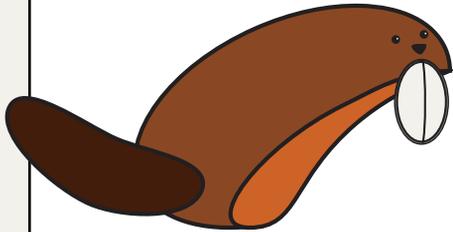


# Cool Canadiana



It's Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! Do you know these symbols of the "True North Strong and Free"? **BY SHERI RADFORD + ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERICK VILLAGOMEZ**



## Beaver

An image of the hardworking beaver adorns Canada's five-cent coin. In the 17th century, felt hats made from beaver fur were all the rage. North America's oldest company, Hudson's Bay, was formed in 1670 to exploit the growing fur trade, ensuring a steady stream of Canadian beaver pelts to outfit wealthy Europeans.

## Hockey

Basketball and lacrosse were invented here, but ice hockey remains the key to our national identity. Eighty percent of all Canadians watched at least part of the men's hockey final of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, in which the home team defeated the Americans 3-2 in overtime. It's probably no surprise that Canadians invented the goalie mask and instant replay.

## Toque

Known as a knit cap or beanie to the rest of the world, the toque is must-have cold-weather gear for Canucks. The quintessential toque sports a jaunty pom-pom on top.



## Maple Syrup

Quebec is the world's largest producer of this sweet topping made from the sap of maple trees. In what might be the most Canadian crime ever committed, sticky-fingered thieves in Quebec in 2012 made off with a haul of maple syrup valued at \$18.7 million. Fans of pancakes, waffles and French toast were relieved when much of the plunder was later recovered.

## Maple Leaf

The Canadian flag, with its red maple leaf in the centre, debuted in 1965, and it's recognized worldwide thanks to patriotic young travellers who sew miniature flags onto their backpacks. As early as the 1700s, settlers in Canada were using the maple leaf to symbolize their new land.



## Loonie

Canada earned a reputation for "funny money" for its brightly coloured bills, which are easily identifiable and help thwart counterfeiters. The lightweight image didn't improve any with the 1987 introduction of the \$1 coin, immediately nicknamed the loonie because of the image of a common loon on one side, or the 1996 launch of the toonie, the \$2 coin.

## Mountie

Mounties always get their man. Pop culture is filled with earnest Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers, from cartoon character Dudley Do-Right and *Due South's* extremely polite Benton Fraser

to Steven Wright's character in *Canadian Bacon*, who writes thank-you notes to well behaved prisoners. And the RCMP's dress uniform is instantly recognizable: flat-brimmed brown hat, red-serge tunic, riding boots and blue breeches with a yellow stripe down the side.

## Totem Pole

Carved from red cedar, the versatile totem pole can represent people, ancestry, histories or events for the First Nations peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Each pole usually shows stylized human, animal and supernatural forms, representing kinship and clan membership.

## Inukshuk

Long used by the Inuit as a navigational aid or memorial marker, the inukshuk consists of rocks balanced on each other. If the rocks form a human shape, the stone figure is properly known as an *inunnguaq*. One such figure inspired the logo for the 2010 Winter Olympics, and it was based upon the inukshuk in Vancouver's English Bay.

## Poutine

This artery-clogging snack from Quebec consists of French fries topped with cheese curds and slathered in gravy. In 2006, the CBC asked viewers to vote for the greatest Canadian invention: poutine came in at #10, edging out lesser contenders such as the electron microscope and radio voice transmission. **RM**

