

Reaffirmation Ceremony Program Guide & Speaking Points

Resource and Venue Planning

- **Expected Number of Participants:** Determine how many people will participate in the reaffirmation ceremony in order to confirm how many seats, handouts, and published materials will be needed for attendees.
- **Ceremony Room Set-up:** If possible, position a large Canadian flag where everyone can see it. In addition, ensure that the person leading the oath of citizenship is in clear view of all the participants.

Words of Welcome

Minutes before the start of the ceremony, the Master of Ceremonies addresses everyone and offers words of welcome.

Words of Welcome - Speaking Points

In a few minutes we will reaffirm our Canadian citizenship. We will reaffirm the oath to the Queen, which means we are swearing allegiance to Canada in her name, and in her person.

Opening Remarks

Following words of welcome, opening remarks can be made by the Master of Ceremonies to give participants some background on the importance of Canadian citizenship. These remarks should emphasize the importance of active citizenship, the contributions each citizen can make to Canadian society, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Opening Remarks – Speaking Points

Being a 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.

Canadian citizenship is highly valued by people from around the world for many reasons. Many newcomers strive to become members of the Canadian family because they know that Canada is a tolerant, accepting and welcoming society that embraces diversity.

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 unrecognized. We thank them.

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

Take responsibility for yourself and your family. Get involved in your community by becoming a volunteer. These are responsibilities we all share and must act upon.

Oath of Citizenship

At this moment, members of the audience who are already citizens are invited to reaffirm their commitment to Canada by raising their right hand and taking the oath of citizenship. The Master of Ceremonies (presiding official if present) leads the audience through the oath of citizenship, line by line, and when possible, in both of Canada's official languages. The oath is given first in the official language of most applicants, then in the other official language.

Oath of Citizenship

I reaffirm
That I will be faithful
And bear true 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
Including the Constitution
Which recognizes and affirms
The Aboriginal and treaty rights of
First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples
And fulfil my duties
As a Canadian citizen.

In recognition that Canada is a bilingual country, let us repeat the French version of the oath of Citizenship together. This symbolic gesture exemplifies our commitment to respecting Canada's two official languages.

Je réaffirme solennellement
Que je serai fidèle
Et porterai sincère allégeance
À Sa Majesté
La reine Elizabeth Deux
Reine du Canada
À ses héritiers et successeurs
Que j'observerai fidèlement
Les lois du Canada
Y compris la Constitution
Qui reconnaît et confirme les droits
Ancestraux ou issus de traités
Des Premières Nations, des Inuits et des Métis
Et que je remplirai loyalement
Mes obligations
De citoyen canadien.

Congratulations, you have reaffirmed your Canadian citizenship!

Presentation of Reaffirmation Certificates

Some examples of ways reaffirmation certificates can be obtained by participants include, but are not limited to:

Formal Presentation:

- As the Master of Ceremonies calls out the names of each attendee, reaffirmation of citizenship certificates are handed to the ceremony presiding official (if present). Each attendee comes forward to receive the certificate from the Master of Ceremonies or the presiding official, who shakes the hand of each citizen. If special guests are taking part in the presentation, recipients shake each of their hands before returning to their seats.

Information Presentation:

- Attendees can be directed to the Citizenship and Immigration website, where they are able to download and print personalized reaffirmation of citizenship certificates.

Speeches (optional)

Following the presentation of the reaffirmation certificates, the Master of Ceremonies introduces each guest speaker and invites them to speak and, after their remarks, thanks them.

Closing Remarks

The Master of Ceremony's gives final remarks. He asks all to rise for the singing of the national anthem.

Closing Remarks - Speaking Points

We are so very fortunate to live in the best country in the world. Now let's sing our national anthem together, take it to heart and stand on guard for Canada. This is our national anthem so let's sing it loud and proud.

National Anthem

The Master of Ceremonies asks everyone to rise for the singing of the national anthem.

Reception (optional)

Receptions typically include cake and beverages for ceremony participants.