

# THE SYMBOLS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## FLOWER

The Pacific dogwood flower was adopted as B.C.'s floral emblem in 1956. The Pacific dogwood flower blooms in April on trees that grow between 8-15 metres high. In the fall, the Pacific dogwood is striking with dark red berries and brilliant foliage.



## GEMSTONE

Jade was adopted as B.C.'s official gemstone on April 6, 1968. Jade is known as an extremely tough material and was used in knives and axe heads. It later became prized by carvers of fine jewelry and sculptures.



## TARTAN

B.C.'s official tartan was adopted on January 1, 1974. Most commonly associated with Scotland, a tartan is a pattern of vertical and horizontal colours often displayed on cloth. The colours of B.C.'s tartan are blue for the ocean, white for the Pacific dogwood flower, green for the forests, red for the maple leaf, and gold for the Crown and sun.



## BIRD

The Steller's Jay was adopted as B.C.'s official bird on December 17, 1987. Coloured a vibrant blue and black, it is a lively, smart, and cheeky bird found throughout the province.



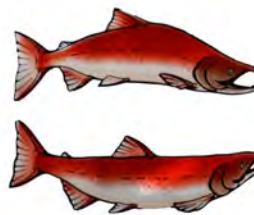
## TREE

The Western Red Cedar was adopted as the official tree of B.C. on February 18, 1988. The wood of the Western Red Cedar has been traditionally used to make tools, clothing, and housing by many west coast Indigenous communities, and continues to be a valuable resource throughout the province.



## MAMMAL

The Kermode Bear, also known as the spirit bear, was named B.C.'s mammal emblem under the *Provincial Symbol and Honours Act* in May 2006. The Kermode Bear is a black bear that has white fur due to a rare genetic trait. It typically has a brown nose and eyes and is not an albino.



## FISH

The Pacific salmon was added to B.C.'s official symbols in February 2013. The Pacific salmon include the following species: Chinook, Chum, Coho, Cutthroat trout, Pink, Sockeye, and Steelhead. The Pacific salmon has immense economic and cultural significance to many Indigenous communities along B.C.'s coasts and rivers.



## FOSSIL

The elasmosaur or elasmosaurid marine reptile was adopted as B.C.'s official fossil on October 26, 2023. The elasmosaur was a large predatory marine reptile that roamed the seas covering B.C. roughly 80 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period. Fossils of the elasmosaur have been found across B.C. but the most complete was found near Courtenay on Vancouver Island.