

Canada's  
**History**  
FOR KIDS

SPECIAL DIGITAL EDITION

Canada's History Magazine for Kids

# KAYAK

96496

## SYMBOLS IN CANADA



**FIRE ON  
THE HILL!**



**INDIGENOUS  
STORIES**

# ADD TO YOUR **KAYAK** COLLECTION WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

\$5.00 EACH (PLUS TAX & SHIPPING) - FRENCH EDITIONS ALSO AVAILABLE



Dec 2020



Sep 2020



Apr 2020



Feb 2020



Dec 2019



Sep 2019



Apr 2019



Feb 2019



Sep 2018

**ORDER NOW!**

 **1-888-816-0997** or [CanadasHistory.ca/KayakBI](https://CanadasHistory.ca/KayakBI)

# CONTENTS

**First and Forever** 6  
Indigenous symbols that live on

**The Maple Leaf** 10  
The story of Canada's flag

## COVER STORY

**How Canadian is THAT?!** 16  
The official symbols of our country

**La Belle Province** 22  
Quebec's distinctive emblems

**We Stand on Guard** 28  
All about our anthem

**Flying with Pride** 32  
Flags of the provinces and territories

**Fire on the Hill!** 36  
Bravery and sorrow in Ottawa

**95** Psst! These symbols spell "Kayak" in Inuktitut.



Cover illustration: Renie Geoffroi

## THERE'S MORE!

- 4 UpFront
- 24 History Mystery
- 26 YourStory
- 42 Games
- 44 Answers

## FROM-THE-EDITOR



Everybody knows that a red maple leaf on a white background means Canada. Our flag is one of the easiest to recognize in the entire world.

Some of our national symbols are almost as obvious as our maple leaf flag – things like the Parliament buildings in Ottawa

or our anthem, "O Canada!" But we also have a national animal, a national sport (actually, two of them!) and much more. Quebec has its own proud emblems too. And of course First Nations, Métis and Inuit still use symbols that have existed since long before Canada was a country. You'll learn about them all in this special digital issue.

*nancy*

## SPONSORS

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada



# Emblems Old & New



**The Parliament Buildings in Ottawa are an unofficial symbol of Canada.**



Two provinces have official fruits: Nova Scotia (blueberry) and Saskatchewan (Saskatoon berry)



**Canada does not have a national flower.**

**140 metres long** and **70 metres high** Size of the biggest Canadian flag ever made.

Zen Zhong Li, who moved here from China, created it as a gift for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.



CANADA'S FIRST STAMP IS KNOWN AS THE THREE-PENCE OR THREE-PENNY BEAVER. OH, AND IT DID NOT LOOK LIKE THIS ONE.





How do you organize the flags of the provinces and territories if you want to fly them all? Starting at the left when you face the display, put them in the order that they became part of Canada.

**100** Number of years you'd have to wait if you wanted a flag that's been flown on Parliament Hill



Finalists in a 2015-16 *Canadian Geographic* contest to choose a national bird: **snowy owl, Canada goose, black-capped chickadee, loon.** Winner: **gray jay** (but the government hasn't adopted it)

Nunavut is the only province or territory that doesn't have an official tree.



**Things you should never do to a flag: step on it, throw it in the garbage, sit on it, pin anything to it, let it touch the ground.**

# FIRST AND FOREVER



## MÉTIS INFINITY SYMBOL

**A**n infinity symbol prominently appears in the middle of a blue or red field in the Métis flag. The infinity symbol is a “lazy” horizontal figure eight. The symbol represents the formation of a new and distinct Indigenous People, the Métis. Alexander Greenfield Macdonell (a partner of the fur-trading North West Company) called the Métis a “new nation.” He gave the first Métis flag with the infinity symbol on it to the great Métis leader Cuthbert Grant in 1815.

The infinity symbol on the flag was the ideal choice for the Métis. One loop of the symbol represents their descent from Indigenous Peoples, while the other loop represents their descent from Europeans. These two loops are joined together in the center of the Métis flag. They symbolize the union forever of the offspring of these two great cultures into the unique Métis Peoples, with their own fascinating history, heritage and culture.

*-By George and Terry Goulet, active members of the Métis Nation who advocate for the Métis through their work as writers, researchers, historians and speakers. They live in Sechelt, British Columbia.*



George and Terry Goulet, Métis Nation of Alberta



# MI'KMAW EIGHT-POINTED STAR

The Mi'kmaq Eight-Pointed Star is an adaptation of the original seven-pointed star, a historical emblem representing the seven districts of Mi'kma'ki, the homeland of the Mi'kmaq. The eighth point was added to represent the British Crown after the Covenant Chain of Treaties were made between the Mi'kmaq and Britain during

the 1700s. In its traditional form, this symbol has been used for centuries, and today many Mi'kmaq organizations continue to use it in a more modern way, often seen in logo designs.

*-By Gerald Gloade, a Mi'kmaq artist and cultural educator from Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia.*

Gerald Gloade, Melissa Peter Paul





## INUIT KAJAK (KAYAK)

**A** *Kajak* was made for a person to travel through water under their own power using a double-bladed paddle. (In other parts of the Far North the word we know as *kayak* would be spelled *qajaq*.) Inuit made *Kajait* (kayaks) for countless generations. This travel brought an Inuk to hunt in the oceans and even lakes for essential foods for survival. Before building, the materials must be collected. The Inuit *Kajak* is made of wood, sometimes with bone parts. The wood rings strain to take shape, each often wanting to take its own path. The wooden sections are precisely cut to fit onto or into each other and then bound securely to one another, almost like a human frame. The *Kajak* has many wooden parts that must all be bent and curved the right way. Too much pressure and they will snap. Too little and they will not fit properly. The cover was often sealskin though other animals like caribou can be used. Today, some Inuit — mainly in Greenland — still make *Kajait*. The *Kajak*'s engineered, efficient shape explains its worldwide popularity today. Inuit were known to travel up to 100 kilometres a day by *Kajak* and at times even farther. These distances travelled by *Kajak* are no longer common, but some Inuit can still do them. Often it was much closer distances to camp for hunting. They hunted animals such as seals, caribou, sea birds, walrus, small whales and bears, as well as fishing and collecting eggs. For me the *Kajak* is a symbol about equalization and freedom. For Inuit it was an important tool that symbolized food and water transportation.

-By Noah Nochasak, who is originally from Nain and lives in Nain, Nunatsiavut. He has *Kajakkut* (travelled by *Kajak*) since 2010.

Library and Archives Canada, Noah Nochasak





## CREE BEADED HOODS

**B**eads are a sign of prosperity. In place of European money during the fur trade, beads and sewing materials became trade items. Indigenous society placed a lot of value on beads; they were things we could touch and were tied to our identities as physical and spiritual beings. You could distinguish a lot about a person's cultural identity, status and role in society through beadwork. Beaded hoods demonstrate this relationship with beads and how this ties into our cultural values. The hood had a tassel at the top with three panels that would cover the wearer's hair. The design, which emphasized symmetry and details, reflected Cree understanding of the universe: earth, sky and water. Married women wore beaded hoods during ceremonies and significant events.

