



Canada

Canada

Capital

Ottawa

National Symbols

The National Flag

The Canadian Flag represents a red maple leaf over a set of three vertical divisions known as Canadian pale. It was officially adopted in 1964.



National Anthem

Canada's National anthem was proclaimed in 1980, 100 years after it was composed! Calixa Lavallée, a well-known composer, composed the music; French lyrics to accompany the music were written by Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The English version is based on lyrics written in 1908 by Robert Stanley Weir. It is officially sung in two languages.

National Tree

There are many symbols that represent Canada as a country. Even though there is no

official tree or flowers as in other countries, the maple leaf has become the most recognized association with Canada.



National Animal

Canada has been identified with the beaver since British occupation days.



Canada

History

Canada obtained its sovereignty in 1982 with the Canadian Act which granted total authority to the Canadians over their territory. Before that, Canada was a member of the British Empire and later Commonwealth.

The country was officially created in 1867, through the Constitution Act in which the British Crown created a dominion within the British Empire by combining the Province of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

In 1931 the Statute of Westminster removed total power from most of the commonwealth territories, including Canada, but still the legislation was enacted by British institutions. Finally in 1982, Canada gained total authority.

The First President

Due to the complexity of Canadian history and the differences between the political interests of the different territories, no first president or prime minister can be stated, but the first minister of the Canadian Confederation ordered by the British in 1867 was a Scotsman called Sir John A. Macdonald. Pierre Trudeau was the Prime Minister in Canada when the Canadian Act, 1982 came into place.

Government

Canada's government system is a constitutional monarchy, and its head of state is Queen, Elizabeth II (United Kingdom). Acting as head of government,

the country is led by a Prime Minister, who belongs to the political party that obtains a majority in the House of Commons. Canada's political system is known as a parliamentary government based on a Federal system.

As explained before, there are two main power figures within the Canadian government. The Head of State, the Queen and the Head of Government, the Prime Minister, who leads the executive branch. The Legislative branch is made up of The Federal Parliament, which is composed of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Commons.

There are 308 members in the House of Commons who are democratically elected for limited terms. The Senate is composed of 105 members appointed by the Prime Minister.

Constitution

Canada was initially a Commonwealth country, therefore, most of its History has been developed under the British Constitution. In fact, until 1982, with the Canada Act, all constitutional and legislative authority was ceded by the British and granted to the Canadians. The Canadian Constitution is based on the British constitution and its charters define mostly the government organization and the Rights and Freedoms of the citizens.

Canada



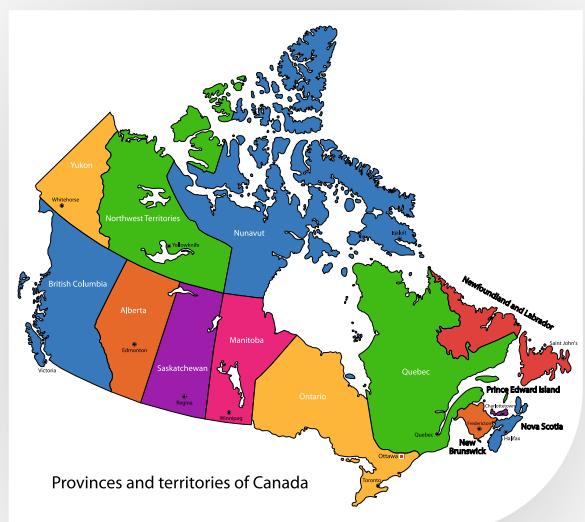
The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Canadian system and is the last appeal court, in a system that has provincial, territorial and federal appellate courts. The Supreme Court is comprised of nine judges: eight magistrates and the Chief Justice of Canada.

Political Parties

Canada's four major political parties are the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party (NDP), and the Bloc Québécois.

Provinces



Canada is a federation. The local administrative divisions are called Provinces whose power and authority comes directly from the crown, while the territories depend directly from the federal government. There are 10 provinces and 3 territories. The most important provinces are Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. The three territories are Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

Social Recognition

Social Figures

Due to Canada's history, there was no patriotic movement of liberation or anything similar, therefore there are no patriotic figures.

There are a lot of popular and famous characters, even some you wouldn't believe are Canadians, for example:



Dr. Frederick Banting

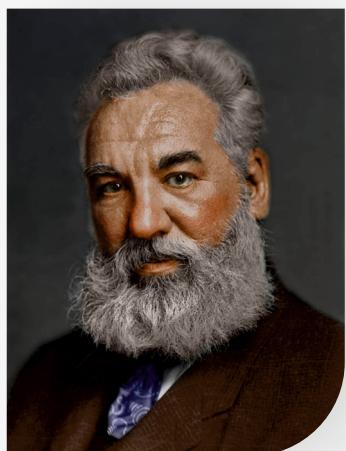
Dr. Frederick Banting, was born in Ontario on November 14th, 1891 and died in Terranova on February 21st, 1941. He discovered the insulin hormone in 1921 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1923. King George V named him Sir Frederick Banting in 1934.

Canada



Pamela Anderson

Pamela Anderson who is a well known actress, model, and sex symbol who was born in British Columbia on July 1st, 1967. She became famous for her performance in the TV series "Baywatch".



Alexander
Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

out the year and in the territory, including the World Stage in Toronto, International Festival of Films Art in Montreal, and the Calgary Jazz Festival, among others.

Tourist Sites

Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where the Parliament and Primer Minister offices are, is the most famous historic site in the country .

There are 39 national parks all over Canada which try preserve the important ecological heritage of the country.



Holidays

The most important holiday in Canada is July 1st which celebrates the formation of the union of the provinces under the common name of Canada.

Victoria's Day (Monday before May 25th)
Celebrates the Sovereign's birthday.

There are several cultural festivals through

