



Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 105
 Province. . . . 3

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown (arms granted 1979)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Portage la Prairie is a Canadian pale design of green-white-green, with its coat of arms in its centre, five-eighths the height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape. It has a green field, crossed near the top and bottom by a wavy blue horizontal stripe bordered in white. In the centre are two wheat sheaves, side by side, in yellow with bands of red. Above the shield is a knight’s helmet in blue with red and white details; around it and draping alongside the upper sides of the shield is mantling in green and white. Atop the helmet is a torse of white and green, atop that is a green mound with a circlet of three maple leaves in red, and above all is a Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) in green and white with black details, rising in flight toward the hoist. Below the shield curves a yellow scroll curled at each end to show a red back, inscribed **PROGRESS** in black serified letters.

SYMBOLISM: The two wheat sheaves on green represent agriculture, an important local economic resource; they derive from the city’s 1880 seal, as does the motto. The wavy blue and white stripes represent the Assiniboine River and Lake Manitoba. The first European explorers in this area were

Radisson and Grosseilliers, who came between 1658 and 1690 seeking furs. Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de La Vérendrye, established Fort la Reine here in 1738. The city's name *Portage la Prairie* derives from the "Prairie Portage" through which the explorers had to transport goods overland between the river and the lake. The Canada goose symbolizes one of the many local waterfowl species. The red maple leaves and the Canadian pale design refer to Portage la Prairie as a Canadian municipality. The city's traditional colours, reflected in the stripes on the flag, are green and white.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown. The arms were granted on 28 September 1979 by the English Kings of Arms in London, England. On 13 July 1980, during the opening ceremonies of the city's Centennial Celebration, the lieutenant governor of Manitoba, Francis Laurence Jobin, presented the coat of arms to Mayor Karen Devine. On 20 May 2005 the coat of arms was registered with the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

DESIGNER: Unknown. Mr. R. G. M. Macpherson designed the coat of arms.

