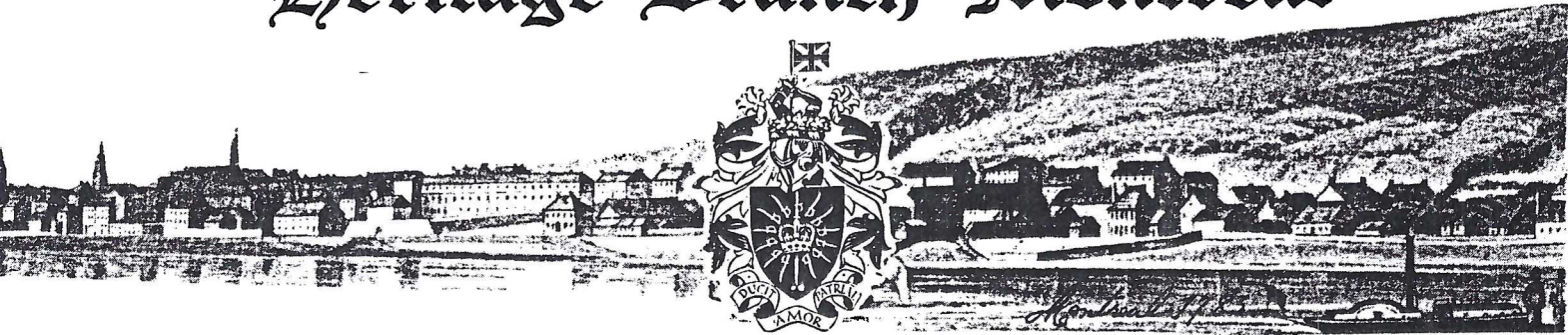


Heritage Branch - Montreal



The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

383 Clarke Avenue
Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2E7
August 9, 2023

Hon. Pascale St-Onge, M.P.
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Ottawa, Ontario.

Madam Minister,

I am Robert C. Wilkins, President of Heritage Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (the "UELAC"). I am also a member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the same organization, based in the Brome-Missisquoi riding where my family lived for over 50 years. Heritage Branch is the Montreal chapter of the UELAC, an organization founded by Act of Parliament in 1914, principally to gather together the descendants, and promote the heritage, of the United Empire Loyalists -- those eighteenth-century American colonists who remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). Thousands of Loyalists and the families suffered persecution at the hands of the revolutionaries and many served in the Loyalist regiments during the War. About 50,000 of them resettled in what is now Canada during and after that conflict. They and their descendants have made notable contributions to the development of all provinces and regions our country in the last 240 years. The UELAC is an active body with some twenty-eight branches across Canada, dedicated to commemorating the Loyalists and making their stories better known as an important part of our national story.

The Loyalist heritage included a profound adherence to the principle of parliamentary democracy of which the constitutional monarchy was and remains an essential and indispensable element. That tradition influenced the Fathers of Confederation, several of whom were themselves of Loyalist descent, to ensure that Canada in 1867 became a Dominion under the Crown. The "Maple Crown" was and remains a key element of Canadian democracy, valued by millions of our fellow-citizens, not just by those of Loyalist ancestry and other "old-time" Canadians, but also by many of our First Nations, as well as by most new Canadians who swear allegiance to our King on becoming citizens, and relish the peace, security and human rights they have found on our shores,

benefits greater than can be found in many republics and far more than in other (tyrannical) monarchies. Our Maple Crown symbolizes that happier dispensation and their hope for a better life. Our monarch, independent of politics, remains a symbol of unity in our ever more diverse society. He is the living symbol of an institution to be honoured, celebrated and preserved as a fundamental part of our national heritage and our connection with other lands that share a similar inheritance.

Unfortunately, Canada's monarchy no longer enjoys the same level of support that it once did. This sad fact was brought home to me recently, when my wife, Maura McKeon, telephoned the Department of Canadian Heritage to request a small supply of Canadian Coronation Emblem lapel pins, for distribution to the members of Heritage Branch, UELAC. That pin was designed by the Fraser Herald of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, in honour of the Coronation, on May 6 last, of our new monarch, His Majesty King Charles III. When she called the Department, she was told that those pins were no longer available, as only a small number had been produced and issued to a select group of individuals on or near Coronation Day last May; and that no more were planned to be produced for public distribution.

If that statement is correct, I frankly find it appalling. These pins should be readily available to individuals and groups who value our monarchy as a distinctive feature of our nationhood and a proud symbol of our historic ties to our British traditions of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as of our identity as a founding member of the Commonwealth and a respected member of the G7. At a time when our federal government is spending so much effort and money to promote diversity and inclusion, and to work towards reconciliation with our indigenous population, I cannot understand why a few thousand dollars could not be devoted to manufacturing more of these pins, honouring our Maple Crown and the patrimony of freedom, parliamentary government, and legal principles for which it stands, now as in the past.

My wife and I fear that this decision to produce no more Coronation lapel pins may reflect the pernicious influence of today's "cancel culture" -- a mindset and movement threatening to erode and eventually eliminate all respect for

our history, institutions, and traditions.

Accordingly, I respectfully request the Department of Canadian Heritage to reverse its decision regarding the Coronation Emblem lapel pins and to produce a substantial quantity of these items, to be distributed on request, and worn with pride by of our fellow-citizens, to manifest their allegiance to the Crown of Canada as a fundamental pillar of the very heritage that your ministry, Madam Minister, exists to protect and promote.

On the other hand, if what my wife was told is incorrect, and a supply of these pins are in fact still in storage somewhere in the National Capital Region, I would ask that a small number of them (35) be sent to me without delay, for distribution to Heritage Branch members. I guarantee that they will not be used for any commercial or inappropriate purpose.

I look forward to the favour of your reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Robert C. Wilkins, U.E.

President, Heritage Branch-Montreal, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

c.c. Hon. Anne Gainey, M.P. for Notre-Dame-de Grâce – Westmount
The Monarchist League of Canada
Canadian Heraldic Authority
Dominion President, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada