



The Queen arrives to military welcome in Ottawa. She was later greeted by Governor General Edward Schreyer and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived at Parliament Hill for the proclamation ceremony in an open horse-drawn landau under bright sunshine.

Mr. Trudeau opened the ceremonies and lauded the new Charter of Rights. "I speak of a country where every person is free to fulfil himself or herself to the utmost unhindered by the arbitrary actions of government," he said.

In addressing Quebec's decision not to participate in the ceremony Mr. Trudeau said "I know many Quebecers find themselves pulled in two directions by that decision. But one need look only at the results of the referendum in May 1980, to realize how strong is the attachment to Canada among the people of Quebec. By definition, the silent majority does not make a lot of noise. It is content to make history."

The proclamation itself was signed by the Queen and witnessed by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justice Minister Jean Chrétien and Consumer Affairs Minister André Ouellet in his role as registrar-general. It was then read in both English and French.

The Queen later addressed the crowd, praising Canadian leaders "for the good sense and tolerance in bringing about a successful conclusion". She lauded Quebec's cultural contribution despite her sorrow that the province refused to participate in the proclamation of the country's new Constitution.

"Although we regret the absence of the premier of Quebec, it is right to associate the people of Quebec with this celebration because without them, Canada

The Proclamation

The text of the proclamation signed by the Queen, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justice Minister Jean Chrétien and Registrar-General André Ouellet bringing into force Canada's new Constitution:

ELIZABETH THE SECOND

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To All To Whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may in anyway concern.

GREETING:

ELIZABETH R

(The Queen's signature)

A PROCLAMATION

Jean Chrétien

Attorney-General of Canada

WHEREAS in the past certain amendments to the Constitution of Canada have been made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom at the request and with the consent of Canada;

AND WHEREAS it is in accord with the status of Canada as an independent state that Canadians be able to amend their Constitution in Canada in all respects;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to provide in the Constitution of Canada for the recognition of certain fundamental rights and freedoms and to make other amendments to the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the Parliament of the United Kingdom has therefore, at the request and with the consent of Canada, enacted the Canada Act, which provides for the patriation and amendment of the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS Section 58 of the Constitution Act, 1982, set out in Schedule B to the Canada Act, provides that the Constitution Act, 1982, shall, subject to Section 59 thereof, come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation issued under the Great Seal of Canada:

NOW KNOW You that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, do by this Our Proclamation declare that the Constitution Act, 1982, shall, subject to Section 59 thereof, come into force on the Seventeenth day of April, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

OF ALL WHICH Our Loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

At Our City of Ottawa, this Seventeenth day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two and in the Thirty-first Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command

André Ouellet

Registrar-General of Canada

P.E. Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

would not be what it is today," she said in French.

Queen meets Canadians

By the time the Queen had ended her speech, rain which had begun to fall during the ceremony, had abated and she was able to walk leisurely to the East Block on Parliament Hill where she unveiled a plaque commemorating its recent

restoration. She spoke with many spectators along the route and received a number of floral bouquets.

Other events in the day's schedule for the Queen included inspecting a guard of honour, meeting numerous dignitaries, a luncheon with the Privy Council, a parliamentary reception, posing for portraits with provincial lieutenant governors and a state dinner.