



Definitions, Conventions, & Authors

Key Definitions

Arch	A verb describing an item bending with its mid-point highest (see Curve).
Banner of Arms	A flag derived from the principal components of the shield of a coat of arms.
Canadian Pale Design	A flag format matching the national flag, generally in proportions of 1:2, where the central section (the “pale”) is square, usually white. The colours are given hoist-first.
Coat of Arms	A graphic emblem of a municipality, usually granted by a heraldic authority, with certain traditional components.
Crest	A component of a coat of arms, placed above all the other elements. The word is often used informally (but incorrectly) to refer to the entire coat of arms.
Curve	A verb describing an item bending with its mid-point lowest (see Arch).
Field	The background of a flag or shield, usually of a solid colour.
Fly	The far edge of a flag, opposite the flagpole—the part that “flies”.
Hoist	The near edge of a flag, next to the flagpole—the part that is “hoisted”.
Mantling	Stylized draped fabric sometimes topping or flanking a shield in a coat of arms.





Quarter	One of four sections of a flag or component parts of a shield, numbered 1) upper-left, 2) upper-right, 3) lower-left, 4) lower-right.
Saltire	A diagonally-oriented X-shaped cross, extending to the edge of the field.
Supporter	A heraldic image of a person or animal flanking (“supporting”) a shield.
Torse	A small horizontal wreath of alternating colours, used in a coat of arms.
Vexillology	The study of flags.





Descriptive Conventions

Proportions of flags are presented as height(width):length, for example 1:2. Colours and components, if not otherwise specified, are listed top-to-bottom or left-to-right.

Bold type denotes an inscription on a flag, for example **Iqaluit**.

Italics mean a quotation or non-English words, for example *The arms used for half a century*, and *tiluktuut* or *Sarnia Semper*.

Capital cities are marked with a star, for example **Charlottetown**, **Prince Edward Island**^{*}. A maple leaf 🍁 denotes the federal capital.

Population ranks are listed for each city's place among Canadian cities and among cities within its province/territory, for example **Abbotsford**, **British Columbia—Population Rank**: Canada: 23; Province: 4.

Population ranks refer to the city's metropolitan area or agglomeration, except in the cases of smaller entities, where the city rank, marked with (c) in the Table of Contents, is used. See the Editor's Notes for a full explanation of the methodology.

The adoption date denotes when a flag was first put into use, whether approved by law, granted by a heraldic authority, or otherwise adopted.

Authors

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