*-By Leticia Spence, a graphic designer and illustrator from Pimicikamak Cree Nation and Opaskwayak Cree Nation, who lives in Treaty 1 territory (Winnipeg).*

Public Domain, Leticia Spence



# THE MAPLE LEAF

By Ann-Maureen Owens

It's been more than 150 years since Canada became a country. But it took us almost a century to come up with our own flag.



## UNIQUELY CANADIAN

Canada's is the only national flag with a maple leaf on it, so is easily recognized around the world. Maple trees grow across the country. Groups in both Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) considered the maple leaf a symbol of Canada even before Confederation. It has appeared on gear worn by Canadian Olympic teams since 1904, and on Canadian soldiers' uniforms and gravestones.

Alamy/Stockphoto





# FROM OUR PAST

Before Canada was a country, the flags of many nations flew here. England's St George's Cross was raised on the shores of Newfoundland in 1497. In Quebec, France's fleur-de-lis (right) appeared in 1534. Spain's Royal Arms temporarily claimed British Columbia's Nootka Sound in 1789. Even America's stars and stripes flew over some 17th century trading forts in what is now Alberta.

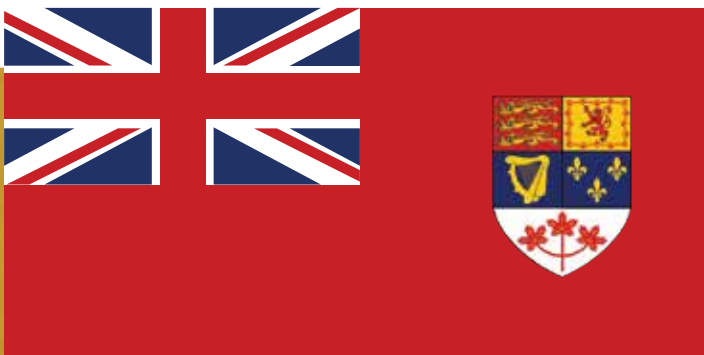


After 1763, the Royal Union flag, symbolizing the union of England and Scotland, flew over all British colonies in North America. It is sometimes called "the Loyalists' flag" because, after the American Revolution in 1776, it was the one carried north to Canada by colonists who wanted to remain loyal to Britain. A red diagonal representing Ireland was added in 1801.



At the time of Canada's confederation in 1867, the flag that flew across the country was what we now know as the Union Flag. (It's often called the Union Jack, although that term should really only be used when the flag is flying on a ship.)

In 1921, Canada's new coat of arms was added to the Red Ensign, a flag already used on Canadian ships and on many government buildings. The Canadian air force and army began to use it near the end of the Second World War. After the war ended in 1945, the federal government approved the flying of the Red Ensign on all government buildings until Canada had its own flag.



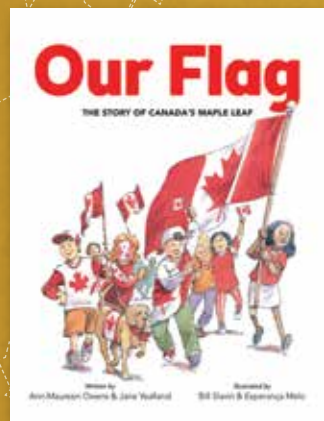


Joan O'Malley sewed the first ever Maple Leaf flag.

## A SECRET AND A MYSTERY

Before the flag was officially chosen, 20-year-old Joan O'Malley, the daughter of a government employee, was asked to sew samples for the prime minister to see. There are no official records of that night and Joan remembers swearing not to talk about it — a promise she kept for many years. When the secret was revealed, Joan was invited to speak to schoolchildren about her adventure. She was also the Governor General's guest at a lunch with Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

Those sample flags should be in a museum somewhere, but they have mysteriously disappeared. So has the first national flag of Canada, which was officially flown for the first time on Parliament Hill on Feb. 15, 1965.



**T**here's lots more about our flag, plus crafts, flag codes, information on Canada's provincial and territorial flags and more in *Our Flag* by Ann-Maureen Owens and Jane Yealland.





George Stanley



John Matheson

## FLAG PEOPLE

Three Canadians were responsible for our flag's great design. George Stanley, a professor at Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., proposed the use of a single red leaf on a white background with red borders because it could be seen clearly from a distance. Once it was chosen, John Matheson, a member of the flag committee who had a passion for flags and symbols, worked with experts to perfect the design. Jacques St. Cyr developed the eleven-point leaf that looks like a simplified but real maple leaf.



## THUMBS DOWN

Although there were some wacky suggestions, most of the proposed designs for a Canadian flag used a lot of the same colours and symbols. The bottom left flag is notable because it has white arrow shapes across the middle representing Indigenous people, whose contributions to Canada were mostly ignored by designers. The bottom right flag with the blue borders and red maple leaves was the Prime Minister's favourite, nicknamed the Pearson pennant.





## THE GREAT FLAG DEBATE

There was a strong feeling among many Canadians that the country should have a flag of its own, especially as Canada's 100th birthday approached. Maybe because of his time representing our country at the United Nations, Prime Minister Lester Pearson was especially passionate about the idea. On June 15, 1964, he introduced a bill in Parliament to give Canada a flag. His choice — which quickly became known as the Pearson pennant — had three red maple leaves on a white background with blue side borders. Debate about the flag dragged on for three months, so Parliament set up a committee with members from all political parties to choose a design. As well as getting advice from flag experts, the committee asked Canadians for their suggestions. Thousands of people, from young children to famous artists like A.Y. Jackson, sent in their ideas, which included beavers, Mounties and even hockey sticks. The committee created three groups: versions of the Red Ensign, flags with a single maple leaf and ones with several maple leaves. They chose one from each group and held a secret vote. Every single person chose the red and white maple leaf design! It took another 15 days for members of Parliament to agree. Like most French-speaking MPs, Prime Minister Pearson wanted a distinctly Canadian flag, but John Diefenbaker, leader of the opposition, fought hard to keep the Red Ensign that showed Canada's historic link with Britain. Very early on December 15, 1964, Parliament voted 163 to 78 in favour of the maple leaf design. Canada had its flag! Approval by the Senate and Queen Elizabeth II made it official. The maple leaf flag flew from Canadian flagpoles for the first time on February 15, 1965.



# HOW CANADIAN IS THAT?!

When people think of our country, these are some of the things they picture. (You can read about other official symbols in the rest of the magazine.) We asked some young people which ones they liked best, and what symbol they would add if they could. What do you think?

## CANUCK COLOURS

In wars going back more than 1,000 years, the French used red crosses on their clothes, while the English carried a white cross. In 1921 when Canada's coat of arms was approved, red and white became our two official colours to honour the two European countries.



“When I think of Canada I think of hockey because it is a well-known sport in Canada. I also think of it because I like the sport and I play it.”

—*Rihanna, 13, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alta.*

“If there was one national symbol I would add, it is the First Nations bear. I believe in the current days where we struggle to push for First Nations' rights, this would make a great symbol. This symbol shows the strength and personalities of Canadian people, and adds a diverse piece of culture.” —*Shuyou, 12, Vancouver, B.C.*



istockphoto, Flickr Commons



# TREE-MENDOUS

Of course the maple is our national tree, right? Yes, but it may surprise you to learn that it didn't become official until 1996!



