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YOUR GUIDE TO SECURITY FEATURES ON CANADA'S BANK NOTES

Secure paper money: It's in your hands!

BANK NOTE SECURITY FEATURES ARE RELIABLE, AND QUICK AND EASY TO USE!

The Bank of Canada's *Canadian Journey* and *Birds of Canada* series \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills incorporate security features that minimize the risk of counterfeiting. Time is precious, and so is your hard-earned money. It takes only seconds to distinguish a genuine note from a fake one. It's as simple as checking your change, sales slips, or credit card receipts.

Check your notes! Make it a habit!

KEY SECURITY FEATURES

Advanced security features are found on both the front and back of *Canadian Journey* series notes.



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Image of the note when held to the light.

1 Holographic Stripe

Tilt the note, and brightly coloured numerals (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100) and maple leaves will "move" with in the shiny, metallic stripe on the front of the note. Colours will change through the various shades of the rainbow. There is a colour-split within each maple leaf. If you look carefully, smaller numerals (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100) appear in the background of the three-dimensional stripe. The stripe has curved edges.

2 Watermark Portrait

Hold the note to the light, and a small, ghost-like image of the portrait appears to the left of the large numeral (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100). A smaller numeral (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100) is also evident. This watermark is embedded in the paper and can be seen from both sides of the note. The watermark is only visible when the note is backlit.

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE! SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

- **Touch** the raised surfaces on your money.
- **Tilt** your money and look for the changing colours and images.
- **Look through** your money for a watermark portrait, a windowed security thread, and a see-through number on the *Canadian Journey* series notes.
- **Look at** your money for fine-line printing in the portrait and background patterns.

Help keep counterfeit bank notes out of circulation.

Together, we can fight counterfeiting!



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Image of the note when not held to the light.

3 Windowed Colour-Shifting Thread

Hold the note to the light, and a continuous, solid vertical line can be seen from both sides of the note. From the back of the note, this security thread resembles a series of exposed metallic dashes (windows) that shift from gold to green when the note is tilted. Small characters (CAN 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100) are printed on this security thread, which is woven into the paper.

4 See-Through Number

Hold the note to the light, and just like two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, the irregular marks on the front and back form a complete and perfectly aligned numeral 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100. Look for this feature between the watermark and the large numeral (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100).

TACTILE FEATURE

Feel the raised dots near the upper right corner on the front of *Canadian Journey* series bank notes. The \$5 note has one symbol of six raised dots. The \$20 note has three symbols separated by a smooth surface, while the \$50 note incorporates four symbols. Like the \$10 note, the \$100 bank note has two symbols, but the smooth surface between them is much larger. Although not a security feature, the tactile feature offers the visually impaired an easy-to-use device to recognize different denominations.

The original *Canadian Journey* series \$5 and \$10 notes contain two unique security features:



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5 Iridescent Maple Leaves

Tilt the note, and three maple leaves will change from a faint image to a shiny gold colour. The outline of the leaves is clearly defined, and there are no detectable raised edges.

6 Hidden Number

Tilt the note at eye level, and the numeral (5 or 10) will become visible.

BANK NOTES ARE IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US!

They are critical to Canada's economy. We all use them every day, so counterfeiting can affect anyone. Remember:

- It is important to check for the behaviour of the security feature, not just its presence.
- Most counterfeit notes can be easily detected when you verify the security features.
- No denomination is exempt from the possibility of counterfeiting.
- All payment methods are subject to fraud.

Protect yourself against loss!

The *Birds of Canada* series \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes also contain a readily visible security feature that is quick and easy to use.



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7 Optical Security Device

Tilt the note, and the metallic patch changes colour from gold to green. This colour-change patch cannot be peeled off and there are no detectable raised edges.

OTHER SECURITY FEATURES

All bank notes in the *Canadian Journey* and the *Birds of Canada* series contain the following anti-counterfeiting features:



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Raised Print (Intaglio)

Run your fingers over the front of the note. The ink on the large numeral, the portrait, the coat of arms, the horizontal broad bands, and the words BANK OF CANADA – BANQUE DU CANADA feels thicker to the touch.

Fine-Line Printing

Look for the sharp, well-defined lines and/or microprinting (small, clearly defined characters) that form the portrait and the background patterns of the note (e.g., diagonal or wavy lines around the portrait and the vignette of the Parliament Buildings).

Fluorescence

Place the note under UV light, and the following elements become visible.

Canadian Journey series notes:

- Look for the text BANQUE DU CANADA (5, 10, 20, 50, or 100) BANK OF CANADA glowing in interlocking colours of yellow and red over the portrait.
- Look for fibres, some glowing yellow and some glowing red, scattered randomly across both sides of the note. (The blue fibres, visible in normal light, do not glow.)

Original *Canadian Journey* series \$5 and \$10 notes:

- Look for the words FIVE-CINQ (or DIX-TEN), the coat of arms, and the text BANQUE DU CANADA BANK OF CANADA glowing blue over the portrait.
- Look for fibres, glowing red, scattered randomly across both sides of the note. (The blue fibres, visible in normal light, do not glow.)

Birds of Canada series notes:

- Look for planchettes (small green dots), glowing blue, scattered randomly across both sides of the note. (These dots are uniformly round in shape and can sometimes be removed from the paper.)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT NOTE

- 1 > **Stop** the transaction, request another note, and if possible, keep the suspected counterfeit.
- 2 > **Call** the local police.
- 3 > **Record** the details of how you received the note (time, number of notes, denomination, context, description of the individual(s) who gave you the note, etc.).
- 4 > **Give** the note only to the police, and always request a receipt. (If the note is genuine, it will be returned to you.)

Remember

- Always check two or more security features.
- Check for the behaviour of the security features, not just their presence.
- Compare a suspect note with one you know to be genuine.
- The authenticity of a bank note may be in question, not necessarily the integrity of the person passing it.
- Those who pass counterfeit notes may be innocent victims of crime.
- You can check bank notes without special instruments. The Bank of Canada cannot endorse any product or provide any warranty for devices used to validate security features on bank notes.
- It is a **criminal offence** to knowingly use or possess a counterfeit bank note.
- The reproduction of bank notes is restricted under the Criminal Code and the Copyright Act.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Bank of Canada provides a variety of training tools and information to help you quickly, easily, and reliably identify genuine bank notes. Please contact:

Bank of Canada
Toll-free: 1 888 513-8212
Facsimile: 613 782-7533
Email: education@bankofcanada.ca
www.bankofcanada.ca/en/banknotes

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