

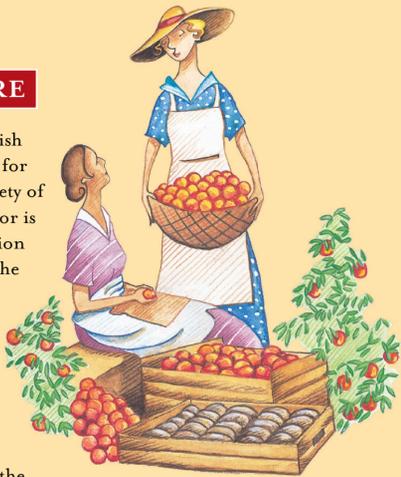


**TREE**

The Western Red Cedar was adopted as the official tree of British Columbia in 1988.

**AGRICULTURE**

Climate conditions in British Columbia make it possible for farmers to grow a wide variety of crops. The southern interior is well suited for the production of fruit trees and grapes. The Fraser Valley and southern Vancouver Island, with a cooler, wetter climate, are extremely favourable for the production of berries and vegetables. Most of B.C.'s grain and oilseed crops are grown in the Peace River region. Beef cattle are concentrated in the Cariboo and North Thompson-Okanagan regions and large dairy herds are found mostly in the Lower Mainland, southeastern Vancouver Island and the Okanagan-Shuswap area. Hog, poultry and egg production are concentrated in the Lower Mainland.



**PROVINCIAL FLAG**

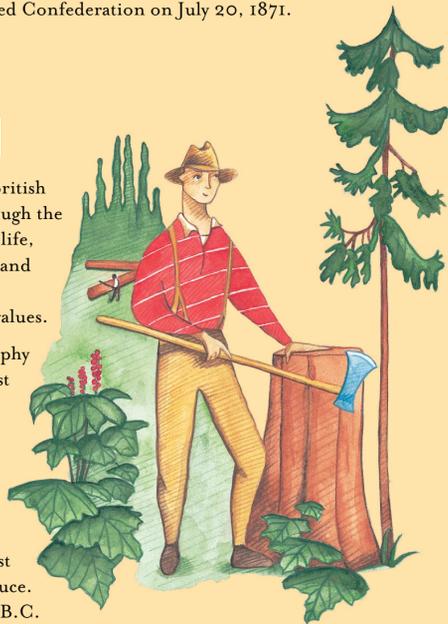


The British Columbia flag was adopted on June 22, 1960. At the top is the Union Jack, with the centre crown, which symbolizes our colonial origins. The blue stripes represent the Pacific Ocean on our western border and the white stripes represent the snow on the Rocky Mountains on our eastern border. The setting sun indicates we are the western-most province in Canada. B.C. became Canada's 6th province when it entered Confederation on July 20, 1871.

**FORESTRY**

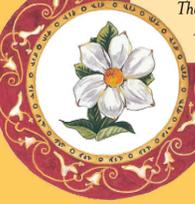
The forests are critical to British Columbia's economy, through the forest industry, and way of life, contributing to recreation and tourism, fish and wildlife conservation and cultural values.

B.C.'s climate and topography divides in two distinct forest regions – the coast and the interior. Coastal forests provide about one third of the harvest and contain more hemlock than any other species. The major species of the interior forest are lodgepole pine and spruce. Other species harvested in B.C. include douglas fir, balsam and cedar.



**FLOWER**

The Pacific Dogwood flower was adopted as British Columbia's floral emblem in 1956.



# DISCOVER YOUR BRITISH COLUMBIA

**CAPTAIN GEORGE VANCOUVER**

A gilded statue of Captain George Vancouver sits atop the copper-covered dome of British Columbia's Parliament Buildings in Victoria.

George Vancouver was born in England in 1757. He served in the Royal Navy with Captain James Cook, sailing with him to explore the Pacific Coast of North America.

Between 1792 and 1794, George Vancouver mapped the Pacific coast of British Columbia, including all of the gulf islands. Captain Vancouver is credited as the first European to circumnavigate Vancouver Island.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**PEOPLE**

The Legislature of British Columbia is composed of the Lieutenant Governor and the 87 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who each represent a constituency. The Premier is the day-to-day head of the Provincial government. The Speaker presides over sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

**PURPOSE**

British Columbia's system of government has a long and honourable history, based on Great Britain's and often referred to as the "Westminster tradition". The three functions of the Legislative Assembly are to:

- 1) make laws;
- 2) approve finances; and
- 3) scrutinize government.

