



## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

**In the name of her Majesty, the Queen, I welcome you to this private Citizenship Ceremony.**

**In a few minutes you will be sworn in as Canadian Citizens. You will swear or affirm your Oath to the Queen, which means you are swearing allegiance to Canada in her name and in her person.**

**This is a proud moment for both of you. It is a memory you and your families will always cherish. I would like to acknowledge our host for this ceremony...Service Canada.**

**A special thanks to Constable Angelic Pinard of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose presence here is a reminder that Canada is founded on the rule of law, There is a famous saying that “The RCMP always get their man”. We thank the RCMP and the other law agencies for keeping our communitites safe.**

## **Opening Remarks:**

**Candidates for Citizenship, I am happy you have chosen to become citizens of this wonderful country and it is a privilege for me to be officiating this ceremony today. You are following in the footsteps of generations of great Canadians before you.**

**Our first prime minister, Sir John A Macdonald, came here as an immigrant from Scotland with his family when he was five years old. They settled in Loyalist country beside Lake Ontario. He worked hard all his life and earned the everlasting gratitude of the Canadian People.**

**My personal story is one of great gratitude to Canada for all that my country has given me. When I participated in my first Citizenship Ceremony a couple of years ago, I tried to imagine or feel how the new citizens must be feeling. Being born a Canadian, perhaps like many others, take being a Canadian for granted. But yet I am just as proud of my nationality. I sincerely hope that you will be too.**

**Many of you have also travelled far and struggled to make a new home in Canada. Your decision meant adapting to a new culture and perhaps a new language.**

**Let me tell you a personal story about Cathy McGregor. Her example of citizenship is a great inspiration to us. I have known Cathy for almost 40 years. We are aging ourselves in saying this, Cathy. She came to Kugluktuk, Coppermine at the time as a fresh teacher. We became a team; I as her classroom assistant. She taught me a lot. I hope I taught her a lot. Perhaps I did, she's still here. The North became her home and her place of work. Never ever did it occur to me that she was not a Canadian citizen. I just assumed that those who came north to teacher were Canadians. I was so very shocked when the Citizenship Office asked me if I would consider swearing her as a Canadian. I was floored! So here we are...to make it official.**

**You are joining the Canadian story, one that you are now quite familiar with after studying Discover Canada and passing your citizenship test.**

**You have learned about Canadian symbols like the Crown, the flag, the coat of arms and our motto: "From sea to sea to sea".**

**Being Canadian means a lot more than simply having a piece of paper. It means sharing a common set of Canadian Values, having rights and responsibilities, such as being a full member of the**

**Canadian Family and the responsibility to obey Canada's laws.**

**As a Canadian citizen, you live in a democratic country where individual rights and freedoms are respected. Thousands of brave Canadians have fought and died for these rights and freedoms. The commitment to Canada of our men and women in uniform should never be forgotten or go un-recognized.**

**We thank them. We are very fortunate to have Captain Raymond Rioux with us here today who is one of my honorary Aide de Camps.**

**As a Canadian, you have the right to vote and to run as a candidate in municipal, provincial and federal elections. It is your responsibility to find out about the issues in each election, to make your choices and to cast your vote.**

**You are free to live and work in any province or territory. Take responsibility for yourself and your family. Get involved in your community by becoming a volunteer. As a 'young' Canadian think about this "What will my gift be for Canada on its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary?" These responsibilities we all share and must act upon.**

**Our history is now your history. Our laws your laws. Our identity**

**your identity. Our responsibility to be a good and faithful citizen,  
loyal to Canada, is now your responsibility.**

**The future of Canada, our freedom, our democracy, our peaceful  
society, equality under the law, our prosperity – the future of all these  
things now depends on you!**

**As the great Canadian soldier Poet. Dr. John McCrae wrote: “To you  
we throw the torch, Be yours to hold it high”!**

**THE CLERK OF THE CEREMONY ASKS CANDIDATES TO RISE AND  
GIVES INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE TAKING OF THE OATH.**

**The COMMISSIONER WILL ADMINISTER THE OATH. PLS REPEAT  
AFTER ME!!**

**OATH OF CITIZENSHIP:**

**I SWEAR (AFFIRM)**

**THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL**

**AND SWEAR ALLEGIANCE**

**TO HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND**

**QUEEN OF CANADA**

**HER HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS**

**AND THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY OBSERVE**

**THE LAWS OF CANADA**

**AND FULFIL MY DUTIES AS A CANADIAN CITIZEN**

**Congratulations you are now Canadian Citizens!!!**

**Presentation of Certificates:**

**Closing Remarks:**

**Very few of us share the same past, but as Canadians, all of us can share the same future. You have much to be proud of and if we work together, the boundaries of what we can accomplish are limitless.**

**Congratulations to all!!!**

**As we get ready to sing our national anthem together, take it to heart and stand on guard for Canada. This is now your national anthem so sing loud and proud.**

**Final Words:**

**I leave you with my warmest wishes for a long, peaceful and prosperous life in this chosen land....Canada!!**

**Welcome to the Canadian Family!**

**God Bless Canada and God Save the Queen:**

**Participants will be asked to stand for “God Save the Queen”**

**Exit:**

**The clerk will ask all to remain standing while the Commissioner and her guest exit the room.**

**The RCMP Office declares the ceremony closed!!**