

Parent Partner

Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education's Newsletter



The national flag of Canada was inaugurated on February 15, 1965. The anniversary of this date is officially called the "National Flag of Canada Day", which is often shortened to "Flag Day".

Our flag – a combination of our Aboriginal, French and English heritages

The following words, spoken on that momentous day by the Honourable Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate, added further symbolic meaning to our flag:

"The flag is the symbol of the nation's unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion."



Maple Leaf

Well before the coming of the first European settlers, Canada's aboriginal peoples had discovered the food properties of maple sap, which they gathered every spring. According to many historians, the maple leaf began to serve as a Canadian symbol as early as 1700.

Red and white: Canada's national colours

Dr. Stanley's design of the flag is based on a strong sense of Canadian history. History records that in the first crusade, Bohemund I, a Norman lord, had red crosses cut from his mantles and distributed to the 10,000 crusaders, who then wore them as a distinctive badge on their garments.

In subsequent crusades, a cross of a different colour distinguished each

nation. France long had a red cross on its banners while England used a white cross. Time and again in history, red and white are found as the colours of France or of England.

The combination of red, white and red first appeared in the General Service Medal issued by Queen Victoria. Red and white were subsequently proclaimed Canada's national colours by King George V in 1921.

The Design

The most important Flag Day symbol is the national flag of Canada. This consists of two vertical red sections separated by a white section, with an image of a red maple leaf on the white section. The whole flag is twice as wide as it is high and each of the two red rectangles is twice as high as it is wide.

The white section in the middle is a perfect square. However, the size of the maple leaf is not officially specified.

George F.G. Stanley (Royal Military College Dean of Arts) designed the current flag, which is inspired by the Royal Military College of Canada's flag.

Let all the inhabitants of this great Dominion stand in awe of Him. (*Psalm 33:8,12*)