



Thompson, Manitoba

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 129
Province. . . . 4

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unveiled 22 June 1982



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Thompson has a light blue field with a seal in its centre, three-fourths the height of the flag. The seal is a light blue disc surrounded by a yellow ring, bordered inside and outside in black. On the ring is **CITY OF THOMPSON** around its top and **THE CENTENNIAL CITY** around its base, in black sans-serif letters. In the upper part of the disc is an abstract object in yellow, with a yellow dot at the centre top. At the base is a silhouette of a line of evergreen trees and to the right some building structures, including a mining head frame, all in black.

SYMBOLISM: The seal shows a northern landscape at night. Thompson is the largest city in northern Manitoba, approximately 800 km north of Winnipeg and known as “The Hub of the North”. The bands of yellow in the sky depict the northern lights or *aurora borealis*, representing the North, as it occurs in the very northern latitudes. The dot signifies Polaris, the North Star. The black forested silhouette, at the base of the seal, is for the forests in the area, while the mining head frame represents International Nickel Company of Canada (INCO), the mining company which built a large mine and smelting operation here. Thompson was created on 3 December 1956 through

an agreement between INCO and the province of Manitoba. In 1967, during Canada's centennial, Thompson was incorporated as a city, hence the motto, "The Centennial City".

HOW SELECTED: Unknown. There is no information that the flag was officially adopted, but it was unveiled on 22 June 1982 at the city council meeting by Mayor Bill Comaskey and Deputy Mayor Blake McGrath.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The seal was designed by Ms. Linda Mullin in a contest in the early 1970s.





Thunder Bay, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . 31
Province. . . 14

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: 1972



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Thunder Bay is a horizontal bicolour of two-thirds golden yellow over one-third blue. Extending along the full base of the golden yellow section is a low mountainous landform in green, reaching to about one-third the height of that section. Behind it is a Canadian maple leaf in red, extending nearly the full height of the flag. All components are edged in white, separating them from each other.

SYMBOLISM: The overall image depicts a golden yellow sky with a sun (in the form of a maple leaf, the symbol of Canada) rising behind the “Sleeping Giant” mountain, which sits in the blue waters of Lake Superior. Green and gold are Thunder Bay’s official colours. The “Sleeping Giant” has long symbolized Thunder Bay. A rock formation on the Sibley Peninsula across the bay from the city, it resembles a giant lying on its back. According to an Ojibway legend, the giant Nanabijou was turned to stone when the secret of a local silver mine was betrayed to white men. The Ojibway (sometimes known in the U. S. as Chippewa) were the original inhabitants of the area.

HOW SELECTED: In 1972 Mayor Saul Laskin conceived of a distinctive flag to promote the city, after it was formed by the amalgamation of the twin cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. A small committee was formed and invited participation in a contest.

DESIGNER: Cliff Redden, a local citizen, created the winning design in the contest.





Toronto, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 1
Province. . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: 6 November 1974; modified 23 November 1999



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Toronto has a medium blue field with a “T” shape in white. The trunk of the “T” is much wider than its crossbar, and is divided vertically by a blue bar which extends nearly to the base. The “T” is set toward the hoist, with the right edge of its trunk halfway to the fly. The crossbar curves upward slightly at both ends. A red Canadian maple leaf one-third the height of the flag is centred at the base of the “T”. The width of the trunk is one-fourth the flag’s length.

SYMBOLISM: The white object represents City Hall, one of the landmark buildings of the city, with its twin towers in silhouette forming a “T” on the flag for Toronto. The towers themselves curve toward the viewer at their outer sides, so the object on the flag creates a remarkably recognizable depiction of them. The maple leaf symbolizes the city council and recalls Toronto’s Canadian heritage.

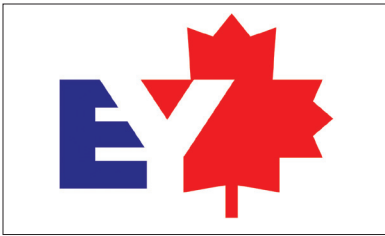
HOW SELECTED: On 18 August 1974 the city council formed a Flag Design Committee comprising Alderman Paul B. Pickett, Q.C., and Reid Scott, Q.C., as co-chairmen, and Aldermen Edward Negridge, Colin Vaughan, and Anne

Johnston as members. A competition was created with citizens invited to submit suitable entries.

DESIGNER: Renato De Santis, a 21-year-old student at George Brown College.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: On 1 January 1998 Toronto merged with the surrounding cities of Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York, the Borough of East York, and the Metro level of government, creating a new “mega-city”. The city council invited the public to submit flag designs for the newly enlarged city, but none of the many entries gained favour with the councillors. Renato De Santis, who had designed the first flag, suggested that his design be retained, changing the proportions from 2:3 to 1:2. His suggestion was accepted and made official on 23 November 1999.

FORMER FLAGS: All the governmental entities that merged with Toronto in 1998 had previously had one or more flags of their own. The flags are sometimes displayed in the “civic centres” (replacing city halls) of the former municipalities.



East York



Etobicoke (1977)



Etobicoke (1985)



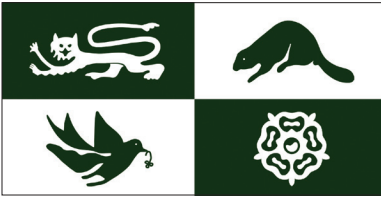
North York (1972)



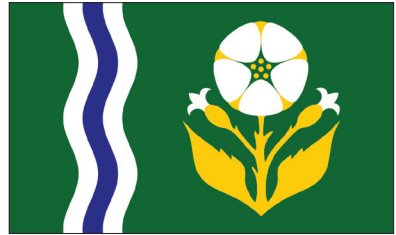
North York (1985)



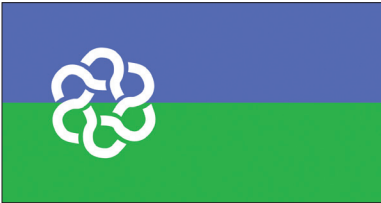
Scarborough



York (1967)



York (1993)



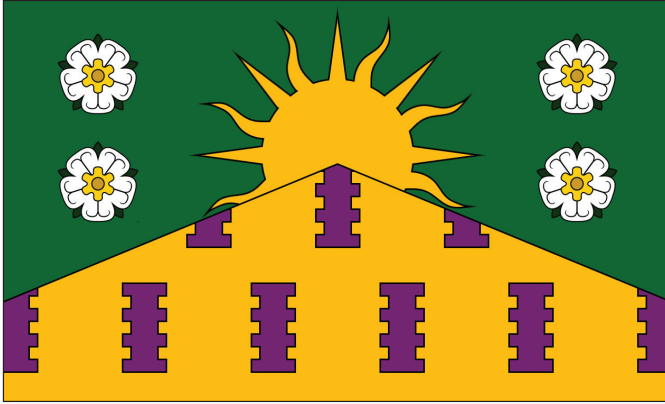
Metropolitan Toronto (1978)

OTHER FLAGS: Four large cities in the Greater Toronto Metro Area have flags (see next pages).