**PLACE**

British Columbia's Parliament Buildings, designed by a young architect Francis Mawson Rattenbury, were opened on February 10, 1898. It took five years to build at a cost of \$923,000.00. The buildings are made with Haddington Island stone, Nelson Island granite and Jervis Inlet slate for the roof and 33 copper domes.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FACTS**

- Highest point is Mount Fairweather on the Alaska border (4,663 m)
- Climate varies from marine to continental
- Is Canada's western-most province made up of 95 million hectares
- Population is over 4 million
- Has 60% of the world's mountain goats and 25% of the world's grizzly bears and bald eagles
- Is Canada's 3rd largest province with nearly 10% of Canada's total land area
- Has rich habitats of forests, grasslands, wetlands, meadows, rivers, inter-tidal and sub-tidal zones that support the most diverse plants and animals in Canada
- Borders Yukon and the Northwest Territories to the north, Alberta to the east, Alaska to the northwest, and the U.S. states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana to the south



Capital city is Victoria



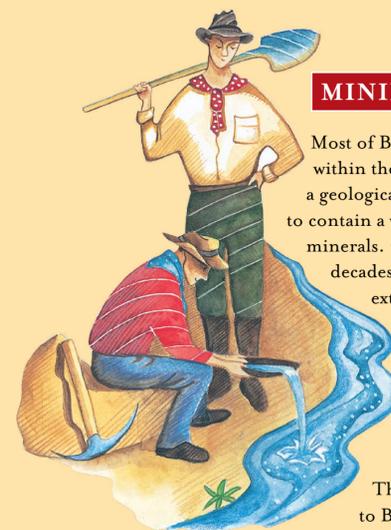
**BIRD**

The Steller's Jay was adopted as British Columbia's official bird in 1987.

**MINING**

Most of British Columbia lies within the Western Cordillera, a geological formation known to contain a wide variety of valuable minerals. Over the past three decades, mineral products extraction, including oil and natural gas, has significantly increased due to technological advances in exploration and mining.

The most valuable mineral to B.C.'s economy is copper, mined in B.C.'s interior and on Vancouver Island. Other B.C. mineral exports include gold, zinc, molybdenum, silver and lead. The province has a diverse and abundant energy resource base.



**KNOWLEDGE TOTEM POLE**

On the grounds of the Parliament Buildings stands the "Knowledge Totem Pole," carved by Master Carver Cicero August of the Coast Salish. It was erected on February 2, 1990 to mark the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, and to welcome visitors to the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

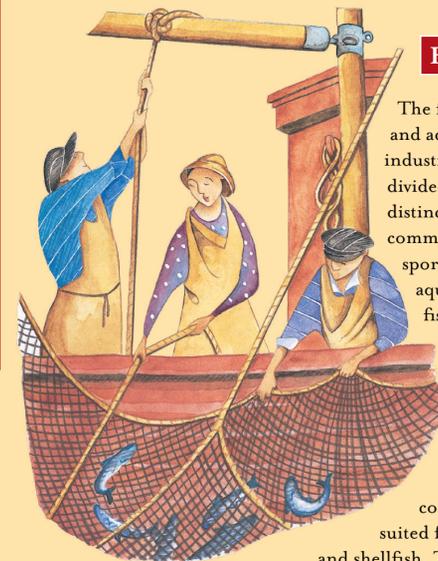
The Totem refers to the oral traditions of the Aboriginal people of the northwest coast: loon - teacher and interpreter of all Aboriginal languages; fisherman - traditional way of Aboriginal life; bone player - a game played by people who do not share the same language; and the frog comes from an old mountain story. Together they represent lessons of the past and hope for the future.



**FISHING**

The fishing and aquaculture industries are divided into four distinct sectors: commercial fisheries, sport fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing.

With its climate, good water quality and sheltered bays, British Columbia's coastline is well suited for both finfish and shellfish. There are more than 90 species of finfish, shellfish, and marine plants. Salmon is one of the most important of B.C.'s fish species and with groundfish species, shellfish, and roe herring, among our most valuable seafood products.



**MAMMAL**

The Kermode Bear was adopted as British Columbia's mammal emblem in 2006.

