

Alberta

Emblems

*Emblems  
of Alberta*



## Provincial Motto

*Fortis et Liber*, “strong and free”. The motto is used together with the Coat of Arms on seals, shields and banners.

## Armorial Bearings

### Shield of the Arms of Alberta

Topped by a red St. George's Cross on a white background, the Shield of the Arms of Alberta features blue sky, a range of snow-capped mountains, green hills, prairie and a wheat field. (adopted May 30, 1907 by Royal Warrant)



### Coat of Arms

The Crest has a Royal Crown on top of a beaver sitting on a helm (helmet), with a silver and red wreath. The Supporters are a gold lion and a pronghorn antelope. The Compartment (base) is a grassy mount with wild roses. The provincial motto, *Fortis et Liber*, is beneath the base.

(added July 30, 1980 by Royal Warrant)



## Provincial Colours

Blue represents the sky and gold/deep yellow represents the prairies. (adopted 1984)



## Flag



The flag shows the Shield of the Arms of Alberta on a blue background. The flag is proportioned twice as long as it is wide, with the shield centered and at  $\frac{7}{11}$ <sup>th</sup> of the width of the flag. (adopted June 1, 1968)

## Alberta Logo



The logo is the signature of the Government of Alberta. Its use is restricted to provincial government departments and agencies. (adopted 1972 by Executive Council)

## How Alberta Got Its Name

When the Provincial District of Alberta was created in 1882, the Marquis of Lorne was Governor General of Canada. He named the district in honour of his wife, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and her Prince consort. Alberta became a province in 1905.

## Official Song

### *Alberta*

The official song pays a musical tribute to the province's geography, industry, history and cultural diversity. *Alberta* was composed by Mary Kieftenbeld as part of a contest to find an original official song in time for the province's centennial in 2005.

# Tartans

## Alberta Tartan

The colours represent the following:

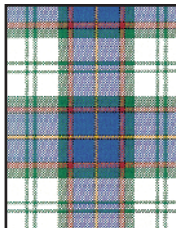
- Green - Alberta's forests
- Gold - Alberta's wheat fields
- Blue - Alberta's clear skies and sparkling lakes
- Pink - Alberta's wild rose
- Black - Alberta's coal and petroleum

(adopted 1961 due to the efforts of the Edmonton Rehabilitation Society for the Handicapped, now Goodwill Industries)



## Alberta Dress Tartan

The Alberta Dress Tartan complements the Alberta Tartan and can be worn for dancing, special occasions and formal attire. It includes the same colours as the Alberta Tartan with large sections of white, a symbol of Alberta's clean and bright snowy days. (adopted 2000)



# Tree

## Lodgepole Pine, *Pinus contorta* *variety latifolia*

In the early 1900s, the lodgepole pine was primarily used to make railway ties. Today it plays a major role in Alberta's forest industry and is manufactured into poles, posts, pulp, plywood, mine timbers and other lumber products.

(adopted May 30, 1984 due to the efforts of the Junior Forest Warden Association of Alberta)



# Floral Emblem



## Wild Rose, *Rosa acicularis*

The wild rose grows almost everywhere in the province, brightening the countryside with flashes of pink. (adopted 1930)

# Grass



## Rough Fescue, *Festuca scabrella*

Alberta has the largest area of rough fescue grassland in the world and is the only place in North America that hosts the plains, foothills and northern kinds of rough fescue. Rough fescue provides excellent year-round forage for wildlife and livestock, and is a symbol of Alberta's prairie heritage and the need for the conservation of our rich biodiversity of native grasslands.

(adopted April 30, 2003 due to the efforts of the Prairie Conservation Forum)

# Stone



## Petrified Wood

Commonly found in gravel pits throughout Alberta, petrified wood is the result of the deposit of microcrystalline quartz in the pores and cells of the fallen trees of the Cretaceous and Paleocene geological times, 60 to 90 million years ago.

(adopted 1977 due to the efforts of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs)

## Mammal

### Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, *Ovis canadensis*

The bighorn sheep is a majestic, native Alberta animal. Prehistoric remains have been found in most of the river valleys across Alberta, showing that at one time large herds of bighorn roamed the province. Today the bighorn is primarily found in the Rocky Mountain region.

(adopted August 18, 1989)



## Fish

### Bull Trout, *Salvelinus confluentus*

The bull trout, one of eight species found in Alberta's glacial-fed waters, is often confused with the brook trout, but lacks black markings on its dorsal fins. In order to ensure Alberta's population of bull trout never becomes endangered, there is a catch and release policy governing all bull trout fishing in the province.

(adopted May 2, 1995)



Photo Credit: Dean Baayens

## Bird

### Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*

The bird is a year-round resident of the province and represents Albertans' concerns for our wildlife.

(adopted May 3, 1977 by a province-wide children's vote)



Photo Credit: Gordon Court ®

# Legislature Building



Construction of the Alberta Legislature Building began in 1907. The official opening was held on September 3, 1912. The Legislature Building houses the Legislative Assembly, the provincial government's law-making authority. The building is made of granite and sandstone; the rotunda inside features 2000 tons of marble. It is located on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River on the former site of Fort Edmonton.

## Mace of the Legislative Assembly



The Mace is the symbol of the Legislative Assembly's authority to make laws. It is carried into the Legislative Chamber by the Sergeant-at-Arms each day the assembly is in session. The Mace reflects Alberta's history and culture and incorporates the wild rose, wheat and beaver into the crown. The first letter of each gem surrounding the crown, amethyst, lazurite, bloodstone, emerald, ruby, topaz and agate, combine to spell Alberta. The Civil Service Association presented the Mace to the people of Alberta for the province's Golden Jubilee in 1955.



## For more information contact:

Alberta Community Development has responsibility for the official emblems of the province. The Government of Alberta armorial bearings (Shield of the Arms of Alberta and Coat of Arms) are its most highly regarded symbols and are reserved for use by elected officials and individuals representing the Crown or the interests of the government. The Official Emblems Regulation allows for the reproduction, use or display of all other emblems for non-commercial use with permission. These are available as black and white line drawings. For information or permission to reproduce an emblem contact:

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