Brampton, Ontario

The flag of Brampton has proportions of 1:2 and a white field. In the centre is the city's coat of arms, three-fourths the height of the flag. The simple shield is divided into four quarters. The first is red, with a beaver (*Castor canadensis*) facing left, gnawing on a piece of wood, all in golden yellow with black details. The second is blue, with a sheaf of wheat in golden yellow with black details. The third is blue, with an old ploughshare in white with black details. The fourth is red, with an old locomotive in black with white highlights, steaming to the left. A slender evergreen tree in green surmounts the centre, from the base to two-thirds the height of the shield. The shield overlays an elaborate plaque in white, the upper corners of which form scrolls on either side, outlined in black. Above the shield is a four-towered mural crown in golden yellow. Below is a golden yellow ribbon, outlined in black, with **CITY OF BRAMPTON** in black serified letters. The symbolism of the arms is explained by the city: *The City Crest [coat of arms] is crowned in gold, reminiscent of our British origins and our relationship to Brampton, Cumbria, England. The beaver symbolizes our Canadian heritage and the ethic of hard work. The sheaf is the symbol of the Township of Toronto Gore...Farming and manufacturing, the area's historical mainstays, are represented...by the sheaf of grain and the ploughshare. When the Grand Trunk Railway was laid through Brampton, as depicted by the Steam Engine, the City's importance as an agricultural, manufacturing, and political centre escalated. The majestic pine tree was selected as a symbol of the Township of Chinguacousy...The Indian word Chinguacousy means "Land of the Tall Pines" as it was called by the area's indigenous settlers.* The arms were adopted in January 1974, after a 1973 contest held by the city. Gordon Diplock, a freelance designer, won a \$500 prize for his design, an alteration of the arms used by the Town of Brampton before achieving city status. The pine tree is from the arms of the former Chinguacousy Township, designed by Penny Small in 1962.



Markham, Ontario

Markham's flag, adopted 21 December 1990, is a banner of its arms. Its proportions are 3:5. The flag is green over golden yellow, divided by an inverted "V" line, its apex just above the midpoint of the field and extending on either side downward to the flag's sides about one-fourth of the distance from the flag's lower edge. The lower field has two rows of vertical rectangles with crenulated sides in purple, representing computer chips, aligned three over six. The top three are truncated by the "V" line; the outer two on the lower row are truncated by the flag's edges as well. Behind the midpoint in the upper field is a golden yellow sun with eleven rays visible, alternating wavy and straight, and at both the hoist and fly are two white roses with yellow centres, one above the other. The green recalls Markham's agricultural heritage and its parks and fields. The golden yellow symbolizes the southern-to-northern development of modern Markham, centred in the high-technology industry represented by computer chips. The rising sun is for the dynamism of this development. Markham's four original communities, Markham, Unionville, Thornhill, and Milliken, are recalled by the four York roses, which also refer to Markham as a community in the York Region. The flag was designed by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority.



ADDITIONAL FLAG: Markham's first flag is still in use, and appears to be preferred by the city to its 1990 flag, which may exist only on paper. That flag has a blue field with the town's corporate seal in the centre. The seal has

an outer edge of red rectangular dots with white centres, and an inner ring of smaller solid red dots. The field of the seal is white. In the area between the outer and inner rings are **TOWN OF MARKHAM**, arched over the top, and **CORPORATION**, curved below, all in black serifed letters. In the centre is a brown beaver (*Castor canadensis*), facing left, on a red maple leaf with white details. Curved below the leaf is **1872** in black. The seal was designed by Versatel Corporate Services in 1982; presumably the flag was created at City Hall shortly thereafter.



Mississauga, Ontario

Mississauga's flag, adopted in 1974, is a slightly altered version of the former flag of the Town of Mississauga. It has proportions of 1:2 (3:5 in usage) and a medium blue field. In the centre is a simple shield, three-eighths the height of the flag, with a horizontal top and vertical sides, curving to a pointed "U" shape. It is divided into four panels, the upper and lower ones forming elongated semicircles almost touching in the centre. The upper panel is medium blue with outspread aviator wings over a vertical stalk of wheat, all in white with black details. The lower panel is orange with a large cogwheel in white, bordered in black, with a small central hole through which can be seen the stem of the wheat stalk running to the base of the shield. In the left panel is a water wheel in three-quarters profile in white with black details; in the right panel is a lighthouse in black with a white window and door. Above the shield arches **CITY OF MISSISSAUGA** in white sans-serif letters, its width about half the length of the flag. Below the shield are crossed laurel leaves and below them curves **INCORPORATED 1974**, in smaller letters, all in white. Blue and orange are the city's official colours. The water wheel and lighthouse



honour and distinction. The city has used different versions of this flag. Al Bauldry, former head draftsman for the City of Mississauga, designed the first Mississauga shield in 1964, which was placed in a white disc on the flag by the city council in 1968. When Mississauga changed its status from town to city in 1974, the council made minor changes to the original shield and thus to the flag for the new city.



Mississauga also uses a logo flag in 3:5 proportions, placing a blue image nearly the full height of the flag on a white field, with **MISSISSAUGA** above it in blue sans-serif letters. The image is a right-tilting parallelogram with a curved base. On it in white is a stylized depiction of the 1987 postmodern Mississauga Civic Centre with its prominent clock tower, under which is a curved white line paralleling the base, likely representing Lake Ontario.

represent the towns of Streetsville and Port Credit, which joined with Mississauga in 1974 to form the current city. The wheat recalls Mississauga's agricultural roots, the wings represent aviation, and the gear represents industry. The laurel leaves under the shield symbolize

honour and distinction. The city has used different versions of this flag. Al Bauldry, former head draftsman for the City of Mississauga, designed the first Mississauga shield in 1964, which was placed in a white disc on the flag by the city council in 1968. When Mississauga changed its status from town to city in 1974, the council made minor changes to the original shield and thus to the flag for the new city.



Vaughan, Ontario

Vaughan's flag, adopted 2 May 1988, is here reconstructed from a website photograph. It has proportions of 1:2 and a white field. In the centre is a red Canadian maple leaf, just over one-half the height of the flag. A "V" shape, formed from four blue rays, overlays the maple leaf and runs to the top edge of the flag from its base at the centre of the flag. The three spaces between the rays appear wider than the rays. The four stripes represent the communities which constitute Vaughan: Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill, and Woodbridge. The maple leaf is for Canada and the "V" is for "Vaughan". Michael Vite, a 15-year-old Vaughan student, submitted the winning design in a contest organized by the city's Industrial Advisory Board.

