



## Québec, Québec<sup>★</sup>

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 7  
Province. . . . 2

**Proportions:** 2:3

**Adopted:** 12 January 1987



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Québec has a dark blue field with a notched white border edged in dark blue. In its centre is a stylized three-masted square-rigged 17th-century ship all in golden yellow; pennants fly from all masts, it flies six sails, and details include the bowsprit, rudder, and steering post. The border, whose width is 1/12 the height of the flag, has rectangular “teeth”, seven at the top and bottom and four at the sides, each twice as wide as the notches between them.

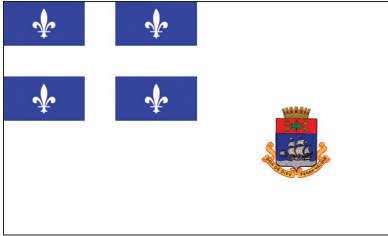
**SYMBOLISM:** The city’s documentation interprets the arms: *Like the city signature and city arms, Québec city’s flag bears a golden ship with all sails full. The ship (the Don de Dieu) recalls the founding of Québec City by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. It also represents the city’s maritime vocation, with its important seaport. The full sails represent the strength and heroism of its population. The inclination of the ship inside the crenulated [toothed] border creates a horizon line on the vertical axis and on the horizontal axis, exploits the already existing design of the ship to its fullest by letting the wind play in its sails. The colours used have the following heraldic meaning: gold on the ship signifies strength, faith, justice, wealth, constancy, and brilliance; silver [white] used for the border symbolizes*

*humility, purity, charity, truth, and victory; azure [blue] in the background represents sovereignty, majesty, serenity, good reputation, knowledge, clarity, and loyalty. This colour is also dominant in the coat of arms and underlines the French origins of the city's founders. The crenulated border reminds us that Québec is a fortified city and that its founder also came from a fortified city, Brouage, in Saintonge [France].*

**HOW SELECTED:** Following a suggestion by former mayor Jean Pelletier, the flag, along with a revised version of the assumed arms of 1949, were the first city grant of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, celebrating the 380th anniversary of the city on 20 September 1988 and the city's nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The flag had been proclaimed on 3 February 1987 and was registered as a trade-mark on 22 July 1987.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Heraldic silver is usually represented as white on the flag, although some versions (full size, table size, and graphic representations) render it silver-grey.

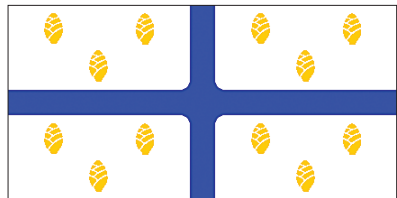


**FORMER FLAGS:** From 1967 to 1987, Québec City used a white flag with the fleurdelisé flag of Québec in the canton and its 1949 arms in the fly.

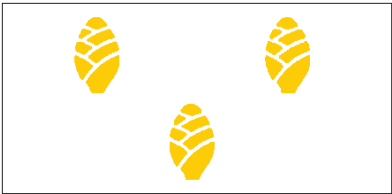
Several of the cities that merged with Québec City in 2002 also had symbols such as a flag, a coat of arms, or a logo. Some are illustrated here, along with the former flag of the Communauté urbaine de Québec.



Beauport



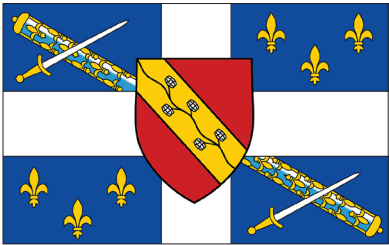
Cap-Rouge



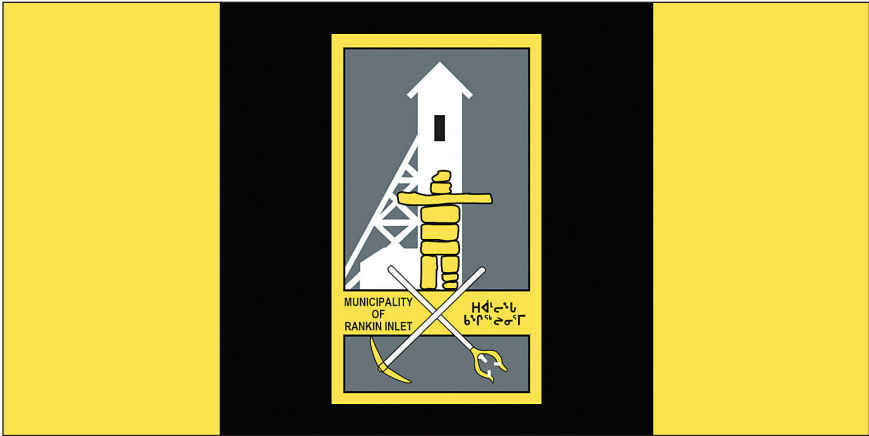
Cap-Rouge (alternate)



Communauté urbaine de Québec



Sainte-Foy

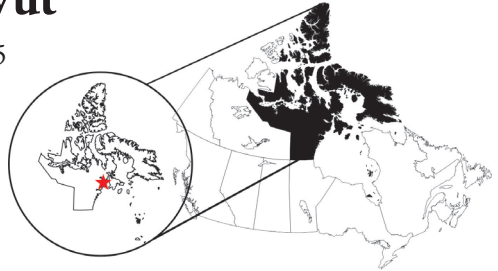


## Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 1,185  
Territory. . . 9

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** Likely in 1991



**DESIGN:** The flag of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet (Kangiqliniq) is a Canadian pale design of yellow-black-yellow, with a rectangular device in the centre nearly the full height of the flag and half the width of the central black square. The device is a grey rectangle bordered in yellow, with a yellow horizontal band one-eighth of its height at about the lower third. The band divides the rectangle into upper and lower panels. A narrow black line outlines both panels. In the upper panel is a silhouette of a mine head (a tall building with a peaked roof) in white with a window near the top in black. Surmounting it, half the height of the upper panel, is an *inuksuk* (traditional native stone landmark or cairn) in yellow with black details. Both stand on the base of the upper panel. Surmounting the band and extending into the upper and lower panels are crossed tools in white with yellow heads and black details, heads downward—on the left a long-handled miner's pick, on the right a *kakivak* (Inuit trident fishing spear). On the band are two inscriptions: on the left **MUNICIPALITY OF RANKIN INLET** in black sans-serif letters on three lines, on the right two lines of Inuktitut syllabic characters with the same meaning, in black.



