

BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL SYMBOLS



FLAG

The B.C. flag was adopted in 1960: the Union Jack symbolizes our colonial origins, the wavy blue stripes represent the Pacific Ocean, the wavy white stripes represent the Rocky Mountains and the setting sun represents B.C. as Canada's western-most province.



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.



BIRD

The Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*, 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. Historically, the tree has played a key role in the lives of west coast Aboriginal peoples, and continues to be a valuable resource in the province.



MAMMAL

Also known as the Kermode Bear, it was named B.C.'s mammal emblem under the *Provincial Symbol and Honours Act* in May 2006. The Kermode or Spirit Bear is a black bear that has white fur due to a rare genetic trait. It typically has a brown nose and eyes. It is not an albino. It is found on the Central and North Coast, especially on Princess Royal Island.



GEMSTONE

B.C.'s official gemstone was adopted in 1968 through the Mineral Emblem Act. 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. B.C. is home to half of the world's jade.



TARTAN

The official tartan was adopted in 1974 through the *B.C. Tartan Act*. The B.C. tartan was first designed in 1967 as part of 1966-67 centennial celebrations marking the creation of British Columbia as one colony and Canada's Centennial. The tartan colours are: blue for the ocean; white for the dogwood; green for the forests; red for the maple leaf; and gold for the crown and sun.