# BUSY AS A...



Europeans who explored west and north throughout Canada weren't doing it for fun. They were looking for beavers, whose pelts were snapped up for fashionable fur hats in Europe in the 1600s and early 1700s. The beaver became an official symbol of our country in 1975.

"I think I would add a symbol to represent the people of colour living in Canada. As a person of colour, I believe that since Canada is known as such a diverse country, we should add some sort of symbol to represent what people of colour have contributed to Canada and to acknowledge what they have gone through." –Tahrema, 15, Toronto, Ont.



Ronald Marino rides his Canadian horse in a 2019 parade.



# GIDDY-UP!

Once you know we have a national horse, its name won't surprise you: the Canadian. This breed goes back to the horses the King of France sent from the royal stables to his colonies in New France in 1665. The Canadian horse is strong, tough and good-natured. Parliament declared it our national horse in 2002.

## Glad to be Plaid

In 2011, the lovely Maple Leaf tartan became an official emblem of Canada. Its colours are based on the changing hues of a maple leaf throughout the year. It was designed in 1964 to be ready for the 100th anniversary of Confederation, in 1967.



Ronald Marino, Flickr Commons; Justin Bailey

“If I were to add a symbol it would be a coat of arms showing Canada's diversity. It would have trees, mountains and plains. It would also have cities and factories. But most importantly, it would have people, animals and rivers. It would represent peace because everything would be in perfect harmony.” —*Oliver, 11, Calgary, Alta.*





# A GREAT HONOUR

The Order of Canada was set up in 1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. It has three levels — member, officer and companion. It is given to artists, political leaders, volunteers and many others who have done great things here and abroad. Recipients include Jean Béliveau, Roberta Bondar, Céline Dion and Terry Fox.



“When I think of Canada I think of the moose. I hunt with my dad and my four uncles and we use the hide to make drums. We use the drums for ceremonies. The women in my house cut up the meat.”  
— *Quinton, 13, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alta.*



“I believe poutine should be a provincial symbol because this dish is a classic of Quebec cuisine. We're pretty much the only ones who know how to make really great poutine! Fries, *squik-squik* cheese and brown gravy.”  
— *Élyanne, 15, Rimouski, Que.*

“I think of the pure white snow that comes in the winter that you can sleigh down hills on or make snowmen with. Sometimes the snow turns into slush and it's annoying at times.”  
— *Jordan, 13, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alta.*



“I personally would add a three-headed maple leaf, representing the three pillars of Canadian identity, unity through nationality and democracy, justice for all in the courts, and free and fair thought.” — *Aarav, 11, Calgary, Alta.*





## TWO FOR ONE

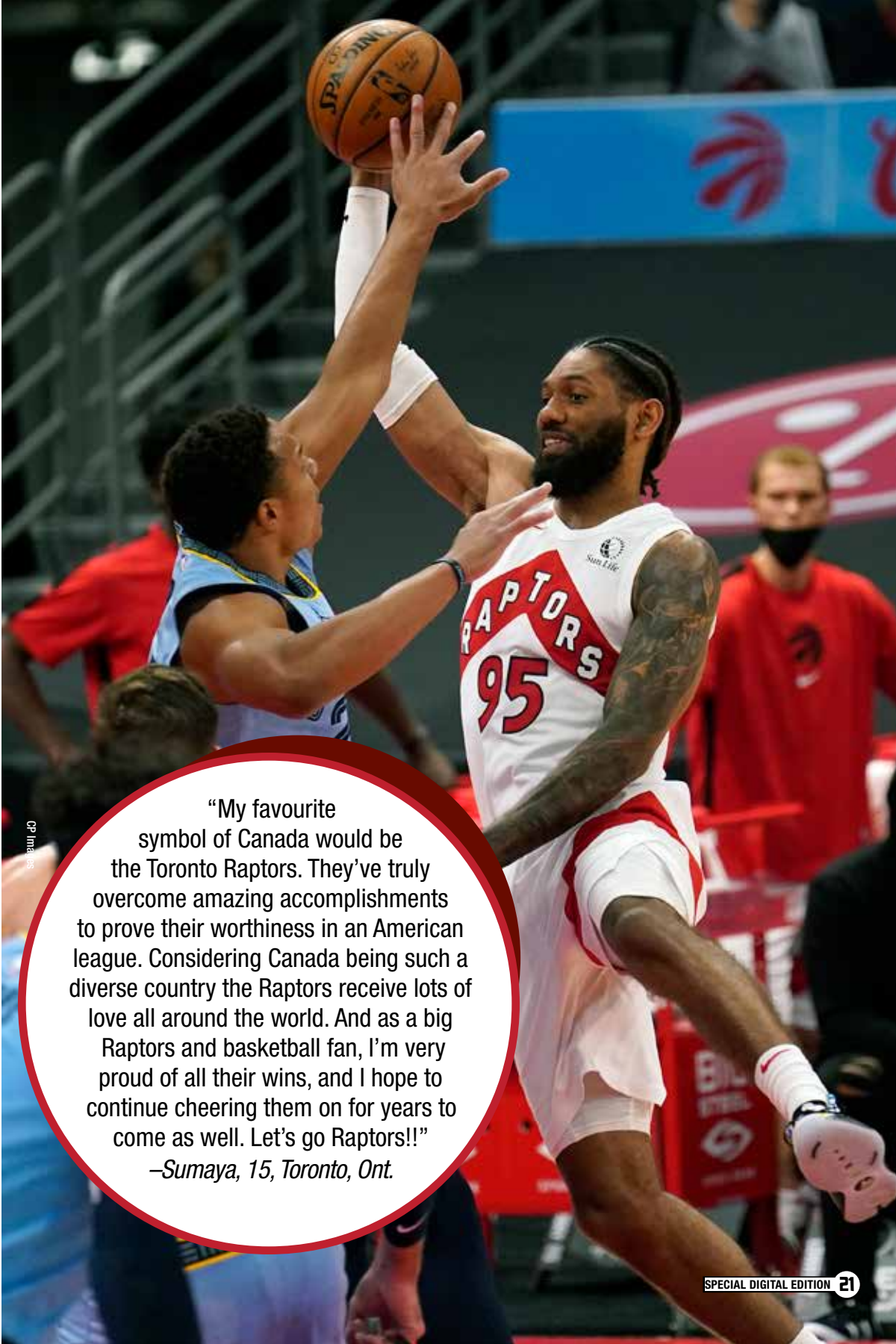
For a long time Canada didn't have a national sport. Many people insisted we did, and that it was lacrosse. That's a game that has been played by Indigenous people, particularly the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) for thousands of years under other names. Games took place on fields that could be a kilometre long and involve hundreds of players. They taught it to settlers, who picked it up, especially in Ontario and Quebec. The first lacrosse club formed in Montreal in 1856. A man there set rules for the modern game and said the government had named it our national sport, although there's no record of that. Members of

parliament tried to have hockey declared Canada's national sport in 1964 and again in 1965, which infuriated lacrosse supporters. Finally, in 1994, Parliament passed the *National Sports of Canada Act*. It was two sentences long.

