



Prime Minister Carney praised 'historic ties'



Meeting indigenous leaders



Touching down in Ottawa, Canada's capital city



Joining in with the puck drop



Camilla opted for a Canadian-themed brooch

Charles & Camilla HIT CANADA!

Huge crowds come out to celebrate the royal visit



Tree planting is a symbol of friendship

Following a year of health struggles, King Charles and Queen Camilla slipped firmly back into royal life – jetting off to Canada for a two-day visit. The trip was described by Canadian parliament as a 'reminder of the bond between Canada and the Crown.'

Charles, 76, and Camilla, 77, touched down in Ottawa to a huge fanfare last week, greeted by Prime Minister Mark Carney and other national indigenous leaders. Among the crowds of well-wishers were schoolchildren, who gifted the Queen a bouquet of flowers. Some of the children are enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh programme – a global youth development launched by Prince Philip, the King's late father, back in 1956.

Dressed head to toe in pink, Camilla paid tribute to Canada in the form of a sparkling maple leaf-shaped brooch, given by King George VI to the Queen Mother back in 1939. Passed down to the late Queen Elizabeth II, the brooch has since been loaned out to other royals, including the Princess of Wales.

Soaking up the Ottawa sunshine, the duo headed off to a nearby park, with the King taking part in a ceremonial street hockey puck drop. Working up an appetite, the royal couple were then invited to sample the local wares – including a Canadian classic of maple syrup treats.

Charles and Camilla later took part in a poignant ceremony at Rideau Hall, planting a Blue Beech

tree, native to North America. Symbolising friendship and co-operation, it's the fifth tree planted by nature-loving Charles – who is still undergoing treatment for an undisclosed cancer – in Canada.

On Tuesday, the King went on to deliver the Speech from the Throne to Parliament. It was a momentous occasion, marking the first time in 50 years that a monarch has delivered the speech. In it, he said that 'Canada was ready to lead' and received huge applause from the assembled members of Parliament. Their visit comes amid uncertainty for Canada, following US president Donald Trump's comments that the country is 'meant to be' the 51st state of the US. The message of the King and Queen's whistle-stop meeting was

diplomatic and clear, a show of support for Canada's sovereignty. A source told the BBC, 'The King has long experience and great skill in walking that diplomatic tightrope. He's held in high regard around the globe and across the political spectrum, with good relations with world leaders, who understand his unique position.'

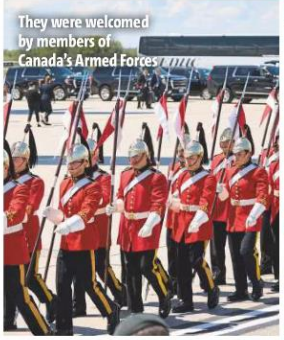
According to Buckingham Palace, the royal couple hope their two-day visit to the Commonwealth nation will be 'impactful' – and indeed, the impact was felt by locals. One individual told the BBC, 'Canada feels threatened and scared,' as another added, 'It means a great deal to have the King standing side by side with Canadians.'



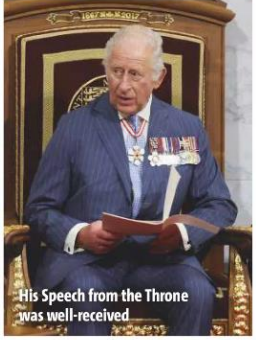
The King delivered a historic speech while in the city



The pair sampled local delicacies...



They were welcomed by members of Canada's Armed Forces



His Speech from the Throne was well-received

By Lottie Roberts. Pictures: Alamy, Getty, Shutterstock