



Celebrate Canada

[@webber4confed](#) [/lenwebberMP](#) [/lenwebberyc](#) www.lenwebber.ca

The maple leaf is the latest in a series of flags that have flown over what is now Canada.

It was not until 1924 that the image of a maple leaf officially graced a flag representing Canada. The shield of the Arms of Canada, consisting of the Lions of England, the Lion of Scotland, the Harp of Ireland, three Lillies of France’s old regime and a sprig of three maple leaves, was added to the Red Ensign, a flag originally created in 1707 for the British Merchant Marine.

Referred to as the Canadian Red Ensign, an unofficial version was flown in World War I and officially later flown by Canadian troops during the Second World War. Both the Canadian Red Ensign and the Union Jack were supplanted by the current flag in 1965.

In 1946 a parliamentary committee called for designs to be submitted. Though more than 2,600 were received, Parliament was never asked to vote on a design.

In 1964, a special committee that held 46 sittings and heard from heraldic experts, historians and citizens.

By October 1964, the number of

designs had been narrowed to three: a Red Ensign with the fleur-de-lis and the Union Jack; a sprig of three maple leaves between blue bars; a stylized maple leaf on a white square flanked by red bars.

The committee endorsed the single maple leaf design and the House of Commons approved it on December 15, 1964. Two days later the Senate followed suit. Canada’s national flag was proclaimed by Queen Elizabeth II on January 28, 1965 and inaugurated on February 15, 1965. Flag Day is celebrated on February 15th, but is most often flown on Canada Day.

This Canada Day, I hope you will put this flag in your front window with pride. At the same time, please take a moment to recognize Canada is not perfect, and we can make it better. We have lots to be proud of and it is worth celebrating.

Happy Canada Day!

*Len Webber, MP
Calgary Confederation
Alberta Caucus Chair*



CANADIAN RED ENSIGN (1868-1921)



CANADIAN RED ENSIGN (1921-57)



CANADIAN RED ENSIGN (1957-65)

len.webber@parl.gc.ca

lenwebber.ca

Get the latest updates by subscribing to my popular monthly e-newsletter at www.LenWebber.ca. Each month I share important information about government programs and services. In addition, I conduct a monthly online poll so that you can tell me how you want to be represented in Parliament. Finally, I provide a complete list of all the issues and concerns that are brought to my attention throughout the month in the letters our community writes to me. Sign up today!