The important part was the second sentence: "The game commonly known as ice hockey is hereby recognized and declared to be the national winter sport of Canada and the game commonly known as lacrosse is hereby recognized and declared to be the national summer sport of Canada." So there you have it — two national sports!







CP Images

“My favourite symbol of Canada would be the Toronto Raptors. They’ve truly overcome amazing accomplishments to prove their worthiness in an American league. Considering Canada being such a diverse country the Raptors receive lots of love all around the world. And as a big Raptors and basketball fan, I’m very proud of all their wins, and I hope to continue cheering them on for years to come as well. Let’s go Raptors!!”

–Sumaya, 15, Toronto, Ont.

# La Belle Province

By Pierre-Alexandre Bonin, Communication-Jeunesse

Quebec has a unique history. So naturally it has its own unique symbols.



My favourite symbol is the fleur-de-lis, because it reminds me how much the people of Quebec remain proud and attached to their roots ever since the Conquest (by the British). It reminds me of our French origins.” —Nathan, 15, Rimouski, Que.

## The national motto

The licence plates in Quebec say “Je me souviens,” which means “I remember.” This is the national motto of Quebec, and has been used since the end of the 19th century. Eugène-Étienne Taché, the architect of the Hôtel du Parlement (provincial government buildings) in Quebec City, had these three words engraved in stone above the main door. From 1963 to 1977, Quebec licence plates had a different motto: “La belle province,” which translates as “The beautiful province.” However, this saying was never as common in Quebec as in English Canada and France, so in 1978, the national motto “Je me souviens” returned. This expression is very important in Quebec. It refers to the difficulties that French-speaking people have gone through in their history.





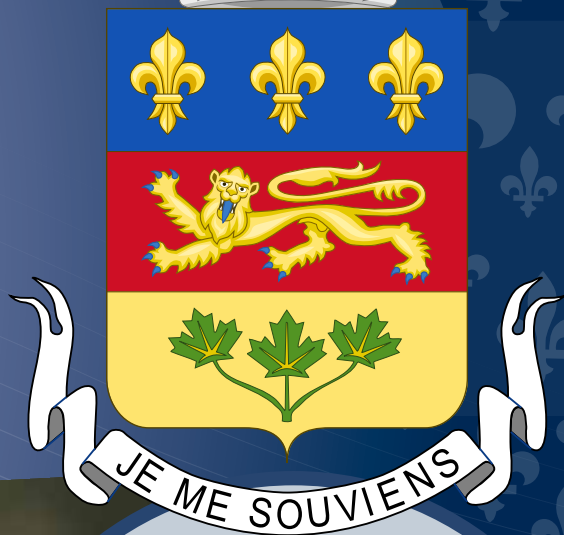
## Provincial or national?

But wait ... why are we talking about **national** emblems and symbols in Quebec rather than **provincial** ones as we do in other parts of Canada? It's because Quebec is considered a distinct nation — the only fully French-speaking province within Canada. This is why, for instance, what would be called provincial parks elsewhere are called national parks and run by the Quebec government. (Just to keep things interesting, in Quebec there are also national parks and historic sites run by Parks Canada, part of the federal government!) There is also the National Assembly (the government of Quebec) and the Fête nationale du Québec (National Holiday) celebrated on June 24, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day.



## The coat of arms

Quebec's official coat of arms was adopted in 1939. It represents the historical realities of Quebec. Three golden fleurs-de-lis on a blue background reflect its beginnings as a French colony. The golden lion on a red background reminds us of the British regime. And the branch with a triple maple leaf refers to the time before Canada became a country at Confederation. At the bottom is Quebec's national motto. The crown on top represents Great Britain.



## Symbolic plants and animals

The official tree of Quebec is the yellow birch, which underlines the importance of forests to the province. The northern blue flag iris is Quebec's signature flower, reminding us that water and wetlands are vital. The snowy owl is the national bird of Quebec. It highlights our wildlife and also symbolizes the whiteness of our winters, our northern climate and our very large territory.



# CANADA'S COAT OF ARMS

Can you tell which are the real, original parts and which we made up?







## MOTTO

“A mari usque ad mare” is Latin. It came from the Bible and means “From sea to sea.”



## LION

It represents England; it holds the Union Flag of Great Britain.



## CROWN

This shows that Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's head of state.



## MOOSE

It represents Canada's wilderness; it holds a flag featuring the fleurs-de-lis of France.



## WOLVERINE

This fierce animal symbolizes the importance of the fur trade.



## HELMET

Surrounded by Canada's colours, red and white, this helmet is a symbol of royalty.



## SHIELD

It depicts an inuksuk to represent the Far North, three royal fleurs-de-lis (France), the red royal lion on yellow (Scotland), the royal harp (Ireland) and three maple leaves for Canada.



## FLOWERS

The floral symbols at the bottom stand for England (rose), Scotland (thistle), shamrock (Ireland) and fleur-de-lis (France).

Answer on p. 34

**O**ur coat of arms became official in 1921. It's a collection of symbols that tell the story of Canada's past. Well, *part* of our past. Although there are some Canadian symbols, most are from England, France, Scotland and Ireland. The Indigenous people who were here first aren't properly represented, nor are the people who came to live here from all over the world. In 1994, the gold letters on the red circle were added. They say “Desiderantes meliorem patriam,” which is Latin for “They desire a better country.”

# LOCAL STORIES



Does the area where you live have a flag? Or is there something else that people think of as a symbol of your community?



## LOOKING BACK

In 2017 Montreal added a very important difference to its flag. It had long had symbols for those who settled the area: the French (fleur-de-lys), English (rose), Irish (shamrock) and Scottish (thistle). The new version also has a white pine in the centre as a symbol of the Haudenosaunee and other First Nations of the area.



Fortune, N.L.



Cape Breton, N.S.

**FROM RURAL COUNTIES TO OUR BIGGEST CITIES, PLACES ALL OVER CANADA HAVE THEIR OWN FLAGS. DOES YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE ONE? IF SO, WHAT DO ITS SYMBOLS AND COLOURS MEAN?**



Yellowknife, N.W.T.



Cranbrook, B.C.



## GOING UNDERGROUND

In 2004, the Toronto magazine *Spacing* created these buttons to raise money. They each have the name of a stop on the city's subway printed over a background that looks like the tiles from that station. People loved the buttons. They've bought so many that if you stacked them all up, you'd have five CN Towers' worth!

## MIXED-UP SYMBOL

There's a spot in Winnipeg where a whole bunch of streets come together. It's officially known as Osborne Junction but everyone calls it Confusion Corner. The sign for the intersection has become a symbol of the area.



WHAT WOULD YOU PICK AS A SYMBOL FOR THE AREA WHERE YOU LIVE?





# We Stand on GUARD

Written by Allyson Gulliver

Illustrated by David Namisato

## Quebec City, June 24, 1880

“Bravo! Bravo!” The elegantly dressed men and women didn’t want to stop clapping. It was as if they knew that the song they had just heard, “Chant National,” was something very special.

“They love it!” Adolphe-Basile Routhier whispered to the man sitting next to him. “Your music, Calixa — it is perfect! It was so inspiring that it took me no time at all to write the words.”

