

God's Dominion from Sea to Sea  
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

*"He (God), shall have Dominion also from sea to sea,  
and from the river to the ends of the earth" (Psalm 72:8).*

"We are the people of Canada, drawn from the four winds of the earth,  
A privileged people, citizens of a sovereign state.

Trustees of a vast northern land, we celebrate its beauty and grandeur.  
Aboriginal peoples, Immigrants, French – speaking, English – speaking,  
Canadians all.

We honour our roots and value our diversity.

We affirm that our country is founded upon principles that  
acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity of each person,  
the importance of family, and the value of community.

We recognize that we remain free only when freedom is founded on respect  
for moral and spiritual values, and the rule of law in the service of justice.

We cherish this free and united country, its place within the family of nations,  
and accepting the responsibilities privileges bring, we pledge to strengthen  
this land as a home of peace, hope and good will." \*

\*(The proposed preamble to our Canadian Constitution.)

At this hundred 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let us unite our hearts in the following prayer:

Almighty God, the One we trust. By your guidance and favor our nation was born.  
We pray that you will bless our Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and all  
those in places of responsibility at this very important time in our history. Give  
them wisdom to make good laws and wise decisions.

We thank you for the many and varied blessings you have bestowed upon us  
throughout our glorious history. Our country is rich in both resources and people.  
Your guiding, protective hand has been over us through joys and sorrows, two  
world wars, the great depression and several threats to our national unity.

Forgive us for ignoring your will and save us from arrogance and apathy. May we  
have the humility to admit that many of our problems are far beyond our wisdom  
to solve.

"Judge of the nation's spare us yet, lest we forget!"

And now we pray that we may have the determination and courage to be  
peacemakers and ambassadors of reconciliation in a world torn by war and

conflict. Grant us the grace to live compassionately in bringing your love to the disrespected and hurting members of society, both at home and abroad. May our beloved land, once again, become "Your dominion from sea to sea." May we return to those principles of faith, hope and love that made this country great in the beginning. A nation contrite in heart, keenly sensitive to all the unsolved injustice and sins still in our midst. Remind us that what is wrong with our country is the sum total of all that is wrong with us as individuals. Our country can never be changed until we, her citizens, are changed, and may it begin in each heart.

Amen

*"God keep our land glorious and free. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!"*