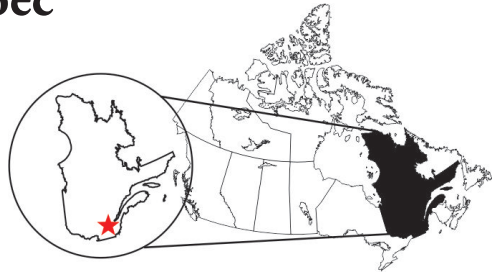


Trois-Rivières, Québec

Population Rank: Canada. . . 27
Province. . . 6

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown (logo adopted
in 1984)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Trois-Rivières has a white field with the city logo in the centre, about two-thirds the height of the flag. The logo is square but for a wavy base; its background is green. A figure in blue (a stylized representation of the Saint-Maurice River Delta) runs from the upper to lower edge. It consists of an upright line toward the left, which divides near its top and its centre into two parallel diagonal lines running toward the lower right and all three lines meeting a wavy line across the base. Below, running the length of the logo, is **trois-rivières** in light blue sans-serif letters.

SYMBOLISM: The city's documentation interprets the logo: *The graphic symbol represents the geographic feature inspiring the name of Trois-Rivières. The three branches of the Saint-Maurice River Delta indeed give the impression to be "three rivers" (in French: trois rivières) feeding the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The horizontal line at the base of the symbol represents by its wavy shape the Saint Lawrence River. The two shapes surrounded by blue constitute a representation of the two main islands that can be seen from the Saint Lawrence [Saint-Quentin (on the left), and l'Île de la Potherie (on the right)]. Blue symbolizes water, while green stands for nearby vegetation, rich in forests. Inspired by the name*

of the city, this graphic symbol allows us to understand and visualize our history daily. The overall design is contained in a square, which facilitates its reproduction and adaptation.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown. The flag was used by the city of Trois-Rivières that existed before the 2002 merger.

DESIGNER: Pierre Rivard, a graphic artist.





Truro, Nova Scotia

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 66
Province. . . . 3

Proportions: 7:11

Adopted: 30 April 1993

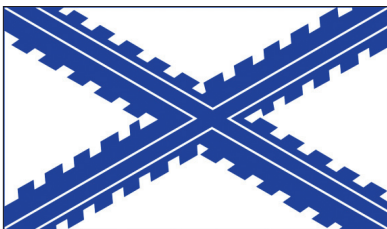


DESIGN: The flag of the Town of Truro is navy blue with a white saltire (X-shaped cross). The flag is variably shown with the saltire either extending to the corners or ending at the border of the flag. Centred on the saltire is a coat of arms, three-eighths the height of the flag. Above the arms is **Truro**; below is **1875**, both in white in Dauphin font. The simple shield of the coat of arms has a slightly arched top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape. It is white, bearing a complex saltire of blue. The edges of the saltire are notched and narrow white stripes border the interior. Above the shield is a helmet in silver with blue and white mantling. Out of a crown of red maple leaves alternating with white mayflowers extends the upper half of a winged lion in white. In its right forepaw it holds a golden yellow and blue fleur-de-lis and its left forepaw rests on a blue cogwheel. To the left stands a Micmac woman of 1600 in natural colours with a burning bush at her feet; to the right stands a fireman of 1875 in a blue uniform with his left hand on a sheaf of wheat. They stand on a grassy mound in green with marigold flowers at the front and evergreen trees at the rear. Below is a white ribbon in three sections, inscribed **BEGUN IN FAITH CONTINUED IN DETERMINATION** in blue serified letters, above wavy stripes of white-blue-white-blue.

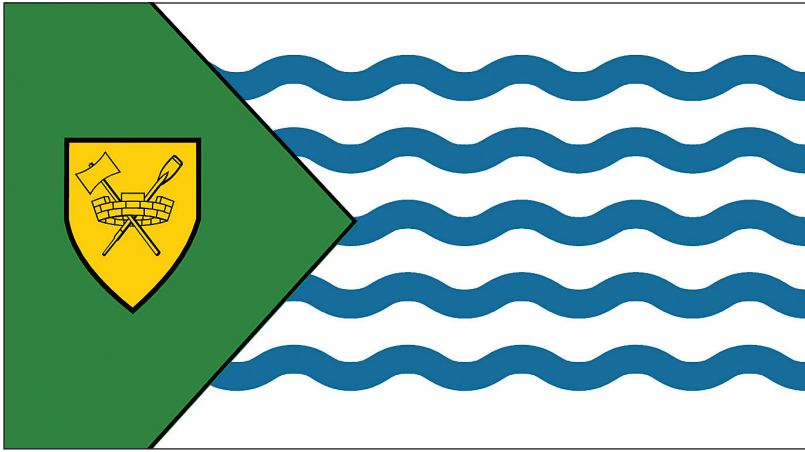
SYMBOLISM: The saltire (St. Andrew's cross) recalls the flag of Scotland, after which Nova Scotia is named; the saltire in the arms uses the reversed provincial colours of blue cross on white. The notches on the saltire (in heraldic terms, it is "cottised brethesed"), represent the railways that meet in Truro, "the Hub of Nova Scotia". The cogwheel symbolizes the town's industrial history. The lion recalls the town's heritage in England and Scotland, while its eagle wings represent the settlers from the American colonies, where the eagle is the national symbol. The fleur-de-lis is for the Acadian founders, of French extraction. The Micmac (now Mi'kmaq) woman honours the local First Nations people and the volunteer fireman, attired as of the town's incorporation date (1875), honours volunteer service in the community. The burning bush (a biblical reference) recalls the local Presbyterian heritage and the wheat represents agriculture. The wavy field at the base symbolizes the waters of the Salmon River that empty at Truro into Cobequid Bay in the Minas Basin. The maple leaves represent Canada, the mayflower (*Epigaea repens*) is the provincial flower of Nova Scotia, and the marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) is the town's official flower, selected in the 1980s.

HOW SELECTED: In 1991 Mayor Douglas McCart Carter and the town council asked the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of arms.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The arms, badge, and flag of Truro (see "Other Flag", below) were designed by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority, and granted by him on 30 April 1993. The town does not use the flag granted.



OTHER FLAG: The flag granted to Truro by the Canadian Heraldic Authority is a complex saltire (in heraldic terms, "cottised brethesed"). The bars are blue on a field of white. They bear two white lines set to the right side of the bars (unlike on the arms, where they are centred), and the edges of the bars have indentations extending at a slight angle.