**SYMBOLISM:** Rankin Inlet began as the company town for the North Rankin Nickel Mine, which operated from 1957 to 1962 and whose prominent mine head still dominates the skyline. It was never an Inuit campsite—it lacks hunting or fishing opportunities. The yellow bars may indicate gold (or mining in general, as copper and nickel are the primary ores there); the black of the central panel is likely just for contrast. The *inuksuk* figure represents Rankin Inlet’s giant *inuksuk*, constructed in 1991 by artist Joe Natar (the largest in Canada, although depicted on the flag in compressed form to mirror the slender mine head). The Nunavut territorial flag also bears an *inuksuk*. The pick and spear represent mining and fishing.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was adopted by precedent of usage, both formal and informal. The current flag was created as a form of civic boosterism. Rankin Inlet is “all business”, constantly promoting itself as a development and tourist destination. Likely designed in 1991 after the *inuksuk* which appears on it was constructed, the flag flew at the first sitting of Nunavut’s Legislative Assembly on 1 April 1999.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

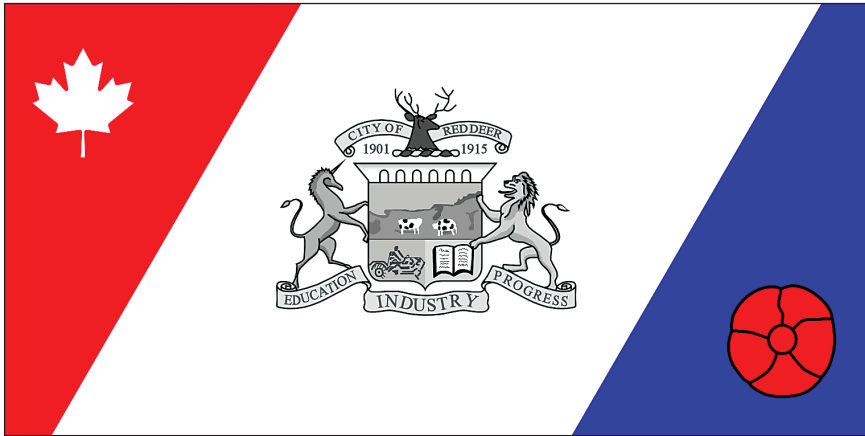
**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Rankin Inlet is named for Lt. John Rankin, of the sloop *Furnace*, on British explorer Christopher Middleton’s 1741 voyage seeking the Northwest Passage. The name “Rankin Inlet” was adopted for the settlement 2 October 1958; the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet incorporated in January 1975.



**FORMER FLAG:** The first Rankin Inlet flag is a Canadian pale design of green-white-green, with an *inua* symbol of a double snow goose (*Anser caerulescens*) in the centre, in blue. The traditional native *inua*, or human-like

spirit encased within an animal totem, suggests that all creatures have a spirit similar and equal to the human one. (The snow goose comes in a “blue” version, as well as pure white, depending upon the season, but it is the same creature.) It was designed by artist Nicholas Irkootee. He had designed the snow goose *inua* used around Rankin Inlet before 1985 on T-shirts and town signage. Rob Butler, graphic artist at Inkit Graphics in Yellowknife, NWT, used Irkootee’s design, unchanged, on the 1985 flag.

All such NWT/Nunavut civic flags were designed in 1985 for the Northwest Territories Exhibition Hall at Vancouver's Expo '86, at the initiative of heraldry enthusiast Michael Moore, then a deputy minister at the NWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The side-bar colours of these Canadian pale designs vary from dark blue, to green, to brown, and to bright red.

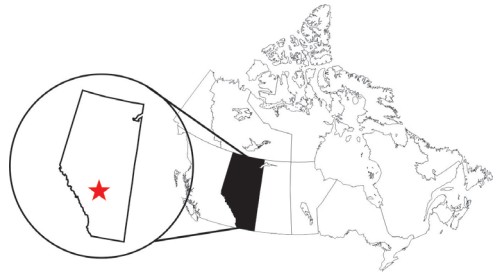


## Red Deer, Alberta

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 44  
Province. . . . 4

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 6 June 1977



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Red Deer is divided diagonally into three sections. The central section forms a very wide band running from the base of the flag to its top, in width about  $13/16$  the height of the flag. On the lower right it intersects the base of the flag about  $1/16$  of the way from the hoist, on the upper right it intersects the top of the flag about  $1/16$  of the way from the fly. The resulting right-angled trapezoid on the left is red, with a Canadian maple leaf in white in the upper hoist. The right-angled trapezoid on the right is blue, with a stylized flower in red with five petals outlined in black. In the centre is a full coat of arms in black and white, half the height of the flag. The shield has a horizontal top with points at the upper corners, straight sides, and a base ending in a small point. It is divided horizontally; the upper panel is slightly taller than the lower panel, which itself is divided vertically. The upper panel shows a scene of low mountains with a setting sun in the background and two dairy cows in the foreground; below its top edge are six milk cans. The lower panels show a plough on the left and an open book on the right. Supporting the shield are a unicorn on the left and a lion on the right (similar to the British arms). Above the shield is the head of a deer with prominent antlers, looking to the right. Behind the deer is a

ribbon with **CITY OF** on the left and **RED DEER** on the right. Below the ribbon are **1901** on the left and **1913** on the right. Below the shield is a ribbon in three sections, inscribed **EDUCATION INDUSTRY PROGRESS** in black serified letters, the central word slightly larger.

**SYMBOLISM:** The flag might be considered a variant of the Canadian pale design, with the central section a parallelogram rather than a square. As explained by the city, *the City of Red Deer Flag is representative of the three levels of government: the maple leaf denotes the Federal level, the rose the Provincial level, and the City of Red Deer Coat of Arms the Municipal level.* The wild rose (*Rosa acicularis*) is the provincial flower of Alberta. The symbolism of the coat of arms is explained by the city as well: *The groundwork of mountains showing the setting sun represents sunny Alberta. The dairy cows represent dairy farming. The six milk cans denote the shipping of dairy products. A Van Slyke breaking plough on the bottom left of the shield represents three distinct points: farming, a Red Deer invention, and a Red Deer manufacturer. An open book on the bottom right of the shield represents education. Supporting the shield on the right and left respectively are the lion and the unicorn to represent loyalty to the Crown. On the shield are the scroll and motto with the words Education, Industry, and Progress. Just over the shield the dates 1901 and 1913 showing the respective years Red Deer was incorporated, first as a town and then as a city.*

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag design was approved by resolution of Red Deer's city council on 6 June 1977, with an official dedication ceremony following on 26 August 1977. The coat of arms was designed as a result of a contest. In 1915, the city awarded \$25 to the designer of the best coat of arms to represent Red Deer. According to the city, designs were submitted from all over Canada. Mr. Alex Mitchell, of the firm Mitchell & Jewell in Red Deer, won the contest. However, his design was not adopted as the official coat of arms until many years later.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were designed by Alex Mitchell.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The city of Red Deer is named for the Red Deer River, which flows through it. The river in turn was originally called *Waskasoo Seepee* by the native Cree, meaning "Elk River". Early British traders thought the local elk (*Cervus canadensis*) were a type of European red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), and misnamed the river.

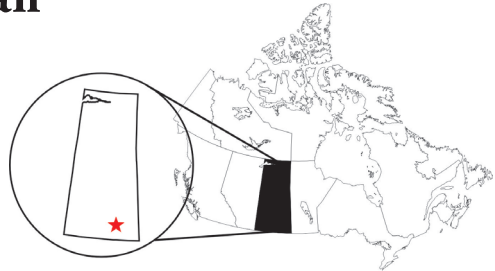


## Regina, Saskatchewan

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 18  
Province. . . . 2

**Proportions:** 5:8

**Adopted:** 29 June 1992



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Regina is divided horizontally blue over golden yellow, with the blue section twice the height of the yellow section. Centred vertically in the blue section at the hoist is a large royal crown in white with blue details.

**SYMBOLISM:** The colours come from the shield of Regina's coat of arms, on which blue represents the endless prairie sky and gold represents the fields of wheat which play an important role in the city's economy. The crown, also from the arms, honours Regina as the provincial capital, as well as its royal roots and its name (*Regina* is Latin for "queen"). Originally called "Wascana" by the native people, and then its English equivalent, "Pile-of-Bones", because of the huge piles of bison (buffalo) bones left in the area by First Nations hunters, the community was renamed Regina in 1882. The name honoured Queen Victoria, then the sovereign, and was chosen by her fourth daughter, Princess Louise, the wife of the Marquess of Lorne, the governor general of Canada. Regina has been known as the "Queen City of the Prairies" ever since.

