

Dear God

Today, as we anticipate Canada Day, we would like to thank you for giving us this country as our home.

It is a beautiful land, rich in water and resources, fertile, easily able to support our population. And although we live in a land that is defined by winter, we're also situated in an area that is protected from most hurricanes and violent storms. Our population, comprised almost entirely of immigrants, is tolerant and polite, welcoming of other immigrants and accepting of religious freedoms.

Lord, our colonial governors brought with them English Common Law, honed over centuries, and added to their gifts to us, the ultimate goal of peace, order and good government. Subsequent generations gave us the Charter of Rights and Freedoms so that we are truly a blessed and protected people.

We appreciate all of these benefits that we enjoy. Today, we acknowledge them, returning to you our most sincere thanks.

Today, too, we wish to acknowledge the gifts imparted to us by the aboriginal peoples of this land, who came here first. In recent years we have seen their wisdom in the conservation of resources, in their appreciation of their mother, the earth, and have come to respect their heritage and beliefs. Lord, we can only apologize for the colonial intolerance of our forebears and their violent efforts of aboriginal assimilation. Please give us new understanding of the value of the aboriginal contribution to our society and respect for their heritage and traditions.

Today, God, we ask for your healing energy to the people of our community who are ill and ask for your ongoing support of their caregivers. We thank you for the universal health care that we have in this country so that no one, regardless of wealth or ethnicity needs to suffer ill health alone.

We also ask you to be generous to every society on this earth that they may

enjoy the peace and abundance that you so freely bestow on us. We ask this especially for Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Sudan.

As we go out of the door into this new week and to our own Canada Day Barbecue, give us the joy of celebration and a profound appreciation of each other's friendship.

Amen