Vancouver, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 3
Province. . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unveiled 17 May 1983



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Vancouver has a white field with five wavy stripes of medium blue, each just over half the width of the space between them. Against the hoist is a green non-equilateral pentagon, its upper and lower edges approximately one-sixth the length of the flag. The remaining two sides project to the horizontal centre of the flag, meeting at a near-right angle approximately three-sevenths the distance from the hoist. In the centre of the pentagon is a simple shield with a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape. It is golden yellow bearing an axe and oar, crossed with handles downward, surmounted by a three-towered mural crown; the tools, crown, and shield are outlined in black.

SYMBOLISM: The medium blue wavy stripes appear on the lower two-thirds of the shield of the city’s coat of arms and refer to Vancouver as a natural harbour on the Pacific Ocean. Vancouver’s is the busiest and largest port in Canada and the fourth largest, by tonnage, in North America. The green pentagon, taken from the green “pile” on the shield, represents the land on which Vancouver was built and its forests. Together, the references to sea and land reflect the city’s motto, which also appears on its coat of arms: “By Sea,

Land, and Air We Prosper". The badge, which was part of the heraldic grant, continues this theme with an axe for the timber industry, long the city's most important economic resource, and the oar for the maritime nature of Vancouver, including fishing. The mural crown is a traditional symbol of civic authority.

HOW SELECTED: Adopted by the city council. Vancouver revisited the idea of a city flag in anticipation of hosting Expo '86. The design derives from the city's coat of arms, granted by the English Kings of Arms in London, England, 31 March 1969.

DESIGNER: Robert D. Watt, director of the Vancouver Museum (in June 1988 he would become the first Chief Herald of Canada at the Canadian Heraldic Authority).



FORMER FLAG: In 1978 a contest was held for a Vancouver city flag. The winner was Rudolph Danglemaier, who won \$300. The flag, here reconstructed from a photograph, has vertical stripes

of green, white, and blue, a variant of a Canadian pale design. In the centre is a shield bearing a tall inverted isosceles triangle in black, bearing a totem pole. At the top of the shield is a yellow panel with two white flowers; below is a panel with eight wavy lines in blue and white. Above it is a three-towered mural crown with a ship's fore royal mast with sail set and flying pennon. The committee judging the contest decided to add the helmet, mantling, and shield to give the design a "stronger sense of heraldry". Although approved, the flag failed to garner public enthusiasm and was never manufactured or used.

OTHER FLAGS: The other two largest municipalities in Metro Vancouver (formerly the Greater Vancouver Regional District) have flags.



Burnaby, British Columbia

The Burnaby flag, adopted 24 April 1991, has proportions of 3:5 (1:2 usage) and a yellow field. In the centre is a stylized eagle with outspread wings, in blue with black and white details. On each wing is a disc of six wavy stripes alternating white and blue. Above and below the eagle are two dark blue wavy stripes, each at its widest point about one-sixth the height of the flag, bordered in black and forming the top and bottom edges of the flag. The eagle represents the spirit of the community, along with the rich natural attributes of Burnaby Mountain and its wildlife. The discs are heraldic fountains, symbols of water, for Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake. Together they represent the geographic centre of the district and the increasing interest in preserving the heritage of the landscape. The flag reflects Burnaby's location at the heart of the lower mainland and its motto: "By River and Sea Rise Burnaby". The wavy stripes symbolize Burrard Inlet to the north and the Fraser River to the south. The yellow field represents both the riches of nature and those created by human endeavour. Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority, designed the flag.



Surrey, British Columbia

The Surrey flag has proportions of 3:5 (1:2 usage) and a white field. In the centre is the shield of the city's coat of arms (granted by the English Kings of Arms on 17 August 1987), with a brown border. The shield has a golden yellow beaver (*Castor canadensis*) facing left between two wavy blue stripes, each bordered in white. Above the upper stripe are five golden yellow stars and below the lower stripe is a representation of the Peace Arch in white with black details. Extending from both sides of the shield are two wavy white stripes, each bordered in blue and connecting to their counterparts on the shield, running to the edges of the flag. The beaver, the national animal, is derived from the 1879 municipal seal. The five stars represent the five historic town centres comprising modern Surrey: Whalley, Guildford, Newton, Cloverdale, and South Surrey. The Peace Arch, built in 1921, stands on the international border between Surrey, British Columbia and Blaine, Washington, one of the busiest border crossings between Canada and the United States. It commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814 and the peace between the two countries ever since.



OTHER FLAG: Surrey has recently introduced a logo flag. According to the City's branding guide, *The Municipal flag will feature the logo in the centre and will be double-sided. The "Green elements" will be used at the base of the flag to provide a*

solid foundation for the logo and to emphasize the green, open spaces of Surrey.



Vernon, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada . . . 58
Province . . . 9

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown (emblem
adopted in 1892)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Vernon has a white field with a simple shield in the centre, three-fourths the height of the flag. The shield has five flat sides, perpendicular at the top, left, and right, and at the base two angled sides meeting at a point below. Bordered in golden yellow, the shield has two panels. The upper panel, a rectangle bordered by the top, left, and right sides, has a blue field with a large serified letter “V” in red edged in yellow. The top of the “V” reaches to three-fourths the height of the panel and its base touches the lower edge of the panel. In the centre of the “V” is the face of an elk (*Cervus canadensis*) in golden yellow with brown details, with antlers spreading above the “V” to the upper corners of the shield. To the left of the “V” is a sheaf of wheat in golden yellow, to the right is a cornucopia in golden yellow with its opening oriented upward, showing fruit in red. The lower panel, an inverted triangle, is white with two horizontal wavy stripes in blue, edged in golden yellow. At the base is a sun in golden yellow, with nine rays alternating long and short, with the central ray reaching the top edge of the panel.

SYMBOLISM: The city describes the flag’s symbolism: *Vernon was incorporated in December 1892 and the Crest [emblem] was adopted at that time and later*

incorporated into a Chain of Office. The “V” of the shield represents the name of our City. The elk represents the wildlife of the area (elk were plentiful at the time Vernon was incorporated). The sheaves represent the importance of agriculture. The horn of plenty represents the fruit industry. The lower part comprising the wavy blue lines on the white background depicts the many lakes in the area and the sunburst is indicative of the splendid climate enjoyed in the sunny Okanagan Valley. (This part also echoes the base of the provincial flag.)

HOW SELECTED: Unknown. The city emblem was included as part of the application to register the city with the provincial government and thus was officially adopted when Vernon was incorporated on 31 December 1892.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: A group of businessmen, after attempting to engage the community in putting together the application for cityhood (which included the emblem), forged ahead by themselves to get the application approved after community members failed to come to meetings.



