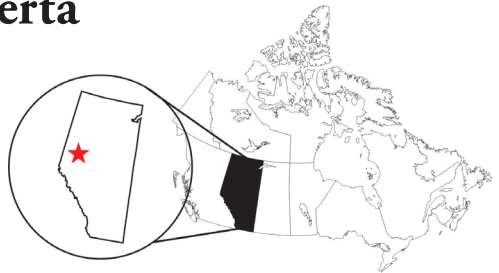




Grande Prairie, Alberta

Population Rank: Canada . . . 49
Province . . . 5

Proportions: 1:2
Adopted: 1980



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Grande Prairie has a medium blue field with a central charge nearly the full height of the flag. The charge is composed of a naturalistic image of a trumpeter swan seen from the side with its wings outspread in white, atop a sprig of wheat in yellow and black, in front of a row of naturally-shaped evergreen trees in green. Behind the swan and extending above it are two oil derricks in black. These are all surrounded by a ring of 24 yellow maple leaves, with gaps in the ring at the top and bottom. Curving below is a white ribbon with forked ends, inscribed **CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE** in fancy serified black letters.

SYMBOLISM: Blue is one of the city's official colours. The trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) is Grande Prairie's official symbol; its nickname is "Swan City" (the city is on the swans' migration route and is the site of their summer nesting grounds). The wheat sprig represents the city's heavy involvement with agriculture—the area is the northernmost major farming region in North America. The trees represent the forestry industry. The oil derricks symbolize the city's thriving gas and oil industry. The maple leaves celebrate Alberta's 75th anniversary; their number carries no meaning and merely completes the circle.

HOW SELECTED: In 1980, the city held a flag-design contest to commemorate Alberta's 75th anniversary. The design was to symbolize the Peace River Country, the large region in northwestern Alberta around Grande Prairie.

DESIGNER: Mrs. Louise Lissoway.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Grande Prairie is surrounded to the north, east, and west by a large prairie; Father Grouard, a Catholic missionary who came to the area in the late 19th century, described it as *la grande prairie*. To the south of the city lies a vast boreal forest, mainly evergreen trees, which is central to the city's forestry industry. Both terrains make up the southern edge of a region known as the Peace River Country, or "The Peace".