Calixa Lavallée tried to be calm, but a huge smile broke out on his face. “Your poetry is the perfect match. I know the crowd will agree tomorrow when they hear the choir sing the words. I do believe our effort to write a national hymn for French Canada is a success! Even the governor general is impressed.”

Ernest Gagnon pushed his way through the crowd to congratulate his friends. “I can’t believe anyone could have come up with anything better than your ‘Chant National.’ And to think it all started with a letter from that priest in Trois-Rivières, suggesting we have a national anthem for this year’s Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebrations.

“I know Father Caron thought we should have a competition, but there just wasn’t time. And besides, this worked much better,” Gagnon continued. “I’m not sorry we had you write this song. It’s wonderful!”

“The English have ‘God Save the Queen’ and ‘The Maple Leaf Forever,’” said Routhier, “but there is no place for us French Canadians in their songs.”





Lavallée nodded. “I don’t mean to sound immodest, my friends, but it feels good to think that we have an anthem that’s truly ours.”

### **Montreal, November 25, 1908**

Stanley Weir gazed at the printed sheet of music in his hands, an astonished grin on his face. “I can’t quite believe it, Gertie. ‘O Canada,’ with my name on it!”

His wife shook her head. “I know you’re a lawyer, but you’re also a great poet. Your words are beautiful. Much nicer than those other translations.”

“Don’t be too hard on them, Gertie. It’s not easy to come up with patriotic words that are also poetic,”

Weir replied. “This was just my way of helping celebrate Quebec City’s 300th anniversary.”

“You’re much too kind, Stanley. The other versions were awful and you know it. That’s why they never caught on. Nobody wants to sing things like ‘No stains thy glorious annals gloss,’ or ‘From pole to borderland.’ That’s not poetry at all. And besides, most of them talk too much about the Empire and Britain — the whole point of ‘O Canada’ was to have an anthem that included both French and English.”

“Besides,” said Gertie, “It feels good to think that we have an anthem that’s truly ours.”**K**



# New Words, Old Words

Stanley Weir's English-language poem included the lines "True patriot love, Thou dost in us command." Nobody's quite sure why the second part was changed to "In all our sons command" around the time of the First World War. It might have had something to do with women's fight for the right to vote.

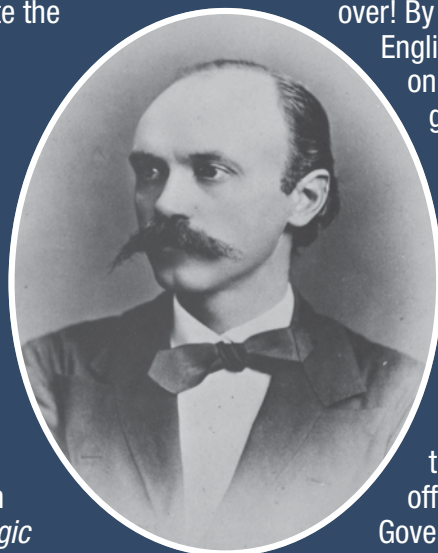
As early as 1980, representatives in Parliament started trying to change the English words of the anthem so they included people of all genders. On January 31, 2018, the official words of "O Canada!" finally became more like the

original version: "True patriot love in all of us command."

Although the English words have changed slightly a few times, the French words have always stayed the same. Many people sing a bilingual version that goes back and forth between the two languages.

Others have suggested we should remove references to "native land" since many Canadians weren't born here, or that we should honour First Nations people by changing the words to "Our home on native land." What do you think?

**C**alixa Lavallée wrote the music for our national anthem in 1880; Adolphe-Basile Routhier wrote the words in a single evening after hearing Lavallée's composition. Under the title "Chant National" it was a hit right away in French Canada, but didn't catch on among English Canadians until after 1901 when it was first sung publicly in English. (Many music experts say the opening notes sound an awful lot like a piece from the Mozart opera *The Magic Flute*.) There were at least four English-language versions of "O Canada," ranging from a straight translation of Routhier's words to a variety of poems



to suit Lavallée's music. If you read them online, you'll see why they were passed over! By the First World War, Weir's English words had caught on and "O Canada" was gradually being accepted as our national song. By the late 1920s, children were singing it in school and you'd hear it at most public events. There were dozens of attempts to make it our anthem, but finally, on June 27, 1980, the government made it official. On July 1, 1980, Governor General Ed Schreyer had descendants of both Routhier and Weir beside him when a public ceremony made "O Canada" our official national anthem.

# FLYING

WITH

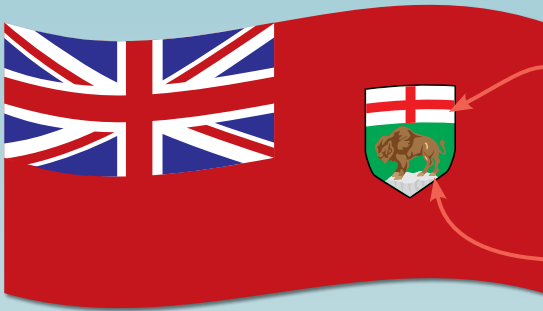
# Pride



Each province and territory has its own flag.  
Some are bold and modern; others are fancy and traditional.

## MANITOBA

*Adopted: 1966*



Cross of St. George for  
England and the Hudson's  
Bay Company

Bison represents Indigenous  
people

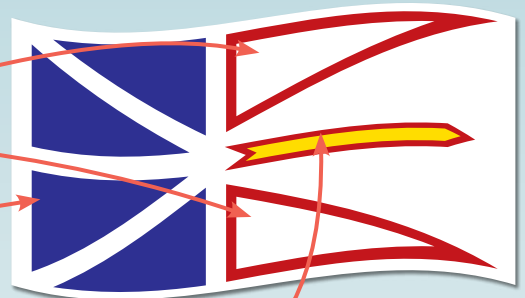
## NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

*Adopted: 1980*

Island and mainland

Sea

Hope for  
the future

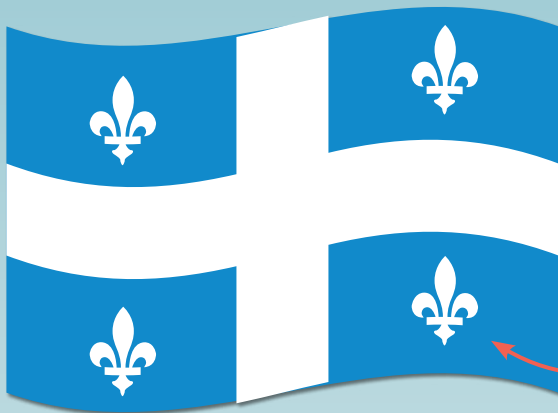
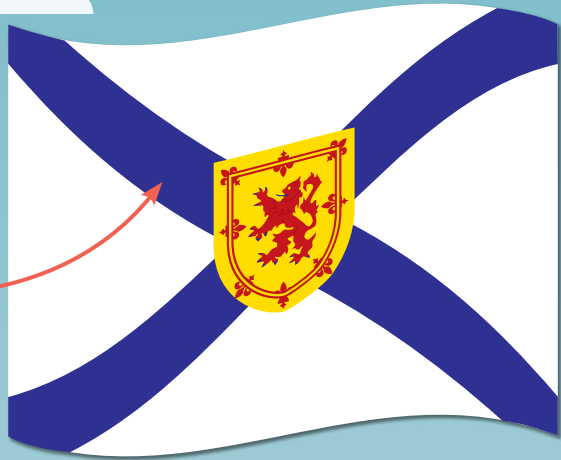