**HOW SELECTED:** The Mayor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Regina's Symbols, chaired by Mayor Douglas R. Archer, proposed the flag in a memo to Regina's City Council. The flag was adopted at the meeting of 29 June 1992 and included in the grant of heraldic emblems to the city made by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on 5 September 1992. The style of the crown was modified for the grant.

**DESIGNERS:** The Mayor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Regina's Symbols, with modifications by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The city's coat of arms and flag were presented to the City of Regina on 14 September 1992 by the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, then governor general of Canada and head of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



**FORMER FLAG:** Regina previously used a flag in proportions of 1:2 with a field of "royal purple", which emphasized the royal connection and the magnificent sunrises that favour "the city on the horizon". In the fly half, nearly the full

height of the flag, is a disc in "old gold", with a wide band encircling it and a stylized crown in its centre, both in "ermine white". The crown reflects Regina's royal roots and the circle around it represents community and places the capital city in the heart of Canada's bread basket. The crown was designed by city employees Warren Petersmeyer and Jack Walker in the early 1970s as an identification mark for the city's Public Works and Engineering equipment and vehicles, and became used as a city logo. Sometime before 1986 the city council approved its use on a civic flag.

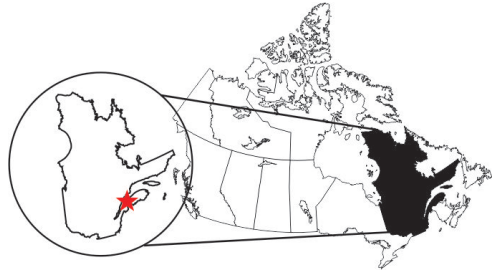


## Rimouski, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 65  
Province. . . . 14

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** Unknown, but before  
2004 (arms likely created  
in the late 1950s)



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Rimouski has a purple field with the city's coat of arms in the centre. **Rimouski** runs below the arms in a medieval font; its "R" is red, the other letters are yellow. The simple shield has a slightly arched top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. It is divided horizontally into two panels. The upper panel is black with scattered silver ermine spots and tails (in heraldry, "ermine"), a Patriarchal cross (two crossbars, the upper one smaller) in golden yellow is in the centre, with a small crown-like object above it. The lower panel is silver with a red anchor fouled with a black rope in the centre, and a small green evergreen tree on either side. Atop the shield is a five-towered mural crown in golden yellow with black details. Flanking both sides of the shield are branches with green maple leaves, tied at their base with a red ribbon which forms loops at the centre and splits into forked ends. Surmounting the juncture of the maple branches is a ribbon in golden yellow, also splitting at its ends, inscribed **LEGI PATRUM FIDELIS** in black serifed letters—the "L" in red.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the arms: *The coat of arms is a symbol of Rimouski's faith, work, and dignity. The shield is divided*

*into two equal parts, which symbolize the movement of the waters. The silver [ermine] spots represent the [historical] seigneurs of Rimouski. The pastoral cross indicates that Rimouski is a religious centre [it is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Rimouski], its educational institutions, and the indestructible faith of its pioneers. The anchor symbolizes the seaport [Rimouski is on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River] and commercial and industrial development. It is also a symbol of hope. The fir trees remind us of the forestry industry. The Latin motto *Legi patrum fidelis* translates as "Faithful to the Law of our forefathers". The maple leaves are green, their traditional colour in Québec heraldry. The mural crown is a traditional symbol of civic authority.*

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown (the flag was observed in 2006 and mentioned in city council minutes in 2004).

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were created by the Collège canadien des armoiries, a commercial heraldic design firm founded in 1954 and active in creating Québec municipal heraldry in the late 1950s.



LB



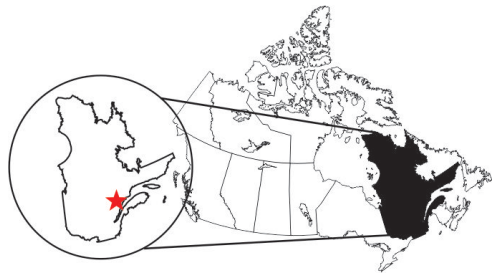


## Saguenay, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 26  
Province. . . . 5

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 7 October 2002



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Saguenay has a white field with a special version of the city's logo in its centre, running two-thirds of its length. The logo consists of **Saguenay** in a modern font, with **Ville de** in a smaller font (by three-fourths) placed over the letters "a" and "g", all in blue. In the regular logo, three nested curves of blue, red, and green normally underline the "S" and "a" of "Saguenay" as an extension of the "g", but on the flag these curvy underlines are enlarged and centred under "Saguenay" to give the design a more fitting rectangular shape. The Pantone colours are Reflex blue, red 187, and green 576.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the logo: *A regional capital, the city of Saguenay is a collective of citizens turned towards the future, the determination of which is equal to its desire of fully assuming its rank among the most important municipalities in the country. The set of elements in its logo forms a distinctive signature which, while setting it apart, is perfectly in line with those of the great North American cities. The movement of the lines ensures a unified dynamic of the three boroughs [Chicoutimi, Jonquière, and La Baie] converging towards a new economical, social, and cultural horizon that will*

*ensure its durability. The three curves symbolize the communication axes of the new municipality. The colours also play an important role in the logo's meaning. Blue represents water, important to Saguenay's history, but is also an allusion to the various transportation and communication networks. Red demonstrates the dynamism, enthusiasm, fighting spirit, and warm nature that characterise the citizens of Ville de Saguenay. Green recalls the desire to make the entire economy (primary, secondary, or tertiary) grow in a lasting development framework; it also underscores the importance of forests and agriculture, while maintaining a focus on the environment and tourism.*

**HOW SELECTED:** A commercial design firm was contracted to design the logo and determine how it should be used on a flag.

**DESIGNER:** L'Imprimerie ICLT, a local printing and design firm.



**FORMER FLAGS:** The city of Saguenay resulted from the 2002 merger of the municipalities of Chicoutimi, Jonquière, La Baie, Lac-Kénogami, Laterrière, Shipshaw, and a part of Canton-Tremblay. Several of these former entities had symbols such as a coat of arms, a logo, or a flag. A first wave

of mergers in the 1970s had also converted towns such as Arvida, Kénogami, Bagotville, Rivière-du-Moulin, and Chicoutimi-Nord into neighbourhoods in the amalgamated cities, reducing the number of local symbols. Chicoutimi was the central city among the former municipalities, although Jonquière was close behind in population.





