

I have long felt that our current national anthem, O Canada, does not represent the Canadian reality adequately, primarily because the French version says something different from the English, but also because it fails to include any reference to essential features of the Canadian identity. I believe that a patriotic song is needed which reflects our vast geography, a vital formative element in our national character, as well as our multi-cultural, multi-racial composition. It should have essentially the same meaning in both official languages. Our American neighbours have at least three patriotic songs, I see no reason why we should not have more than one. Our song writers should be encouraged to provide an alternative national hymn for Canadians, especially now on our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Below, I offer my submission:

## **Aurora Canadensis**

**From Grand Banks waters to Haida Gwaii  
Where Pacific breakers roar,  
From Erie's shores to our Arctic Seas  
Beneath the midnight sun,  
Throughout this broad dominion  
A new day has begun:  
Aurora Canadensis, glorious northern dawn,  
Bold panoply of colours, majestic and serene  
Embracing different races, diverse creeds  
and dreams.**

**(May your light shine forever in this nation  
proud and free,  
On mountains capped with untracked snow  
and broad rolling prairie,  
On crystal lakes, clear rushing streams, rich  
golden fields of grain  
And families ruled by justice in true  
democracy,  
'Midst homesteads carved from wilderness  
by strong and caring hands)**

**Chorus of many cultures, voices from many  
lands,**

**Let us sing together in peaceful harmony  
To Canada our homeland, from sea to sea to  
sea,**

**With glowing hearts O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee.**

**O Canada, our own dear land we stand on  
guard for thee.**

I am less comfortable with the French version, but I believe that with some possible tinkering an acceptable translation may be created. The following is my attempt:

## **Aurore**

**Des Grands Bancs eaux jusqu'à Haida Gwai  
Les brisants du Pacifique,  
Des plages du Grand Lac Erie\*  
Jusqu'à nos mers arctiques  
Sous soleils de minuit,  
A travers cet grand dominion  
Commence un jour nouveau.  
Aurore Canadensis, aube glorieuse du nord,  
Brave panoplie coloriée, de majesté sereine  
Embrassant distincte races, diverse foies et  
rêves.**

**(Que vos rayons brillent à l'éternité  
Dans notre fier et libre pays,  
Sur crêtes coiffées par voiles de neiges, larges  
ondulantes prairies,  
Sur nos lacs clairs, coulantes rivières, riches  
champs de grain dorés,  
Et familles réglées par équité en vraie**

**democratie  
Et fermes taillées des lieux sauvages par  
mains fortes consacrées.)**

**Choeur de maintes cultures, accents de terres  
lointaines,  
Chantons-nous ensemble, en harmonie  
tranquille,  
A Canada, notre foyer, de mer à mer à mer,  
Coeurs rayonnants O canada, nous sommes  
en garde pour toi,  
O Canada notre pays cher, nous sommes en  
garde pour toi.**

**\*De Pointe Pelée a nos mers arctiques might  
go better with the French version and would  
be acceptable with the English verse.**

Note: Because the anthem is a bit too long for general use, the part included in brackets may be omitted.

[Aurora-lo-fi](#)

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