OTHER FLAG: In 2009, the city created a new logo and tagline for tourism marketing, which can be used on a flag to represent the community, depending on the occasion. The city describes the symbolism of the new logo: *The logo colours refer to the lakes, hillsides, forests,*

and grasslands of Vernon. Representing the agricultural and forestry industries, the shape of a tree is created by tracing inside the three symbols of the logo. The symbolism of the “V” shapes may also be seen as arrows all pointing towards the centre, denoting a sense of community and well-being, and representing a balance of economic, environmental and social interests that the community strives for.



FORMER FLAG: A previous version placed **CITY OF** above the antlers at the top of the shield, and **VERNON**, all in white serified letters, on a blue swallow-tailed ribbon bordered in yellow curving below and touching the shield.



Victoria, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada . . . 15
Province . . . 2

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown (arms granted 1962)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Victoria has a light blue field with the city's 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. On it appears a white "V" shape with narrow arms descending from the upper corners to a point nearly reaching the base. The field above it, forming an inverted triangle, is red and bears a royal crown in red, yellow, and white, with gems of various colours and filling most of the space. The field below the "V" is blue. Atop the shield is a knight's helmet, in blue with black, white, and light blue details. Above that is a three-towered mural crown in golden yellow. Over the crown is a white dove in flight, descending with a green olive branch in its beak. Above the dove is a light blue equilateral triangle, edged in golden yellow, bearing an eye in blue and golden yellow, radiating from its base several rays of golden yellow which continue the angles of the triangle's sides. Around the knight's helmet is red and yellow mantling. On either side of the shield is an angel depicted naturalistically in robes of white with blue details and golden yellow wings. The angels stand on white clouds edged at their base by two wavy stripes, white over blue, and their inner hands each

support a branch of green laurel. Below is a yellow scroll with a red back, outlined in black, inscribed **SEMPER LIBER** in serified letters, in red.

SYMBOLISM: The “V” stands for “Victoria”. The area beginning at the base of the “V” and going upward and outward suggests the growth of the city. The red inverted triangle above the “V” symbolizes the peninsula on which Victoria is located, while the blue area represents the sea into which the peninsula juts. The white stripe between the two suggests the surf of the coastline. The royal crown honours Queen Victoria, the city’s namesake, who was queen of both the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada at its founding in 1841. The angels represent the twin sisters “Colonization” and “Civilization”. The laurel branches are a tribute to those who have served the municipality. The “All-Seeing Eye” is the emblem of the Trinity and implies constant dependence on the blessing of life from the bounty of the deity. The dove and olive branch together signify hope and peace; the mural crown signifies municipal authority. The red and gold of the mantling, considered royal colours, refer to Queen Victoria. The wavy stripes of the cloud symbolize water and Victoria’s island location. The City’s Latin motto, *Semper Liber* or “Always Free” recalls the Free Port System in Victoria’s history and the freedom of its civil institutions.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The arms were granted by the English Kings of Arms in London, England, on 10 May 1962.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The city flag is used for special council meetings and official protocol functions involving visiting dignitaries. While the council chamber has a Canadian flag and a Commonwealth flag on the dais in a fairly permanent position, the City of Victoria flag does not fly during



regular council meetings. However, Victoria’s city hall flies the flag at its entrance. Outside, in Centennial Square, the British Columbia flag flies with the logo flag. On a field of white and in proportions of 1:2, the logo flag places the city’s light

blue flag-like stylized-V logo in the centre, with the CITY OF in small letters over **Victoria** in large letters, all sans-serif and black, below.

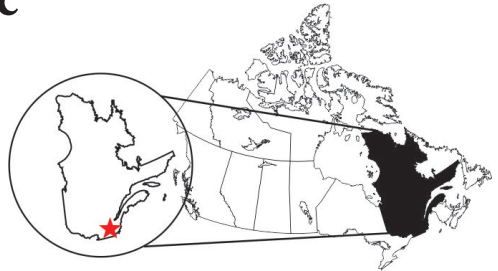


Victoriaville, Québec

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 62
Province. . . . 12

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown (after the 1993 merger)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Victoriaville has a white field with a logo, about two-thirds the height of the flag, in the upper centre. The logo is a stylized “V”, its left arm grey and its right arm golden yellow, with an oak tree silhouetted in green between and above the arms. Below, running two-thirds the length of the flag, is **Victoriaville** in green italic serifed letters.

SYMBOLISM: The city’s documentation interprets the logo: *The origin lies in the [1993] merger of two cities [Arthabaska and Victoriaville] and one municipality [Sainte-Victoire-d’Arthabaska]. The logo assembles three elements in a harmonious whole. For a region that plays a pioneer role in matters of recycling and environment, the tree constitutes the central element of the logo. Symbol of life and fulfillment, it represents the health of the community and the belonging to the beautiful Bois-Franc region [bois franc means “hardwood”]. The V, first letter of the new city’s name, is formed by two elements, each with its own meaning. The first part, on the left, is a classical letter onset. Its grey colour represents both a past of which the city is proud and a present to which method and diligence are given. The history and life of yesteryear’s population mixes with the modernism of its industries and its businesses, the sober character of the colour and the line*

balance out in its ascension, which is a sign of growth and prosperity. The second half, on the right, is intended as a gesture filled with movement. The latter, married to a golden yellow colour, illustrates both the riches of its natural environment and the creativity of its population. Arts, leisure, and culture know how to benefit from the resources and splendour of its sites; the vivacity of the colour and the line highlight the orientation drawn in this take off, symbol of the dynamism of a city turned towards the future. The symmetry of both lines supporting the image of the tree, of which the leaves willingly fall back on them, gives an impression of strength, stability, and vitality at the service of the population. This culminates in the green colour of the tree, a majestic reminder of the origins of our region and a promising sign of development and progress.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown, likely a professional designer firm.



FORMER FLAG: Victoriaville used a previous flag in 3:5 or 1:2 proportions, placing a large disc fourth-fifths the height of the flag in the centre of a golden yellow field; under it is a white ribbon with forked ends inscribed **VIC-**

TORIAVILLE in black sans-serif letters. The disc is white with a red border; on it appears the coat of arms of Victoriaville. The shield has a horizontal top and vertical sides, its base curves to a point. On a field of yellow is a red “V” shape whose arms meet the upper corners of the shield. Above the “V” is an oak tree in green; below on either side are fleurs-de-lis in blue. Above the shield is a seven-towered mural crown in yellow with black details. Flanking the sides of the shield are wreaths of maple leaves in green, their traditional colour in Québec heraldry, with black details. On a horizontal yellow ribbon below appears **DOMINE DIRIGE NOS** (Latin for “Lord guide us”) in blue sans-serif letters.



