilley was inspired by the 72nd Psalm: “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea.”

The phrase “from sea to sea”—*a mari usque ad mare*—was adopted as the national motto in the early 1900s. Like the other Fathers of Confederation, Tilley hoped to see the new nation extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The Canadian neologism “dominion” itself was also subsequently adopted by newly independent Commonwealth nations.

As in recent years, the largest festivities for this year’s Canada Day will be held in Ottawa. In addition to the speeches on Parliament Hill by the prime minister and the governor general, top-notch Canadian performers will entertain on Parliament Hill and at Major’s Hill Park, Confederation Park and Jacques Cartier Park. The Canadian Forces aeronautical team, the Snowbirds, as well as a separate group of CF-18s, will again thrill the crowds with their fantastic low-level flypasts. For the evening’s closing mainstage show on Parliament Hill, there will be a fireworks display visible from many points in Ottawa and across the Ottawa River.

A highlight for Royal Family enthusiasts will be the visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge—Prince William and his wife Catherine—on their first official foreign visit since their wedding.

From its beginnings as an event that few Canadians were even aware of, Canada Day has grown to become an annual celebration that draws the attention of millions of Canadians both at home and abroad. Indeed, we’ve come a long way since Viscount Monck’s modest initial appeal to Canadian nationalism in 1868.

Welcoming Our New Ministers

DFAIT welcomes two new ministers—John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway.



John Baird has served in several portfolios with domestic and international responsibilities. As Minister of the Environment and Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Mr. Baird represented Canada abroad while tending

to domestic issues as well. He has also served as Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and President of the Treasury Board, where he was responsible for implementing the Federal Accountability Act. Mr. Baird represents the Ontario riding of Ottawa West-Nepean. Before entering federal politics, Mr. Baird sat in the Ontario provincial legislature, and held several challenging provincial cabinet posts. As Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, he brings a unique energy and dynamism to the job. He says he very much looks forward to working with the respected professionals at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in advancing a principled foreign policy that supports Canada's values and interests.



Ed Fast has served as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights in the House of Commons and as a member of the standing committees on Canadian Heritage and on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. Since

2006, he has represented the B.C. riding of Abbotsford. Before coming to Ottawa, he served for many years on the Abbotsford city council and school board. He earned a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1982 and later founded the Abbotsford law firm currently known as Linley Welwood. Minister Fast says he is looking forward to working with the whole Trade team to strengthen Canada's international presence and improve its competitive position in the world. He and his wife, Annette, have lived in Abbotsford for over 29 years and have four daughters.