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The QUEEN has been pleased to Issue Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Realm in the form following:

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to all Archbishops, Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, Bishops, Barons, Baronets, Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our faithful Subjects whatsoever to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

Whereas it is Our intention to be absent from Our United Kingdom for the purpose of visiting Canada:

And Whereas by the enactments known as the Regency Acts, 1937 to 1953, it is (amongst other things) enacted that in the event of Our absence or intended absence from Our United Kingdom We may, in order to prevent delay or difficulty in the despatch of public business, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal delegate for the period of that absence to Counsellors of State such of Our Royal functions (except the power to dissolve Parliament otherwise than on Our express instructions and the power to grant any rank, title or dignity of the peerage) as may be specified in the Letters Patent:

And Whereas the persons described by the said enactments as the Counsellors of State to be named in such Letters Patent are as follows, that is to say:

Our most dearly beloved Husband and most faithful Counsellor Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh;

Our most dearly beloved Mother Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother;

Our most dearly beloved Son Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter;

Our most dear and entirely beloved Sister Princess Margaret Rose, Countess of Snowdon, Lady of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India, Dame Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order;

Our most dear and entirely beloved Uncle and most faithful Counsellor Prince Henry William Frederick Albert,

Duke of Gloucester, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight of Our Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Great Master and Principal Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order; and

Our most dear and entirely beloved Cousin Prince William Henry Andrew Frederick of Gloucester;

subject however to provisions enabling Us by the Letters Patent to except from among the number of those Counsellors any person who is absent from Our United Kingdom or intends to be so absent during the period of Our absence:

And Whereas Our Husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, intends to accompany Us during Our absence from Our United Kingdom:

And Whereas at the date hereof Prince William of Gloucester is absent from Our United Kingdom:

Know Ye that by virtue of the said enactments We do hereby delegate for the period of Our absence to the said Counsellors of State (excepting during their absence from Our United Kingdom those who are absent as hereinbefore recited) the Royal functions specified in the First Schedule annexed hereto, to be exercised jointly by not less than two of their number, subject to the following exceptions and conditions, namely—

That they the said Counsellors of State shall not have power to dissolve Parliament otherwise than on Our express instructions, or to grant any rank, title or dignity of the peerage;

That they shall not receive any homage required to be done to Ourselves;

That they shall not approve or sign any warrant, fiat, submission or other document for which Our approval or signature is required for or in connection with any of the matters described in the Second Schedule annexed hereto; and

That if We signify, or it appears to them, that they should not act in any matter or for any purpose without Our previous special approval, they shall not act in that matter or for that purpose without that approval.