Watson Lake, Yukon

Population Rank: Canada . . . 2,283
Territory . . . 5

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: The flag of the Town of Watson Lake has a white field with the town logo in the centre. The logo has a black gateway formed by a horizontal cross-bar atop two vertical posts which are approximately one-third of the width of the horizontal bar. Inscribed on the bar is **WATSON LAKE** in white serified letters. Within the gateway is a stylized scene of three green hills, two on the left and one on the right, with a roadway in black, with intermittent white line markings, curving from the foreground to between the hills. Above them is a line of evergreen trees in black silhouette. Standing on a green area, approximately two-thirds of the distance from the left gateway post and rising behind the crossbar, is a black vertical line bearing six signs of varying shapes—rectangular, diamond, and circular—in green, black, and white, edged in black. At the base of each gateway post, facing outward to each side, emerge sprigs of vegetation in green. Curved below is **YUKON'S GATEWAY** in green serified letters. Between the base of the gateway and above the lower inscription the roadway dissolves into black specks.

SYMBOLISM: The gateway and the motto “Yukon’s Gateway” symbolize Watson Lake’s location in the southeastern corner of the Yukon, just 14 km

from where the famed Alaska Highway crosses the British Columbia border. The road represents the highway itself, as the town stands at the junction of the Alaska, Robert Campbell, and Stewart-Cassiar Highways. The evergreen trees are for the surrounding forests. The signpost symbolizes the famous Sign Post Forest, which began in 1942 when a homesick U.S. Army soldier, Carl K. Lindly of Danville, Illinois, erected a sign pointing to his hometown with its mileage. Others continued this practice and on 20 July 1990 the 10,000th sign was erected. The sprigs of vegetation are fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), depicted in green rather than its natural colour (pink or purple). It is one of the first plants to bloom after a fire. The fireweed was adopted as the territorial flower in 1957 and it symbolizes Watson Lake as a Yukon community.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown.



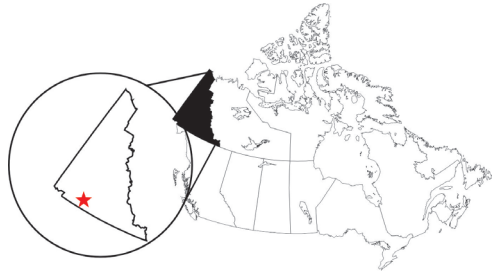


Whitehorse, Yukon

Population Rank: Canada . . . 101
Territory . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Whitehorse has a medium blue field with the city seal in the centre, nearly three-fourths the height of the flag. The seal consists of a central disc surrounded by a golden-yellow band, edged on the outside by a ring of white rope with black details, and on the inside by a black ring. On the band appears **THE CITY OF** over the top, **WHITEHORSE** around the bottom, and between these at the mid-points **19** on the left and **50** on the right, oriented horizontally, all in black serified letters. The central disc is divided horizontally just below its mid-point by a black line. The resulting panels both depict naturalistic scenes. The upper panel has a landscape of green trees, above them are white mountains against a light blue sky. At the left is an approaching train in white, while on the right is a black auto road with a white centre stripe. The road curves to the left and bears a white car. An airplane in black and golden yellow flies toward the hoist, above the mountains. Surmounting the centre, one-third the diameter of the disc, is a half-disc in black bearing a horse's head in white with black details, facing right. The lower panel has a lake scene with sky and water in light blue, along the horizon rolling green hills with trees in black, and a black and white paddleboat on the lake steaming toward the fly.

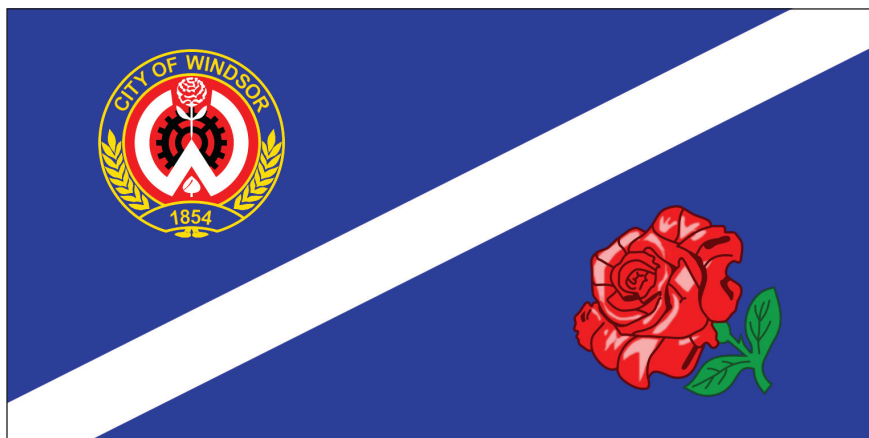
SYMBOLISM: The white horse refers to the city's name. During the Klondike Gold Rush, stampedeers going to Dawson City travelled along the Yukon River and would pass by the white-capped rapids near Miles Canyon. The waves reminded them of the manes of galloping white horses. Whitehorse was the final stop for the White Pass & Yukon Route narrow-gauge railway. Built in the early 1900s, it conveyed miners and equipment to the gold fields. The train commemorates the importance the railway had to the economic development of the city. The steam paddleboat reflects the importance of river transportation in the early days of Whitehorse. At one time over 250 steam paddleboats plied the Yukon River between Whitehorse and the gold fields of Dawson and Mayo. The airplane honours the bush pilots who helped open up the North and provided a vital link to the outside world. The auto road represents the famed Alaska Highway, built by the United States Army during World War II to supply troops in Alaska. Today it continues to bring goods and tourists to Whitehorse. The mountains and forests in the background recall the area around the city. Whitehorse incorporated as a city in 1950.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: On 15 November 2002 the Canadian Heraldic Authority granted a coat of arms to the city. The white horse, paddleboat, highway, train, mountains, and evergreen trees that appear on the city seal are represented on the coat of arms but in a different format.





Windsor, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 16
Province. . . . 8

Proportions: 1:2 (originally 1:1)

Adopted: 22 March 1971



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Windsor has a royal blue field divided diagonally by a white stripe running from lower hoist to upper fly. The stripe is about one-fourth of the flag's width (some illustrations show it as much as one-third of the flag's width) and its imaginary centre line intersects the flag's corners. In the lower right is a large naturalistic rose in red with a green stem and leaves, and pink and black details. In the upper left is the city's badge, consisting of two concentric golden yellow circles enclosing an outer ring of royal blue. Arched in the top part of the ring is **CITY OF WINDSOR** and at the bottom is **1854** in a small arch, and on either side laurel fronds extend halfway up the ring, all in golden yellow. The field within the inner circle is red. A stylized white "W" curves from the base following the circular shape almost to the apex. At the base of the letter, between the two lower points of the "W", is a small white maple leaf. Within and behind the "W" is a double-ringed cogwheel in black, its lower portion obscured. At the top, between the ends of the letter, is a round red rose with white details and a vertical white stem surmounting the cogwheel.

