

To:
The Presiding Citizenship Judge
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
200 Town Centre Court, Suite 300
Scarborough, ON M1P 4X8

March 9th, 2017

Dear Citizenship Judge,

In accordance with the advice of Weiler J.A., Lauwers J.A., and Pardu J.A., in their ruling made at the Court of Appeal for Ontario concerning the Citizenship Oath (McAteer vs. Canada, 2014 ONCA 578 paragraph 76) that

“the appellants have the opportunity to publicly disavow what they consider to be the message conveyed by the oath”¹

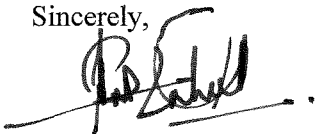
I hereby disavow what I consider to be conveyed by the section of the Citizenship Oath relating to the monarchy that I was by law obliged to take earlier today in order to become a Canadian Citizen.

My reasons for the disavowal are listed herewith:

- 1) The oath suggests that in order to become a citizen of Canada, I have to swear allegiance to people with privilege and who have earned and maintained that privilege by colonizing and exploiting nations all over the world. I should be treated with dignity and respect and not as a subject to a monarch.
- 2) The notion of affirming allegiance to a monarch under a democratic form of government is completely absurd. There is an inherent contradiction here whereby I am an equal citizen under a democratic government and yet I am being asked to bow to others on the basis of ancestry alone.
- 3) The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms begins with the words, “Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognise the supremacy of God and the rule of law.” This phrase underlines the importance of religious traditions to Canadian society and the dignity and worth of the human person. I therefore wish to exercise my rights of conscience, thought and belief as well as freedom of speech and expression to disavow the pledge of allegiance to the Queen.

I will continue to wholeheartedly respect the remainder of the oath, which read “...and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.”

Sincerely,



Syed Azfar Zaheer
UCI: 57582892 / Application: C000379816

CC: Honourable Justin Trudeau, M.P, Prime Minister; Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, M.P, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship; Honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, M.P, Minister of Justice and Attorney General

¹ <http://www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2014/2014ONCA0578.htm>