

# The Story of Our Flag

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**King George Standard**  
This flag, also known as the “Loyalist Flag”, was the flag of Great Britain and its colonies from 1701-1801.

**Red Ensign**

This version of the Red Ensign flag was the unofficial flag of Canada from 1868-1921.



**Royal Union Standard**  
This flag, also known as the “Union Jack”, was adopted in 1801 and became the official flag of Canada as a British Colony.

**Canadian Red Ensign**

This flag served as the official flag of Canada from 1921-1957, and a slightly altered version from 1957-1965.



**“The Great Flag Debate”**  
From 1946-64 the federal government held a series of commissions to establish a “distinctive and unmistakably Canadian flag”.

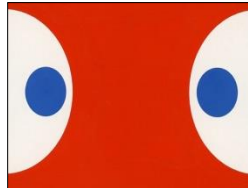
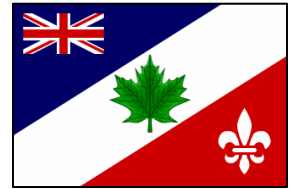
**1946 Recommendation**

The “Great Flag Debate” generated a great deal of controversy and varied opinion. This 1946 recommendation was not approved.



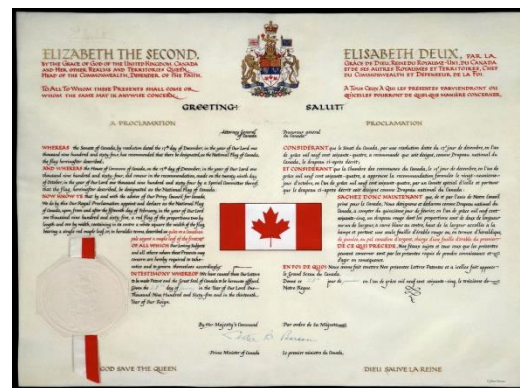
**1964: A Flood of Concepts**

The Flag Committee, established in 1964, received hundreds of submissions for a new National Flag for Canada. These are only a few of the rejected designs.



**Final Three Selections**

The Flag Committee chose three designs to bring to parliament for their selection. The flags, from top to bottom, were known as “Sea to Sea” (or the “Pearson Pennant”), the “Duality Flag” and the “Maple Leaf”.



**A Flag is Chosen!**

The “Maple Leaf” was designed by George Stanley of Kingston, and approved by the House of Commons on December 15, 1964. It received Royal Assent on January 28, 1965, and was officially unveiled on February 15, 1965.