SYMBOLISM: The royal blue field symbolizes Windsor's royal connection (the House of Windsor is the current royal family in Britain) and the Detroit River, which separates the city from Detroit, Michigan, to the north. The white stripe denotes Windsor's location in the centre of the St. Lawrence Seaway; its colour symbolizes peace, as the city is on the international border. The red rose recalls that Windsor is the "City of Roses". The nickname came from the efforts of Inspector Emerson Mitchell of the Windsor Police Department, who in his retirement planted roses throughout the city.

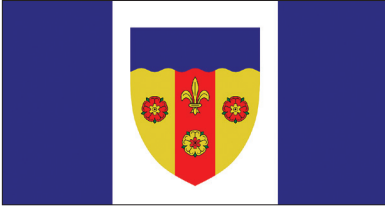
The city explains the badge's symbols: *The very heart of the crest [badge] contains an industrial wheel (gear). It is located in the centre to show the importance of industry in our city. The stylized "W" is for the word Windsor. Note how it is embracing the "Wheel of Industry". This is to show that the city welcomes, likes, and protects the industrial complex which is the city's most important asset. Note also how the two middle bars of the letter "W" meet and point to the very centre of the axis. This is to show that our livelihood is rotating around this point. To show that Windsor is a peaceful place to live and deal with, the "W" is shown in white. The rose represents the known fact that Windsor is the "City of Roses". The maple leaf and red background reassure us that Windsor is patriotic—Canadian. Below is the birth date of our city—1854. The laurel leaves on each side glorify our past. The wording "City of Windsor", date, and laurel leaves are done in gold to show the prosperity—golden age of the city.*

HOW SELECTED: Chosen by the city council.

DESIGNER: Hector Lacasse, a distinguished Canadian vexillologist and once mayor of adjacent Tecumseh. A painting of him with the flag hung in his house. John Jaciw, a Ukrainian-Canadian graphic artist, designed the badge.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag was adopted by By-law 4102, 22 March 1971. The badge and flag are a trademark of the City of Windsor registered by the Trade-marks Office (now the Canadian Intellectual Property Office) on 9 September 1971. Some depictions show the flag as square.



OTHER FLAG: On 8 May 1992 the Canadian Heraldic Authority presented arms and a flag to the City of Windsor, in a ceremony featuring Canada's governor general, the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, where the patent was

proclaimed by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada. The flag placed the shield from the arms on a modified Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue. The flag, however, does not appear to have seen actual use.



Winnipeg, Manitoba

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 8
Province. . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2 (2:3 as trade-marked)

Adopted: 1 October 1975



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Winnipeg is divided diagonally by a narrow white stripe running from the lower hoist to the upper fly; its imaginary centre line intersects the flag's corners. The upper left triangle is medium blue, the lower right golden yellow. Surmounting the centre is a white disc more than three-fourths the height of the flag, bearing a modified version of the city's coat of arms in full colour. The shield has a horizontal top with points at the upper corners, straight sides and base, and a small point at the bottom. It is divided slightly above its mid-point by a narrow horizontal line of golden yellow. The upper panel is light blue with thirteen five-pointed stars in golden yellow, arranged horizontally 4-5-4. The lower panel is green with a large naturalistic prairie crocus flower in white, blue, golden yellow, and dark and light purple. Above the shield is a three-quarters profile of a stone structure in golden yellow and red-brown with green trees on its right side. Above the seal is a dark blue ribbon with swallow-tailed ends, outlined in golden yellow, and inscribed **CITY OF WINNIPEG**, in sans-serif letters of golden yellow. Below and curving up both sides of the shield is a white scroll, outlined in golden yellow, with **UNUM CUM VIRTUTE MULTORUM** in red-brown serifed letters.

SYMBOLISM: The blue in the upper shield and the field of the flag represents the clear blue prairie skies. The golden yellow in the field of the flag represents agriculture, especially wheat farming, the original basis of Winnipeg's economy. Although official colours have never been adopted by the city, blue and yellow were adopted as the official colours of the Winnipeg Centennial held in 1973. They may have influenced the design of the city's flag two years later. The thirteen stars represent the thirteen former municipal governments which amalgamated on 27 July 1971 to create the "Unicity" of metropolitan Winnipeg: Transcona, St. Boniface, St. Vital, West Kildonan, East Kildonan, Tuxedo, Old Kildonan, North Kildonan, Fort Garry, Charleswood, St. James, Old City of Winnipeg, and Winnipeg. The prairie crocus (*Anemone* [or *Pulsatilla*] *patens*) is Manitoba's provincial flower, and symbolizes Winnipeg as a prairie city and the provincial capital. It was adopted in 1906 by the Manitoba Legislature after winning an informal vote in the province's schools. The stone structure depicted over the shield is a gatehouse, the remaining portion of Fort Garry, the original Hudson's Bay Company trading post established at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in what is now downtown Winnipeg in 1822. Winnipeg's motto, *Unum Cum Virtute Multorum* (Latin for "one with the strength of many") has two meanings. It indicates that peoples of all races form the city and it recalls how modern Winnipeg was created by the amalgamation of thirteen municipalities.

HOW SELECTED: The city flag was designed "in house" utilizing the city's coat of arms.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The full arms were granted by the College of Arms in London, England, on 12 January 1979.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The coat of arms contains more elements: a helmet, mantling, wreath, and a circlet of prairie crocus. These are all omitted from the coat of arms on the flag. Also, what appear to be green trees on the right side of the fort are not in the grant. The city flag is the official flag of Winnipeg for ceremonial and official purposes. The logo banner (below) is used for promotional purposes. The flag was adopted by city council vote 1 October 1975 and registered as a trade-mark 7 April 1976.

