

This poem of thanks to Canada and Canadians was written by Mrs. Annie Westerhof, the organist with The Salvation Army Toronto Temple Corps, in 1970 when the Dutch were celebrating 25 years of liberation. With the minor change to the first verse it still holds true the sentiment of love and gratitude felt by the Dutch towards Canadians for their part in liberating Holland in 1945. - Brenda van Vliet

O Canada, we can't forget  
The bitter tears that you have shed  
You fought for us so willingly  
To set our little Holland free  
Some came by boat, others by plane  
So many never returned again  
We saw them coming one by one  
A Father, Brother or a Son  
No one could ever put in writing  
The strength of these Canadians fighting  
Fifty years we have been free  
Thank you Canada for Liberty.

O Canada, you know their name  
Of Canadian men who never complain  
They saw us through in forty-five  
Returning home being scarred for life  
They followed orders to the end  
Saved the Dutch and spared their land  
To them all Honour and all Glory  
They are the heroes of our Liberation story  
Canadian love, so great and deep  
The Dutch still treasure and always keep  
Canadian men, the greatest in our history  
Thank you Canada for Liberty.

O Canada, after the war  
You opened wide your country's door  
With love you sent an invitation  
Come see us through immigration  
And when the Dutch put their feet ashore  
You were waiting and caring once more  
The days went by and love grew strong  
For we had learned to speak your tongue  
To live with those we've loved so much  
A dream came true for many Dutch  
And we still like to say in a humble way  
Thank you Canada for Liberation Day.

O Canada, you'll understand  
The Dutch-Canadians of your land  
Now we have come to live and stay  
All Dutch-Canadians will pray lord bless,  
protect us furthermore From another terrible war  
So many died and could not see  
Our glorious day of Liberty  
If ever danger threatens this land  
May Dutch sons be the first on hand  
Through love we have become one nation  
Thank you Canada for liberation.

O Canada, we can't repay  
The cost of Dutch Liberation day  
You came and saw our crying land  
And wiped our tears with your own hand  
You fought courageously side by side  
'Twas for the Dutch your loved ones died  
So many crosses left behind  
Are always in our hearts and minds  
Without these crosses we'd have been lost  
Still Dutch-Canadians count the cost  
To all the families of this nation  
Thank you Canada for Liberation.

O Canada, Dutch Liberation  
Brought great mourning to your nation  
Amongst our flowers your dears ones sleep  
And the Dutch will always weep  
For all the riches of this earth can't pay  
The cost of our Liberation day  
Canadian hearts, so filled with sorrow  
Cared for the windmill land's tomorrow  
With love were planes sent into the air  
Dropping food and clothing everywhere  
And from the heart, Dutch-Canadians say  
Thank you Canada for Liberation Day.

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