# NOVA SCOTIA

Adopted: 1929

Cross of St. Andrew,  
for Scotland,  
with colours reversed



# QUEBEC

Adopted: 1950 | AKA: *The Fleurdelisé*

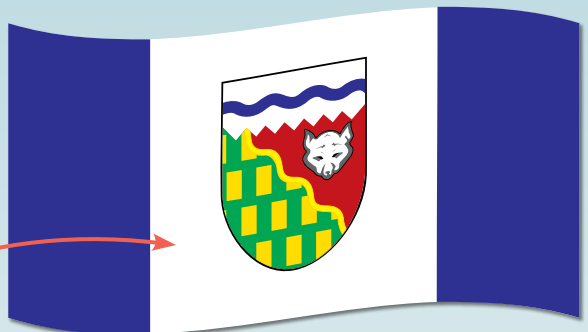
Iris flower (fleur-de-lis)  
symbolizing France dates  
back more than 1,500 years

# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Adopted: 1969

Designed by a Manitoban  
who won a national contest

Snow and ice

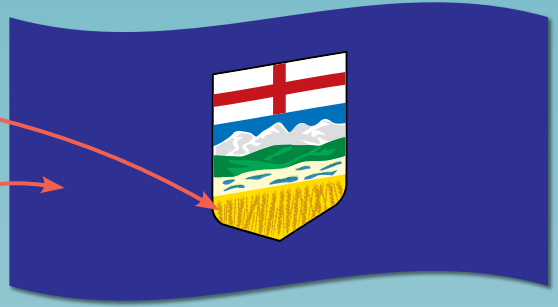


# ALBERTA

Adopted: 1968

Wheat field

One of Alberta's official colours, representing the sky (the other is gold, for prairie)



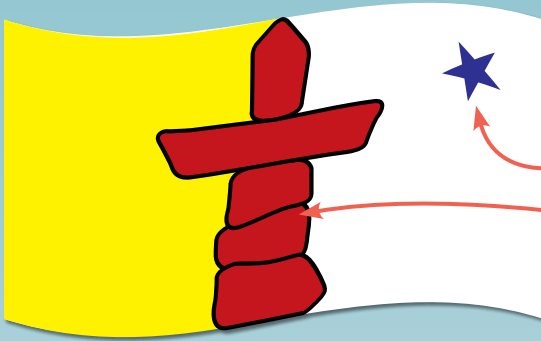
# NUNAVUT

Adopted: 1999

Niqirtsituk (the North Star)

Inuksuk (stone marker)

Colours represent riches of land, sea and sky

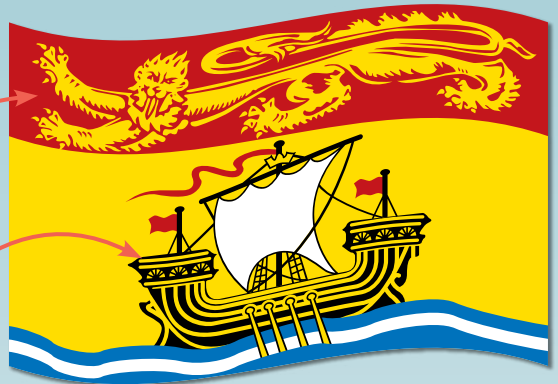


# NEW BRUNSWICK

Adopted: 1965

Lion for England, which owned the German territory of Brunswick when the province was named in 1784

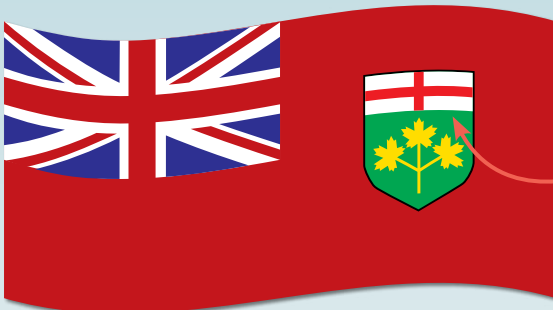
Shipbuilding, sailing the ocean



# ONTARIO

Adopted: 1965

Maple leaves for Canada

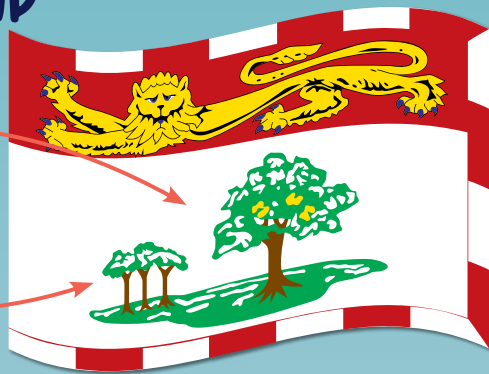


# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Adopted: 1964

Oak tree for England

Three oaks for P.E.I.'s  
three counties



# YUKON TERRITORY

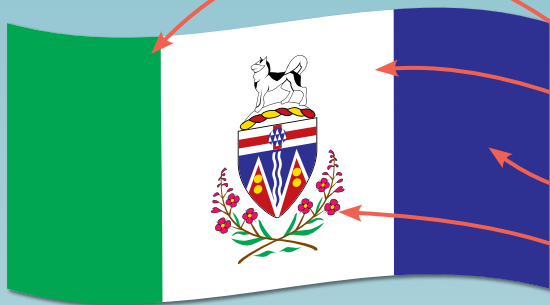
Adopted: 1967

Forests

Snow

Lakes and rivers

Fireweed, the official flower



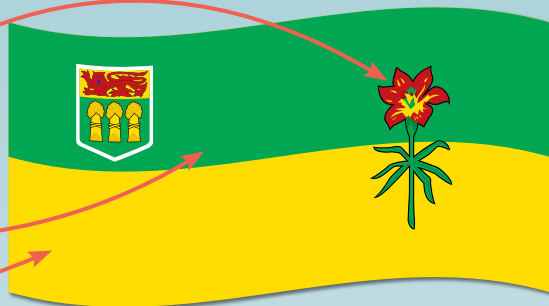
# SASKATCHEWAN

Adopted: 1969

Western red lily,  
the provincial flower

Northern forests

Southern grain fields



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

Adopted: 1960

Pacific Ocean

Britain's Royal Family

Setting sun for Canada's  
farthest-west province





# FIRE ON THE HILL!

WRITTEN BY NANCY PAYNE | ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX DIOCHON

CENTRE BLOCK, PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 3, 1916

FRANCIS GLASS

THE READING ROOM OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 8:55 P.M.

YOU'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT THE WASTEBASKET BACK THERE. THOUGHT I SAW A BIT OF SMOKE.

NOT AGAIN!

QUICK!

A FIRE EXTINGUISHER!

















FOR GOD'S SAKE, SEND SOMEONE BACK FOR ME!