## Saint John, New Brunswick

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 32  
Province. . . . 2

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** Unknown



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Saint John has a white field with the city's coat of arms in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. The elaborate shield with scrolled edges is divided into four quarters by thick black lines. The first quarter is red with a fish over a barrel and four smaller fish positioned two on each side of the barrel, all in yellow. The second quarter is blue, with a sun over a line of six stylized evergreens, descending in size from left to right, all in yellow. The third quarter is blue with a 19th-century sailing ship and wavy lines below, all in yellow. The fourth quarter is red with two beavers (*Castor canadensis*) in yellow, the upper one larger. A crown in red and yellow, with black and white details, is above the shield, which is flanked by two moose (*Alces alces*) in yellow, standing upright. On a ribbon at the base, in blue outlined in yellow, appears **O FORTUNATI QUORUM JAM MOENIA SURGUNT** in yellow serified letters outlined in black, two words on each of three sections.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the arms: *St. Edward's Crown: The crown surmounting the crest represents the continued loyalty to the*

*monarchy, exhibited by the exile of the United Empire Loyalists in 1783 and the subsequent granting of a Royal Charter to the city [the “exile” refers to those who had lost their homes in the newly-independent United States.] The crown is recognized in the field of heraldry as St. Edward’s Crown and is proper to the time it was used in the design of the official seal of Saint John. Dexter Supporter: Saint John’s Corporate Seal originally had an “Elk” as its supporters due to the abundance of elk [Cervus canadensis] in this region. Over time the elk in this region have become extinct and our seal has changed accordingly. We have seen the “Deer” make a brief appearance and today the “Moose” has emerged as the predominant figure on our seal. Dexter Chief: Fishing was a major export in Saint John—dried and salted fish were sent regularly to the West Indies. The coopering of barrels for local use and the export of staves, heads, and hoops was also an active industry. The Royal Charter by which Saint John was incorporated was very explicit as to the control of the fisheries and the quality inspection for coopers. Dexter Base: Saint John was well known as a shipping port and a shipbuilding centre. During the mid-nineteenth century Saint John was the fourth largest port of registry in the British Empire. Sinister Chief: This represents the large forests which provided New Brunswick with a resource that even today provides a major part of our economic base. Sinister Base: Beaver pelts were a very important trading item at the original founding of the city and many years previously. The beavers were also thought of as allegorical figures to describe the industry and enterprise of the early settlers. [Latin] Motto Scroll: O Fortunati Quorum Jam Moenia Surgunt, which has been translated two ways: “O Fortunate Ones Whose Walls Are Now Rising” and “O Happy They, Whose Promised Walls Already Rise”.*

**HOW SELECTED:** According to city documentation concerning the seal, Saint John was the first incorporated city in Canada. The 1785 charter incorporating Saint John made provisions for a seal. At the common council’s second meeting, in May 1785, Mayor Gabriel Ludlow was “requested to report at the next meeting a proper device and inscription for the City Seal”. Three days later, Mayor Ludlow presented a design and inscription for the seal. One year later, on 1 July 1786, the mayor presented “a seal for the common council of the said City” designed by Ward Chipman, Saint John’s first recorder. It cost the city 26 pounds, 16 shillings and has served Saint John as the official corporate seal ever since.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. Ward Chipman designed the “seal”.



**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The city has used several variants of the flag. They vary in their depiction of the crown, the shape of the shield, the number of ships, the colour of the supporters, and the colour of the lettering on the ribbon. One version, used only as a table flag, adds **SAINT JOHN** on the lower left and **NEW BRUNSWICK** on the lower right, in red.

 LB

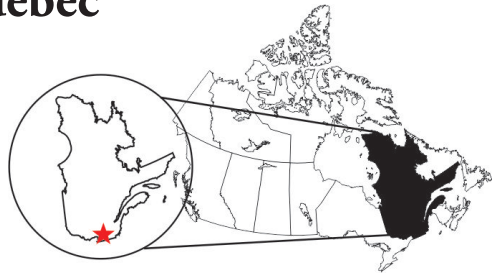


## Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 57  
Province. . . . 11

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** Unknown (arms created in 1956)



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Saint-Hyacinthe has a blue field with the city's coat of arms in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. Below the shield is **SAINT-HYACINTHE** running three-fifths the length of the flag in yellow sans-serif letters outlined in black. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. It is divided into four quarters. The first is white, with a fleur-de-lis in blue; the second is red, with a mill wheel in white; the third is red with a diagonal wavy band in white running from upper right to lower left; and the fourth is white, with a harrow drawn with black lines. Surmounting the centre is a smaller shield of the same shape in yellow with a Patriarchal cross (two crossbars, the upper one smaller) in blue. A seven-towered mural crown in yellow is above the shield. Flanking both sides of the shield are branches with green maple leaves, tied at their base with a red ribbon which forms loops at the centre and splits into forked ends. Surmounting the juncture of the maple branches is a scroll in golden yellow, inscribed **UT AMORE ET VIRTUTE RIVIVISCERE** in black serifed letters, and also splitting at its ends.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the arms: *The mural crown represents the importance of the city. The shield bears a Patriarchal cross, indicating that Saint-Hyacinthe is a centre for religion [it is the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint-Hyacinthe] and education. The fleur-de-lis represents the French origins of the population. The mill wheel demonstrates the strength of industry and commerce. A river represents the Yamaska River and a harrow recalls the agriculture of the Maskoutaine region. The Latin motto translates as "We live again through love and courage", as a reminder of past hardships. The maple leaves are green, their traditional colour in Québec heraldry. The mural crown is a traditional symbol of civic authority.*

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were created in 1956 by the Collège canadien des armories, a commercial heraldic design firm founded in 1954 and active in creating Québec municipal heraldry in the late 1950s.



**OTHER FLAG:** The City of Saint-Hyacinthe also uses a logo flag. In proportions of 1:2, it has a green field on the left and fourteen horizontal stripes in black and blue on the right. These sections are separated by a curved line in white

that runs from the lower edge (one-third of the distance from the hoist) to the upper edge (over nine-tenths the distance from the hoist); the line broadens toward its centre and forms a very shallow backward "S". In the upper left of the green section, one-half the height of the flag, is a stylized "H" in white outline, with similar curved lines in its centre. In the lower right of the black and blue section is *Saint-Hyacinthe la jolie* **UN CHOIX POUR LA VIE** (meaning "Lovely Saint Hyacinthe—a choice for life" in French) in white serified letters on three lines. Above and below the lettering are white lines which double in thickness at their central thirds.



## Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 41  
Province. . . . 7

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** Between 2001 and 2003



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu is a Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue with the city signature in the centre, seven-tenths the height of the flag. The signature consists of a blue and red logo over **VILLE DE SAINT-JEAN- SUR-RICHELIEU** written in three lines, in black and in ITC Stone Sans Bold font. The size of the letters on the first line is about half the height of the other letters. The logo is a stylized oval split in two parts, blue on the left and red on the right, enclosing two human shapes depicted from the waist up with arms outstretched and with five wavy lines emanating from the left toward the hoist. The Pantone colours are blue 302 and red 1955, although manufactured flags show brighter colours.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the logo in great detail: *The creation of a new political and administrative entity from a merger requires the elaboration of a new graphic symbol adapted to the new organisation. Resolutely turned towards the future, the city of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu offers, by its graphic symbol, a new image, well-adapted to the 2000s and significant to today's generations. Free of ancient symbolism, the new corporate image is dynamic in its style and authentic in the expression of municipal reality. In the background, the*



ring, universal symbol of union and globality, translates the notion of regrouping communities. Formed of two semi-circles, one inside the other, this ring in phases symbolizes the alliance while evoking the two shores that the new municipal territory encompasses. The place of the citizen and the milieu in the municipal organisation imposes itself by the presence of two individuals forming the central object of the composition. The representation of the citizen, true founder of the community, appears innovative in the current universe of corporate municipal images. This orientation reflects a new vision placing humans at the centre of municipal activities. Between the two individuals, an empty shape is inserted, the contours of which recall those of a house. This subtle hint of inhabitation makes indubitable reference to the people who live there and who form, by their grouping, the new community. Left of the graphic symbol, the distributed waves recall in an unequivocal way the Richelieu River, loyal witness to the history and development of the new city. The five waves are the transposition of the five communities that the municipal grouping united in a common destiny. The choice of colours confers an institutional character to the new graphic symbol. The sustained blue, inseparable from the presence of the Richelieu, gives strength to the composition, while the intense crimson red colours the right side, thus closing the logo. The sinuosity of the lines and the gentle inflection of the various elements of the composition suggest the movement of a society undergoing perpetual change. The position of the arms attributed to the individuals expresses the élan and dynamism that characterises progressive societies. In a general manner, the new graphic symbol translates this look towards the future that animates the members of a community facing the greatest challenges.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu merged with Iberville, Saint-Luc, L'Acadie, and Saint-Athanase in early 2001. For the first four months of its existence, the new city was known as Saint-Jean-Iberville. Any flags used by the city under that short-lived name or by the former cities are not known.



