

April 24, 2018

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Today, on the 11th anniversary of my Canadian citizenship, I, along with and for the same reasons already eloquently expressed by others before me (see <http://disavowal.ca/>), publicly recant the first portion of the Oath of Citizenship I took on April 24, 2007, which reads as follows: *“I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors.”*

I understand that, in the Supreme Court’s interpretation, allegiance to the monarch is largely symbolic and should be taken as a commitment to Canada’s form of government. However, in its current formulation, the oath generates ambiguity with this implicit claim, since the perceived image of the monarch as a representation of the state cannot exist in the absence of a physical representation of the monarch. No less problematic in this dualistic image is the inherent imposition of an unequal hierarchical power relation between the monarch and her/his subject(s), which departs from modern democratic government norms of equality, fairness and inclusiveness with which many new Canadians associate their adoptive country.

Let it be clear that I unequivocally and unreservedly adhere to and uphold the second part of the Oath which states that *“I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.”* Moreover, should the Canadian government again seriously consider revising the oath of citizenship to remove references to the monarch and her/his successors, I would unhesitatingly and enthusiastically formally reaffirm my commitment to citizenship in a public ceremony.

A model for a new oath could be the Australian Citizenship Pledge (see <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/citi/pathways-processes/citi/australian-citizenship-pledge>). Until 1994, the Australian oath of citizenship was nearly identical to the current Canadian oath, so it is possible to dissociate the image of the state embodied in the monarch from her/his relationship with the country’s citizenry. An even better, uniquely Canadian alternative model would be the 1994 proposed oath drafted at the behest of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (see the *“I am a citizen of Canada...”* version at [http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp445-e.htm#G.%20The%20Oath%20of%20Allegiance\(txt\)](http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp445-e.htm#G.%20The%20Oath%20of%20Allegiance(txt))).

Finally, let me express my continued commitment to Canada and to my responsibilities as a citizen of this great country of ours. In fact, I am committed on a daily basis to the values deriving from our shared Canadian citizenship. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Florin Salajan