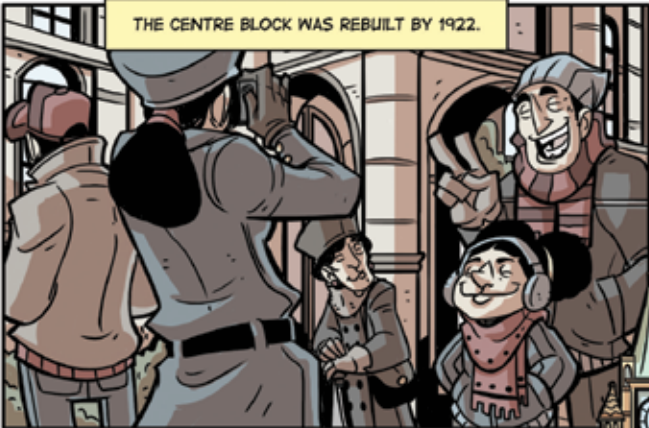
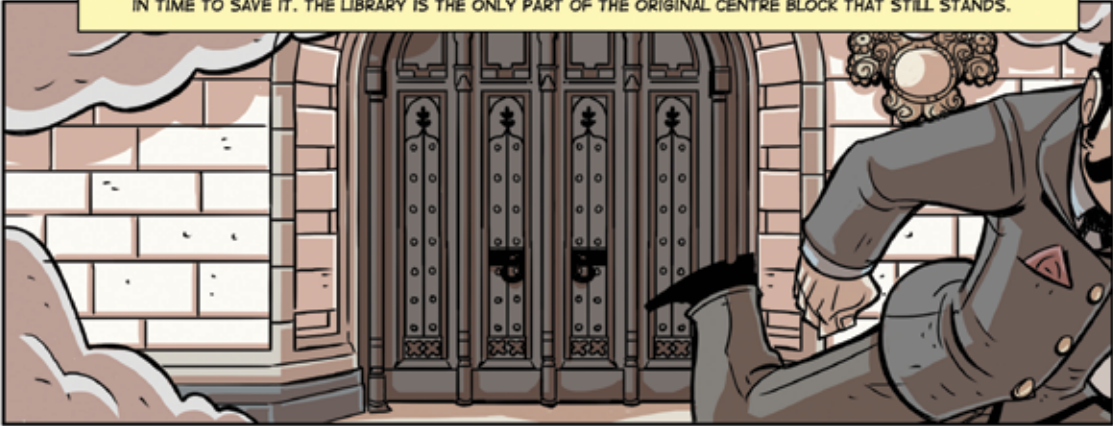
IN ALL, SEVEN PEOPLE DIED IN THE FIRE. IT WAS A TERRIBLE DAY IN OTTAWA,






BUT THERE WAS ONE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS.


QUICK-THINKING LIBRARIAN CONNOLLY MACCORMAC SHUT THE DOORS TO THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT IN TIME TO SAVE IT. THE LIBRARY IS THE ONLY PART OF THE ORIGINAL CENTRE BLOCK THAT STILL STANDS.



THE CENTRE BLOCK WAS REBUILT BY 1922.



THE PEACE TOWER  
WAS FINISHED IN 1927.

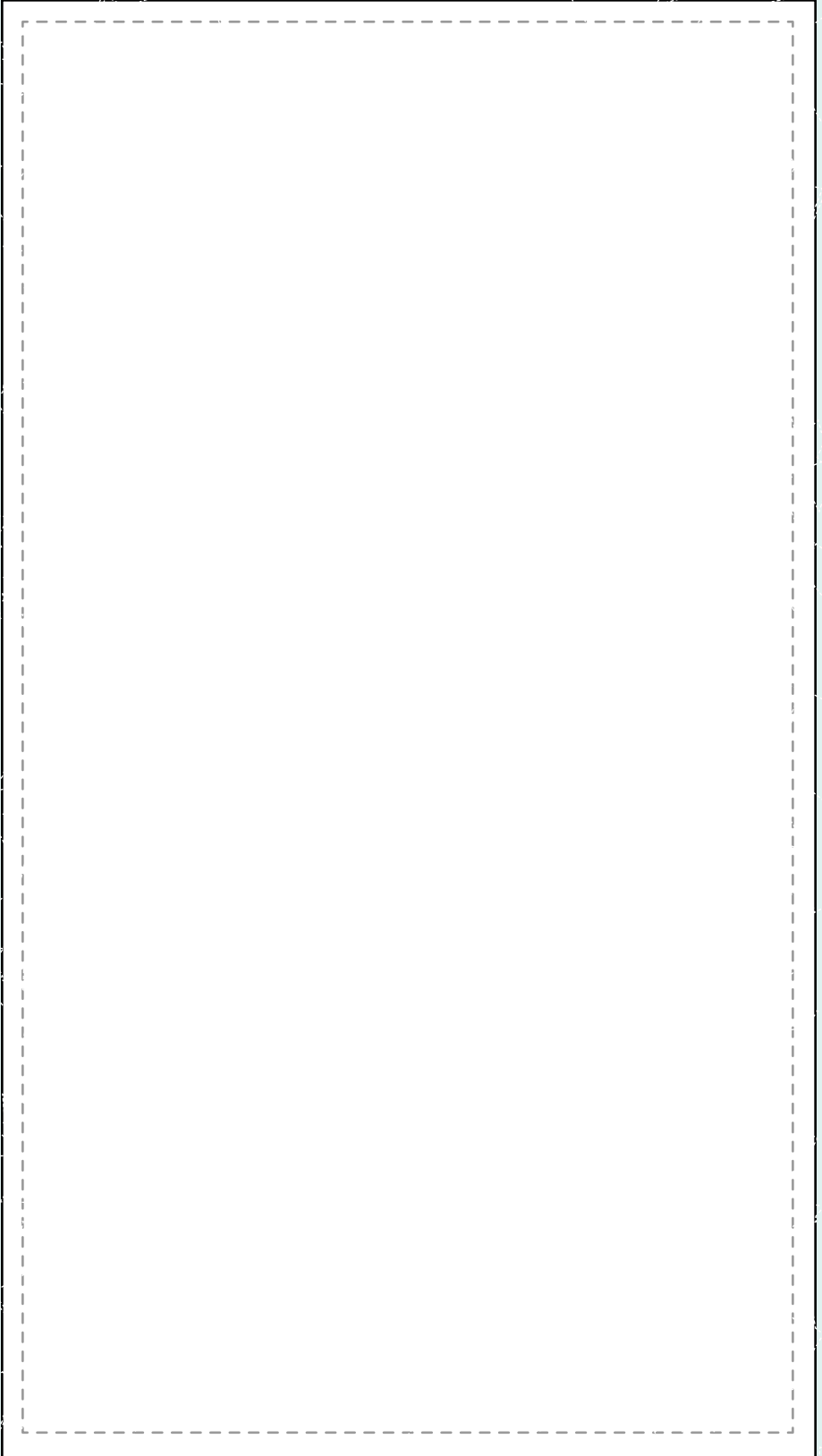


TODAY, THE BUILDINGS ON PARLIAMENT HILL STAND  
AS PROUD SYMBOLS OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY.