## Sarnia, Ontario

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 40  
Province. . . 18

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** Unknown (arms granted 1993)



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Sarnia is a Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue, with its coat of arms in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape. It has a yellow field with a horizontal wavy line of white edged in blue crossing the centre. In the upper left is a stylized 16th-century sailing ship, with hull, mast, spars and rudder in brown, pennants in red, and three wind-filled square sails in white, all outlined in black. The bow points toward the left. In the upper right is a sheaf of wheat in red and yellow. At the base of the shield is a half-circle, curve-upward, whose sides intersect the shield edges one-fourth of the distance from its base to its top. The half-circle is black with four vertical white stripes, creating the effect of nine alternating black and white stripes. Atop the shield is a stone castle with three towers, in white with blue details, arched with its lower corners meeting the top of the shield. Surmounting the base of each tower, and in smaller form in between them, appears a Guernsey lily blossom in red, five in all. Below the shield is a ribbon in white, outlined in black and with a red back, inscribed **SARNIA SEMPER**, one word on each side, in sans-serif letters in blue.

**SYMBOLISM:** *Sarnia Semper* means “Sarnia always” in Latin, and alludes to the city’s namesake (Sarnia was the Roman name for Guernsey, an island in the English Channel). The castle, a three-towered mural crown, represents civic government. It is charged with Guernsey lilies (*Nerine sarniensis*), the national flower of Guernsey. The use of red and white refers to Canada. The ship, perhaps a depiction of the explorer La Salle’s barque *Le Griffon*, which arrived in 1679, recalls the historical significance of shipping as well as Sarnia’s current importance as a commercial port and recreational boating centre. The wheat sheaf recognizes the rural area which remains an important part of the city (and perhaps the former Town of Clearwater, which merged with Sarnia in 1991). The wavy line symbolizes the St. Clair River, into which Lake Huron flows at Sarnia. The black and white stripes in the half-circle (reminiscent of a locomotive pilot, or “cowcatcher”) represent the railway line through Sarnia and the St. Clair Railway Tunnel which joins Sarnia with Port Huron, Michigan.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were designed and granted by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, on 20 July 1993.



**FORMER FLAG:** Before Sarnia’s 1991 municipal amalgamation and the grant of new arms in 1993, it used a flag of 1:2 proportions and a white field. In its centre is a coat of arms five-eighths the height of the flag, below a ribbon extending

the width of the flag depicting the city’s name. The ribbon is red with a black border, inscribed **CITY OF SARNIA** in white sans-serif letters. The shield contains several elements: a three-towered mural crown in grey, a stylized 16th-century sailing ship in red and white, a stylized sprig of broom in yellow and green, two wavy horizontal lines of light blue, a wavy horizontal black line, and nine alternating black and white vertical stripes. On a salmon-coloured scroll is **Sarnia Semper**, in a stylized medieval script in black. The arms were designed by the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, Scotland, and granted on 3 April 1957.

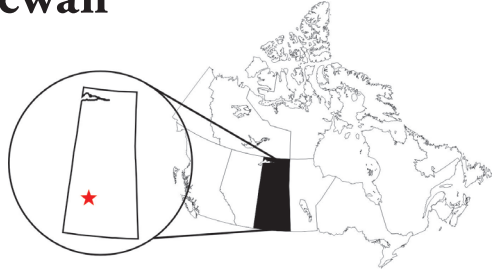


## Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Population Rank:** Canada . . . 17  
Province . . . 1

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 1952, re-established in  
1966



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Saskatoon is divided vertically into green at the hoist (one-third the flag's length) and thirteen alternating yellow and white horizontal stripes at the fly (two-thirds the flag's length). In the centre of the green section is a sprig of berries, purple with light green leaves and stem. Centred at the divide is a white disc, half the height of the flag, containing the city's coat of arms. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. It contains two sections, the upper in green, the lower in the shape of a diamond in yellow (some versions show it in white). The upper section has, on the left, an open book in white with black details, and on the right, a wheat stalk in yellow surmounting a cogged wheel of six spokes in white, both with black details. The lower section has at its centre a black circle from which eight pairs of lines extend to the edges of the diamond. Above the shield is a lion in yellow with black details, oriented to the left and looking outward, holding a sprig of berries, above a torse of yellow and green. Stalks of wheat in yellow, with three stems and four heads, wrap around either side of the shield. Below is a yellow ribbon in three sections, inscribed **COMMERCE INDUSTRY EDUCATION** in black serified letters; the central word is sometimes larger.

**SYMBOLISM:** Green and gold are the city's official colours and represent the importance of agriculture; green for growing crops and gold for the harvest. The seven yellow stripes stand for the city's seven districts: North Park, City Park, Pleasant Hill, Mayfair, Caswell Hill, City Centre, and Nutana. The name "Saskatoon" comes from the Saskatoon berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), ever-present in the prairies and shown on the hoist of the flag and in the lion's paw. The open book of learning comes from the shield of the University of Saskatchewan, and marks the connection between the academic seat and the city. The cogged wheel and wheat stalk represent the agricultural industry. The parallel lines extending from the central circle show the importance of Saskatoon, "The Hub City", as a railway and distribution centre. The central circle is a coin (or "bezant" in heraldry) which signifies the commercial importance of the city. The lion in the crest comes from Saskatchewan's arms.

**HOW SELECTED:** In preparation for the city's 70th anniversary celebrations in 1952, the Retail Merchants Association requested that *something distinctive in the way of a city flag should be designed for decorative purposes*. The city council agreed to the request as long as it would be able to review the final design. The colours gold, green, and white were chosen as the flag colours, and the council granted approval to use the city's coat of arms and recommended the flag follow a design similar to the U.S. flag. On 7 July 1952, four designs were presented to council, which chose one as the city flag and pennant. A drawing of the winning flag was included on the front cover of the committee's 70th anniversary book. The coat of arms was adopted 14 January 1949 (updating a previous design adopted 20 January 1913).

**DESIGNERS:** Descombe "Deck" Whitehead and Henry Mirtle, apparently. (Professor A. L. C. Atkinson, an engineering professor at the University of Saskatchewan, designed the coat of arms).

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The selected flag was said to be the work of artist Descombe "Deck" Whitehead and sign painter Henry Mirtle; Whitehead designed it and Mirtle painted it to scale on a piece of wallboard. Apparently the painted flag was then discovered in a city transit garage by the city utilities manager, who liked it, and when offered the flag by Mirtle brought it back to City Hall, where it was displayed in the office of a city commissioner and eventually adopted as Saskatoon's flag. On some versions of the flag, **CITY of SASKATOON** appears below the disc in sans-serif letters.



## Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 46  
Province. . . . 19

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** Unknown



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Sault Ste. Marie has a blue field bearing in its centre a coat of arms and inscription on a white panel closely bordering its outlines. The panel is three-fourths the height of the flag; the coat of arms is half the height of the flag. The upper part of the panel forms a semi-circle; the lower part is irregular, following the base of the coat of arms. The inscription arches with the top edge of the full half-circle, and reads **THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF** in black sans-serif letters. The white ribbon below the shield of the arms has four sections, each bearing one word, reading **SAULT STE. MARIE CANADA** in smaller black sans-serif letters. The simple shield of the arms is nearly triangular, with a horizontal top and slightly curved sides. It is divided in half horizontally by a yellow band inscribed **OJIBWA KITCHIE GUMEENG ODENA** in black sans-serif letters. The section above the yellow band depicts a canal in perspective with blue water and a three-sided grey perimeter. On either side of the canal are three hemlock trees; in the background are buildings with a frontal view of a ship between them, all in white with black details. The section below the yellow band is divided vertically. The panel on the left is grey with three railroad rails depicted in cross-section in blue, two over one. The panel on the

right is blue with three narrow evergreen trees in grey in a horizontal row; the central tree is set half its height lower than the others. Above the shield is a beaver (*Castor canadensis*), in white with black details, facing left on a patch of wood from which extend on either side a branch with four maple leaves in yellow. They flank the beaver and an imperial crown above it. The crown has a yellow base, a grey headpiece, and yellow ornamentation, including two fleurs-de-lis and a cross at the top, all with white and black details. On the left of the shield stands a First Nations man, on the right a steelworker, both in white with black details. The First Nations man holds a hatchet in his left hand and a shield in his right hand—the shield has concentric rings of yellow and grey. The steelworker holds a smelting rod in yellow. Both stand atop ornamental scrollwork in yellow, the outer ends flared slightly and the inner ends touching the lower parts of the shield.

**SYMBOLISM:** The Sault Ste. Marie Canal was completed in 1895 and operated commercially until 1987. Re-opened in 1998 to recreational traffic, the canal is the final link connecting the St. Lawrence River to Lake Superior. The beaver, the national animal, represents Canada, and the crown refers to the fact that Canada is a constitutional monarchy. The trees recall the hemlock and pine forests of the region; the rails symbolize the importance of Sault Ste. Marie as a manufacturing and commerce centre. The Ojibway (sometimes known in the U. S. as Chippewa) were the original inhabitants of the area. *Ojibwa Kitche Gumeeng Odena* means “Ojibway town next to big body of water”.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown. The arms appear to have been assumed, not granted by any heraldic authority.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** The actual city coat of arms differs slightly from versions on the current and former flag.



**FORMER FLAG:** An earlier version of Sault Ste. Marie's flag exists. Although the basic design of the flag is the same, this version contains several subtle differences from the flag currently in use. The First Nations man's headdress, clothing,

and how he holds his shield are different; the steelworker's clothing, stance, and smelting rod are different; the arched inscription above the coat of arms is replaced by a large ribbon in red below, inscribed **THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE** in white; a golden yellow wreath encircles the coat of arms nearly to its top on both sides; and the rails are replaced by hemlock trees.



CB



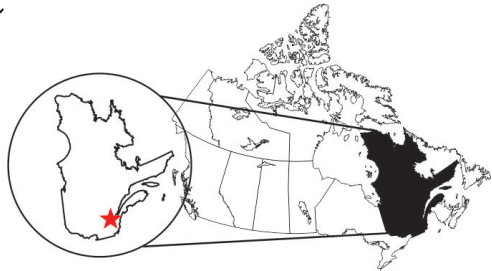


## Shawinigan, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 56  
Province. . . 10

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** After the 2002 merger



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Shawinigan is white with a blue border whose width is approximately 1/30 the height of the flag. The city's logo, name, and slogan are in the centre, running nearly the full length of the flag. The logo is an abstract object in blue, light blue, and red, containing curved components and a red two-angled "lightning bolt". Below the logo is **SHAWINIGAN** centred in serifed letters, above the "SHA" is **VILLE DE**, in letters half the size, all in blue. Above the "IGAN" is **un courant d'énergies**, on three lines: "un" in smallest type, then "courant" in smaller type, then "d" in smallest type, all in blue, with "énergies" following "d" in smaller type and in red.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the logo and slogan: *The electric current consists of two complementary symbols. The first refers to water, more specifically, the river, a natural element unifying all of the city's sectors. The second alludes to human movement, which allows an entire city to mobilize itself. These energies brought together witness to a present full of life and a future filled with projects. The logo also symbolizes a wave or a current entering a turbine to exit it as energy or electricity, visually rendered by a lightning bolt. Bringing these two elements together, one obtains the letter S for Shawinigan. Shawinigan*

*is well known for its ten hydroelectric centrals [power-generating plants] built since 1899. Because of the incredible energy of its people and the no less powerful energy of its waters, the City of Shawinigan is closely associated with the word ENERGY, which is the source of the slogan Shawinigan, un courant d'énergies (Shawinigan, a current of energy).*

**HOW SELECTED:** Over 270 people participated in a flag-design process. A citizen of Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides, Yvan Bellemare, proposed the winning slogan. To represent a new start after the 2002 merger of seven former municipalities, a logo was adopted along with the winning slogan.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.



**FORMER FLAG:** The former flag was created by Mr. Alban Dufresne. The blue field dominated by a white fleur-de-lis is inspired by the geographic location of the city within Québec. The white wave represents hydraulic energy from the Saint-Maurice River. Two golden yellow lightning bolts emerge from this

wave, symbolizing electricity and the wealth that it has brought for over a half-century to the Mauricie region, to Québec, and to Canada.



## Sherbrooke, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 19  
Province. . . 4

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** Unknown



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Sherbrook has a white field with the city's coat of arms in the centre with **SHERBROOKE** curving below in yellow serifed letters outlined in black. The arms and inscription below are nearly the full height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides, spreading outward from the top slightly before forming a pointed "U" shape. It is yellow, divided by a wide wavy "Y" shape in blue running to the upper corners and the point of the base. In the centre of the "Y" is a six-pointed star in silver with a central hole (a heraldic "mullet", called by the city a "moletta"); in each upper arm of the "Y" is a one-angled lightning bolt with an arrow tip and in the lower arm is a spear, all pointing upward, in silver. Above the "Y" is a red rose; to the right and the left is a blue fleur-de-lis, all with black details. Above the shield is a seven-towered mural crown in yellow and black. Flanking both sides of the shield are palm fronds in green; below is a ribbon in light blue inscribed in two parts **NE QUID NIMIS** in black sans-serif letters.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city's documentation interprets the coat of arms: *The seven-tower crown symbolizes the fact that Sherbrooke is the Queen of the Eastern*

*Townships [of Québec] or Estrie. The fleurs-de-lis and the rose represent respectively the French and English elements of the city. Gold symbolizes generosity and prosperity; azure [blue], the aspiration towards an elevated ideal. The Y shape represents the Saint-François and Magog Rivers meeting at the place known as the Grandes Fourches (Great Forks). The silver moletta, an emblem of diligence and untarnished honour, is taken from the arms of Canadian Governor General Sir John Coape Sherbrooke [for whom the city was renamed in 1818]. The two lightning bolts symbolize electricity, a valuable resource of the “City of Electricity”. The spear represents St. Michael, patron of the cathedral/basilica. The palms are of the colour of rising wheat, symbolising the entrepreneurship spirit, the confidence in the future, as well as the green of the numerous parks. The [Latin] motto NE QUID NIMIS means “nothing in excess”, and was Sherbrooke’s family motto.*

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:** This flag and arms were used by the City of Sherbrooke before its merger with the other municipalities of Sherbrooke County in 2002.



