

National Citizenship Ceremony

Supreme Court Building
Ottawa, January 3, - 1947

July
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Address by
Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Welcome to New Citizens

I speak as a citizen of Canada. On behalf of all Canadian citizens, I congratulate the new citizens, who have just received their certificates, on having become citizens of Canada. I welcome you into the full enjoyment of the rights of Canadian citizenship. Some of us who have received certificates tonight have enjoyed those rights all our lives; others only for a time. In homes throughout our land, thousands of our fellow-citizens have been listening with pride to tonight's ceremony. I know that all would wish to join in these words of greeting and of congratulation.

Citizenship is the highest honour a nation can confer upon an individual who has not been born into this heritage. Without citizenship much else is meaningless. There is no country in the world of which its citizens have greater reason to be proud than Canada. There are older countries, there are larger countries, but no country holds today a higher place in the esteem of other nations. To be a citizen of Canada is to hold a passport which will be honoured everywhere.