OTHER FLAGS: On 18 January 2001 Winnipeg unveiled a new logo as part of a branding initiative. The logo was adapted into a flag with the proportions of 1:2. The flag has a dark blue field with **Winnipeg** in white serified letters,



centred in the lower field half the length of the flag. Above it is a medium blue arc. Above that are two crescents, yellow on the left, facing right, and dark blue on the right, inside the yellow one, facing left. Within this crescent is a red

“droplet”. The city describes the symbolism: *The two crescents atop the sweeping plane symbolize an embrace reminiscent of the caring, friendly and welcoming nature of the people here. The depiction of movement in these two elements alludes to the momentum and dynamism that is evident throughout the City. The sweeping line that supports the two crescents represents the vast horizon line and open sky that is characteristic of Winnipeg. The red circle in the centre of the logo symbolizes the heart of our community and our people. It also suggestive of the fact that Winnipeg is located at the centre of the country and the continent. The rich colour palette symbolizes the diversity that exists in our cultures, our seasons and our crisp, clean beautiful landscapes. As a whole, the graphic resembles a rising sun above the horizon and also mimics the form of a leaping figure. These combined elements depict the energy and momentum of our forward-looking nature, while the positioning line speaks to the strength of our character.*



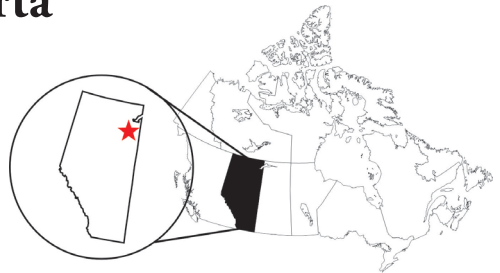
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Wood Buffalo, Alberta

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 59
Province. . . . 7

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: April 2005 (signature
designed in 1995)



DESIGN: The flag of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has a blue field bearing the region's corporate signature in white. The corporate signature has two components: the symbol and the word mark. The symbol, at the left, is a disc enclosing a stylized wood buffalo head in white with blue details to the right of four irregular arching sections in white edged in blue, all nearly half the height of the flag. The beard of the buffalo extends slightly beyond the border of the disc. To the right is **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** above **OF WOOD BUFFALO** extending nearly to the fly, in white sans-serif letters; "Wood Buffalo" is in larger and bolder letters.

SYMBOLISM: The symbolism is explained by the city: *The buffalo [Bison bison athabascæ] is the core of the municipality's symbol. It represents resistance, durability, and endurance. It embodies our spirit of enduring and adapting to constant transformation. The area above the crest [upper part of the logo] represents the aurora borealis, or northern lights, and symbolizes the inspiration we draw from the environment. This inspiration is manifested in our ties to the richness of the oil sands as a key part of our economy. Our strong association to our native communities is reflected in the four sections of the aurora borealis arc*

surrounding our corporate symbol. These points represent the four cornerstones of native culture—the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of our lives—and symbolize the need for a balanced lifestyle in our community.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Designed by a graphics firm.



FORMER FLAG: The former flag was created after the ten communities of Wood Buffalo amalgamated in 1995. It is a Canadian pale design in blue-white-blue. In the centre is the municipality's original corporate logo, a naturalistic

head of a wood buffalo, in blue and white on a red field, within a blue ring. Three parallel lines emanate in each of the cardinal directions, the central line slightly longer. Around the outside of the top half of the ring is a band of blue and white with a geometric pattern.

As explained by the city: *The corporate symbol is made up of a roundel and linear bars representing a compass, pointing north, south, east, and west. This geographic reference had been chosen to symbolize the sheer size and scale of the municipality [the largest in Canada by area]. The style of the compass reflects the character of the First Nations art in order to identify the region's original inhabitants. By its very power and presence, the bison (buffalo) presents an ideal symbol for a vibrant, strong community. It represents vigour and fortitude. By its gregarious nature, it also symbolizes community. By its history, it represents ideas of perseverance, endurance, and renewal. It stands for the individual's independence as well as for the collected group, living together in mutual support and harmony. The semicircular form above the roundel represents the aurora borealis. This awe-inspiring phenomenon is a natural feature unique to northern regions. It has been chosen here to symbolize the unparalleled experience of life in the North. This abstract form is intended to appear umbrella-like, in this reference, to convey the sense that the aurora is a canopy enveloping the region and connecting together the people who live in this northern municipality.*



Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Population Rank: Canada . . . 107
Territory . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown (arms adopted
1956)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Yellowknife is a Canadian pale design of dark blue-white-yellow, with the city's coat of arms, over three-fourths the height of the flag, in the centre. Its shield has a horizontal top, slightly pointed upper corners, and vertical sides curving in their lower thirds to a point, bordered in yellow. Its field is blue, and contains many elements. In the centre is a naturalistic depiction of a mining head frame in white with black details, set on a horizontal band of green trees over yellow rocks. To the left is a stylized yellow maple leaf with six black veins; to the right are a crossed pick and shovel, handles upward, in yellow. At the top is a wavy white stripe, divided by multiple vertical blue bars, running horizontally nearly the entire width of the shield. Below the horizontal band is a field of blue with three wavy white stripes; above them and surmounting the band is a boat in white with black details, heading to the right. Above the shield is a knife (in falchion shape) in yellow with black details, point upward. At either side of the knife are wings in white; behind it is a half-sun in red with six rays. Above these, and running behind the top of the knife, is a yellow ribbon inscribed in three sections **THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES** in black serified letters. Below the shield, and curving up on either side

nearly its full height, is a yellow ribbon inscribed **MULTUM IN PARVO** in black serifed letters.

SYMBOLISM: The central symbol is a representation of the old head frame at the Giant Mine in Yellowknife, which, along with the crossed pick and shovel, refers to the city's gold mining industry. Gold was discovered here in 1896 and in the late 1930s the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada and others began commercial gold mining. Today, mining, especially for diamonds, continues to be a major industry in the area. The maple leaf and the Canadian pale design are both direct references to Canada. The wavy white stripe represents the northern lights or *aurora borealis*, portrayed with the curtain effect. The blue and white wavy stripes reflect Yellowknife's location on the Great Slave Lake, one of the largest lakes in North America and the eleventh largest in the world. The boat signifies the maritime commerce, such as fishing and transportation, on the lake. The sun symbolizes another celestial feature of the far North—the Midnight Sun, which remains above the horizon at midnight during summertime. The yellow knife refers to the city's name. In 1771, explorer Samuel Hearne called this area Yellowknife, as he called the local tribe Yellowknife Indians because he found them using knives and utensils made of pure copper. The wings represent the bush pilots so instrumental in transporting goods and people in the vast areas of the North and serving as a critical link to the outside world. The motto, *Multum in Parvo*, is Latin for “many things in a small place”, as Yellowknife has many attributes for a small city—it is the capital of the Northwest Territories and a mining, transportation, communication, and tourism centre.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown. Miss Netta Pringle won a contest to design a civic emblem. On 27 June 1956 the city council adopted her design for the coat of arms.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The use of different colours for the side-bars is less common for a Canadian pale design.