## Sorel-Tracy, Québec

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 63

Province. . . . 13

**Proportions:** 1:2 (usage)

**Adopted:** After the 2000 merger



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Sorel-Tracy has a white field with the city logo centred horizontally, about two-thirds the height of the flag. The logo is square, with a wide stylized “S” in white running from the left side of the upper edge to right side of the lower edge; the background to the left is green and to the right is blue. Below, running half the length of the flag, is **SOREL-TRACY** in blue sans-serif letters.

**SYMBOLISM:** The city’s documentation interprets the logo: *The logo represents a transformation of a capital S in bold Times font, cut at its extremities sans serif. This stylized S, the initial of Sorel-Tracy, represents somewhat the sinuous line of the Richelieu River that crosses the new city and its two components.*

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was created after the merger of the cities of Sorel and Tracy in 2000. The logo is derived from the former logo of Sorel, which was designed in February 1994 by Jean-Guy Rajotte, then a professor at Fernand-Lefebvre High School and a member of the Société des graphistes du Québec. That Sorel logo was identical to the current

logo, except in just blue and white. The blue/green colour combination was taken from the former logo of Tracy.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

**FORMER FLAGS/SYMBOLS:** The former cities of Sorel and Tracy had flags. Sorel's was white with the municipal coat of arms and name of the city. The Sorel and Tracy parts of the city each retains its own coat of arms.





## Souris, Prince Edward Island

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 1,799  
Province. . . 18

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 10 November 1986

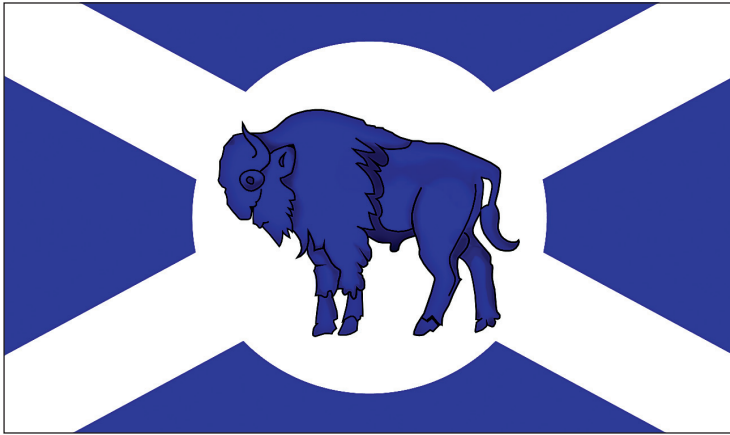


**DESIGN:** The flag of the Town of Souris has a blue field with the town emblem, nearly the full height of the flag, in the centre. The emblem comprises a shield with squared upper corners and a rounded base. It is edged in white and shows a stylized scene: to the left a red-roofed white lighthouse and adjacent building on a grassy clifftop in green over bluffs of brown, a blue sea with white waves, and a blue sky with three flying seagulls and two clouds, all in white. All elements are outlined in black. The clouds are inscribed **INC.** and **1910**, and curving below and attached to the shield is a white ribbon inscribed **SOURIS, P.E.I.**, all in black sans-serif letters.

**SYMBOLISM:** The emblem depicts the Souris East Lighthouse, built in 1880 and long a symbol of the town and area. It stands 14.3 m above the cliff on Knight Point overlooking the Town of Souris, which was incorporated in 1910.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.

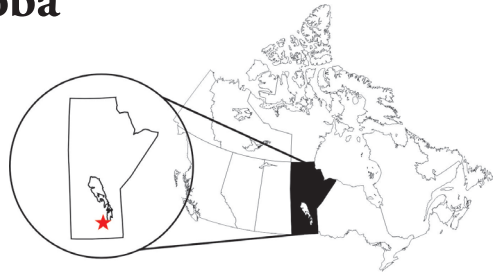


## St. Andrews, Manitoba

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 326  
Province. . . . 7

**Proportions:** 3:5

**Adopted:** 20 September 2007



**DESIGN:** The flag of the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews has a white saltire (X-shaped cross) on a blue field. The width of each bar is one-fourth the height of the flag. Surmounting the centre is a white disc, over three-fourths the height of the flag. On it is a naturalistic adult bison (*Bison bison*, or buffalo) in blue with dark blue and black details, half the height of the flag, facing the hoist.

**SYMBOLISM:** The saltire, or St. Andrew's cross, is a direct reference to the name of the rural municipality, St. Andrews. Depicted in white on blue, it is the flag of Scotland. The bison, a magnificent animal that once roamed in the thousands on the nearby plains, alludes to St. Andrews as a community of Manitoba, which displays a similar bison prominently on its provincial flag, coat of arms, and logo.

**HOW SELECTED:** In 2005 St. Andrews celebrated its 125th anniversary. One of the projects of the Anniversary Committee was to have a proper coat of arms and flag designed and registered. The municipality then applied to the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of a coat of arms, flag, and badge.



**DESIGNERS:** John Neill (original concept of the arms), assisted by the heralds of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.





## St. Catharines, Ontario

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . 12  
Province. . . 6

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 1979



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of St. Catharines is a Canadian pale design of green-white-green, with the city's coat of arms displayed in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and straight then simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. It is divided quarterly by a cross of yellow edged in black. The first quarter is white with a square-rigged three-masted sailing ship with white sails, in black outline, prow toward the hoist, sailing on an ocean of white with black waves; the second is blue with an upright cornucopia in yellow with white fruit and leaves issuing from it; the third is blue with a millstone depicted by a white central disc with twelve segments alternating black and white emanating from it and curving clockwise; the fourth is white with a steamship, prow toward the hoist, with white sails, in black outline and on an ocean of white with black waves. Above the shield, on a white platform, is a beehive in yellow with black details and seven bees in yellow arching around it. Below the shield is a ribbon in yellow, inscribed **INDUSTRY AND LIBERALITY** in black sans-serif letters, across three segments.

**SYMBOLISM:** The green represents the city's nickname, "The Garden City". The beehive alludes to industry. The motto on the scroll is explained by the city: "*Industry*" refers to all forms of economic activity and productive occupations and "*Liberality*" to being free and generous without prejudice". The cross represents the crossroads of the Niagara Region. The figures on the shield are also explained by the city: *THE SAILING SHIP* alludes to navigation. *The forerunner to the first Welland Canal was the watercourse of the Twelve Mile Creek with enabled sailing ships to travel and be pulled by horses up the watercourse to the heart of our City. Subsequently, the early navigational course was developed into a canal and preceded three ship canals that followed a path through our City until the present day fourth ship canal.* *THE CORNUCOPIA*, commonly referred to as a "Horn of Plenty", pertains to the rich agriculture and fruitlands abundant in the area. *THE MILLSTONE* (sometimes, incorrectly, referred to as a grindstone) symbolizes the grist mills and flour mills prevalent of an earlier era. *These mills were built along the Twelve Mile Creek that provided an inexpensive and plentiful supply of water used to operate them.* *THE STEAMSHIP WITH SAILS* relates to the shipbuilding in the area by Mr. Lewis Shikluna, a builder of many fine sailing vessels and credited with helping to build a steamship that sailed the Atlantic Ocean to England. *The early shipyards were located near the foot of Burgoyne Bridge; however, shipbuilding has always been a thriving industry in the area, with shipyards at the former Port Dalhousie, on the Twelve Mile Creek, and the new modern facilities at the Port Weller Dry Docks.*

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag is a redesign of an earlier flag.