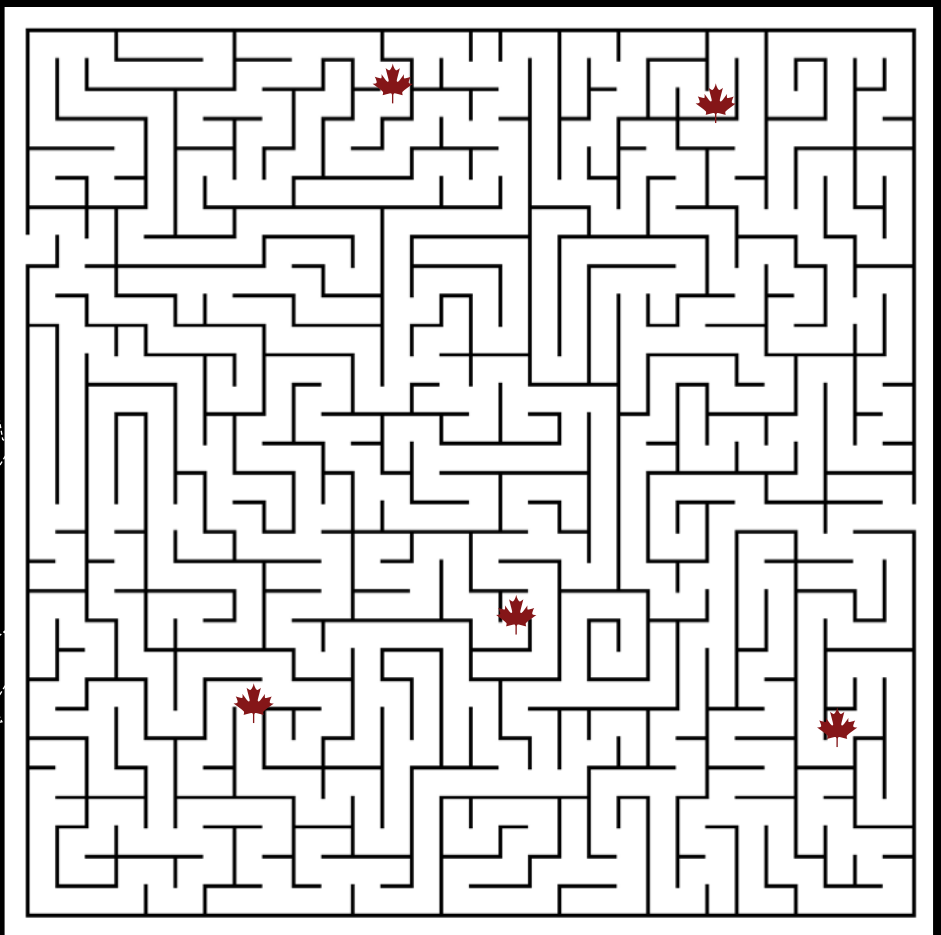
If you could create a new flag for Canada, what would you put on it? Animals, flowers, sports or other symbols? What colours would you choose — the familiar red and white or something else? Use this space and let your imagination run wild!

# DESIGN YOUR OWN FLAG



# A-MAZE-ING CANADA!

Can you collect all the leaves in the puzzle and make it out the other side?



Answer on p. 34

**Kayak Kids**

# ILLUSTRATED HISTORY CHALLENGE

SEND US YOUR STORY FOR A  
CHANCE TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

[CanadasHistory.ca/Kayak2022](https://CanadasHistory.ca/Kayak2022)



## ANSWERS



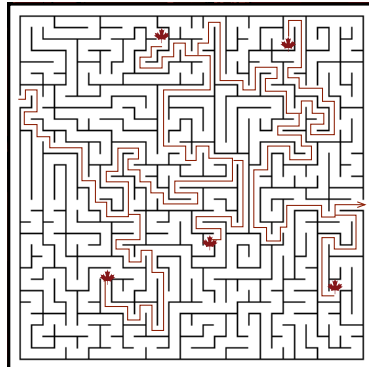
### History Mystery

P.24

The fake parts are the wolverine and the moose, which don't appear on Canada's coat of arms. And on the shield, the inuksuk is fake; there are no Indigenous symbols on the real thing.

### A-MAZE-ING Canada

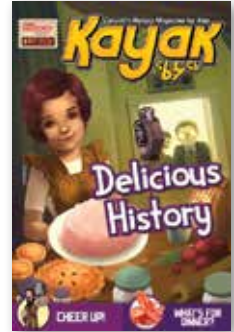
P.43





# SPECIAL FREE ISSUE OFFER!

## GIVE A GIFT AND SAVE OVER 25%



**4 ISSUES [1 YEAR] FOR ONLY \$14.95**

Order online at [CanadasHistory.ca/Kayak2022](http://CanadasHistory.ca/Kayak2022) or call 1-888-816-0997



[KayakMag.ca](http://KayakMag.ca)

**Editor** Nancy Payne  
**Art Director** James Gillespie  
**Designer** Leigh McKenzie  
**Online Manager** Tanja Hütter  
**Director of Programs (on leave)** Joanna Dawson  
**Education and Outreach Co-ordinator**  
Jean-Philippe Proulx  
**Acting Director of Programs** Brooke Campbell  
**Historical Advisers** Catherine Carstairs, Michèle Dagenais,  
Brittany Luby  
**Associate Designer** Olivia Hiebert  
**Special Thanks** Michelle Kulmatycky, Rémi Lavoie,  
Ronald Marino, Shashi Shergill, Kathryn Whitfield

CANADA'S  
**HISTORY** [CanadasHistory.ca](http://CanadasHistory.ca)

**CEO** Janet Walker

**Publisher** Melony Ward

**Circulation and Marketing Manager**  
Danielle Chartier

**Director Finance & Administration** Patricia Gerow

**Publisher Emerita** Deborah Morrison

KAYAK: Canada's History Magazine for Kids  
(ISSN 1712-3984) is published four times a year by Canada's National History Society  
Bryce Hall, Main Floor, 515 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2E9  
Phone: (204) 988-9300 Fax: (204) 988-9309  
Email: [info@KayakMag.ca](mailto:info@KayakMag.ca)

Member Services email: [members@KayakMag.ca](mailto:members@KayakMag.ca)  
Website: [KayakMag.ca](http://KayakMag.ca)

Copyright ©2022 by Canada's History Society  
All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission from the publisher is strictly forbidden.

Member Services  
Kayak Magazine, PO Box 699 Stn Main, Alliston, ON, L9R 1V9  
Phone: 1-888-816-0997  
Email: [members@KayakMag.ca](mailto:members@KayakMag.ca)

One-year subscription price (4 issues): Canada \$16.95 (plus tax).  
Please add \$5.00 for U.S. orders and \$8.00 for international orders.  
Single copy price: \$5.00. G.S.T. Registration Number 13868 1408 RT.

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
gouvernement  
du Canada

**Canada**



# Every Stripe Has a Story

Green, red, yellow, indigo. These four colours are part of our shared Canadian story, and originated in 1780 with the original Hudson's Bay English-made wool Point blankets. Hudson's Bay still sells these beautiful family heirlooms today, and there are now many more ways to share in the stripe love, like our plush or packable beach towels.



**THE BAY**

[thebay.com](https://thebay.com)