

# EXPLORER

2014 ROYAL TOUR ♦ SPECIAL FEATURE ♦ MAY 19, 2014

## Official Welcome to Canada - Grand Parade

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On a cold and drizzly Victoria Day morning hundreds of enthusiastic well-wishers were on-hand at the Grand Parade in Halifax for the Official Welcome of The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to Canada. His Royal Highness was given full military honours complete with a 21-gun salute, "O Canada" by the Royal Canadian Air Force Band and a 100-person Guard of Honour.

Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by Governor-General David Johnston who mentioned, "This holiday is a reminder of the deep and enduring ties that exist between Canadians and the Royal Family." An aboriginal blessing was given by Shubenacadie First Nation Elder Doug Knockwood, and speeches were delivered by Peter MacKay, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia.



Wearing a Canadian maple leaf pin, His Royal Highness stepped to the podium and addressed Canadians in the first of 4 speeches planned for the 2014 Royal Tour. "We are always made to feel so much at home in Canada and are greatly touched by the warmth of your welcome."



Prince Charles and Camilla laid a wreath at the cenotaph to honour Canadian military service on the 100th anniversary of the Great War and 75th anniversary of World War II. Afterwards, they signed the Government of Canada Golden Book and Government of Nova Scotia Guest Book before a royal walkabout to shake hands and visit with members of the crowd. The genuine warmth, sincerity and friendliness of the Royal Couple were as noticeable as Camilla's stunning royal blue outfit trimmed in Nova Scotia tartan.