**DESIGNER:** Rev. (now Bishop) D. Ralph Spence (named Albion Herald Extraordinary by the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 2006).



**FORMER FLAG:** The flag in use before 1979 has the coat of arms in blue outline on a white field. The arms on that flag are somewhat more elaborately drawn with a rococo shield and mantling. The date of the first use of that flag is uncertain.

The coat of arms dates to November 1851, but there is no record of who designed it. The coat of arms was officially registered as a trade-mark with the Government of Canada in 1976, but is not a grant from the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



## St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador ★

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 20  
Province. . . . 1

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** Unknown (arms granted 1965)



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of St. John's has a white field with its colourful coat of arms, nearly the full height of the flag, in the centre. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. It has a red field, with a white section on its top third bearing three wavy blue stripes with three undulations at its base. Atop the wavy stripes is an early ship sailing toward the hoist with a jib and square main sail in white and a golden yellow hull. A long pennant blows forward from its single mast, a smaller ensign from a staff in the stern, both in red. In the centre of the lower section is a lamb oriented toward the hoist, depicted in white with black details, a golden yellow halo, and holding with its right foreleg a staff (ending in a cross finial) from which streams a swallow-tailed white flag bearing a red cross. On either side of the lamb is an inverted scallop shell in white outlined in black. Above the shield is a knight's helmet in grey, white, and black with an elaborate crest: a golden yellow crown in the form of a crenulated stone wall with five towers, surrounding a rocky hill. On it stands a lion in golden yellow, with right foreleg raised between two red and white Tudor roses with green leaves and stems. Its tongue and claws are red. The mantling is red with black and white details. On either side of the shield, standing on a slightly

arched wooden platform of brown and golden yellow, are two sailors—at the left, in 15th-century garb (a brown hat over a green, orange, and purple tunic and cowl) holding a scroll inscribed **14 97**, at the right in late-16th-century garb (a green hat and a grey, collared jacket) holding a scroll inscribed **15 83**. Both have orange leggings and brown footwear. The scrolls are white, the dates black, in old script. Below the shield curves a white ribbon inscribed **AVANCEZ** in blue serified letters.

**SYMBOLISM:** According to English legend, the explorer John Cabot discovered St. John's harbour on 24 June 1497, the feast day of St. John the Baptist for the Catholic Church, although scholars consider it unlikely that Cabot ever visited St. John's. Basques, on the other hand, believe that the harbour was named for the town of San Juan in Basque Country. San Juan is on the Bay of Pasaia, of which early Basque fishermen in Newfoundland were reminded by the topography of St. John's harbour. In either case, the "Lamb of God", traditional in Christian iconography, refers to St. John, who gave Jesus this title (John 1:29, 36), as do the scallop shells (used in Catholic baptism). The sailing ship refers to the province's early discoverers and explorers, with one sailor representing the discovery of Newfoundland by Cabot in 1497, and the other Sir Humphrey Gilbert's proclamation in 1583 that Newfoundland belonged to England. In the crest, the lion and roses are symbols of England as well. The mural crown signifies St. John's status as a municipality. The city's motto is *Avancez* ("Advance" in French).

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were created by the College of Arms in London, England, and granted 1 March 1965.

**FORMER FLAGS:** The city apparently had flags before it was granted a coat of arms in 1965. For example, the *Daily News* of 5 August 1907 noted *The City Flag was hoisted on the New Pole in Bannerman Park, for the first time yesterday*.

**OTHER FLAGS:** As Britain's easternmost port in North America, St. John's had a long and interesting history of signal flags. Upon sighting a vessel approaching, a signaller would hoist at Signal Hill a flag symbolizing its nationality and corporate owner. For more information, consult Mark Le Messurier, "The Signal and Commercial Flags of St. John's, Newfoundland c. 1500–c. 1900" in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, Volume 7 (2000), pp. 19–36.



## Summerside, Prince Edward Island

**Population Rank:** Canada . . . 121  
Province . . . 2

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 1 April 1995



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Summerside has a navy blue field, with a device in the centre nearly the full height of the flag. Outlined in white, the overall device is a naturalistic depiction of an architectural upper story gable in white with black details. In its upper triangle, against a brown background, are a cannon and shot in black, with a clock tower in green with black details and the clock in grey and black above. Enclosed by the gable is a coastal scene. Blue water forms the lower half, with a partial shoreline in green and brown at the left. A light blue sky forms the upper half, with a large white cloud at the left. In the centre is a two-masted square-rigged ship, under full sail, oriented toward the fly, with white sails and a black hull. Below the gable is a fishing dory in olive green with brown details, with a wheat sheaf above the bow and a blue heron above the stern. Below on a horizontal yellow ribbon is **SUMMERSIDE** in black letters; above it is a smaller arched yellow ribbon with **CITY** in smaller black letters; below it is a small yellow rectangle with **INC. 1995** in even smaller black letters. In the black space below “City” is **of** in yellow. At the base is a green rectangular ribbon inscribed **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** in black. All letters are serified Courier font.

**SYMBOLISM:** The City of Summerside was incorporated 1 April 1995 through the amalgamation of the Town of Summerside, the Village of St. Eleanors, the Village of Wilmot, and a portion of the Community of Sherbrooke. The city shield derives from the coat of arms of the city, and includes items which refer to the culture, industry, and heritage of those amalgamated communities. Summerside is represented by its city hall's clock tower. The gable is of the style prevalent on older homes in the Summerside area. The cannon represents the cenotaphs in Summerside and in St. Eleanors (and Earl Cannon, the first chairman of St. Eleanors). It also recalls the military history of both communities, the armouries in the old town, and the Canadian Forces Base at St. Eleanors. The arch and pillars represent the Victorian style of many older structures in the city, and suggest unity through strength. The sailing ship passing the shores of Prince Edward Island recalls the role of the maritime trade in Summerside's history and shipping potatoes around the world. The wheat sheaf represents the farming industry prevalent in Sherbrooke, Wilmot, and St. Eleanors before their urbanization. The fishing dory shows the strong link of the community to the sea—a common sight today is an oysterman in his dory working the Wilmot River. The heron, whose favourite haunt is the Wilmot River, represents the community of Wilmot.

**HOW SELECTED:** The flag was selected in a contest conducted in the spring of 1995 when residents of the city submitted their designs. The city emblem and flag were introduced upon the incorporation of the City of Summerside.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. Richard G. Fortin designed the emblem.



**FORMER FLAG:** Summerside previously used a flag in 1:2 proportions and a blue field, bearing a device in the centre nearly the full height of the flag. In it a shield depicts a naturalistic scene of land, sea, mountains, cloud-filled sky,

and a ship with a single mast and no sail, flying a pennant; on the land is a prominent sheaf of wheat, all of these in white, yellow, light blue, and black. Above the shield is a ribbon in golden yellow inscribed **SUMMERSIDE** in black serified letters, below is a similar ribbon inscribed **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** in slightly smaller letters. The ends of the ribbons pass behind the shield. The entire device is outlined in white.