



CANADA

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## CANADA RAISES A NEW FLAG

*The following address was made by Prime Minister L.B. Pearson on the occasion of the inauguration of the new national flag of Canada at Ottawa on February 15:*

On September 5, 1945, an Order-in-Council was passed declaring the Red Ensign to be Canada's national flag pending a decision of the Parliament of Canada.

Such a decision was made in December 1964 after long and vigorous Parliamentary debate and careful committee consideration and recommendation.

As a result of this decision by the Canadian Parliament and on the advice of the Government of Canada, Her Majesty, our beloved Queen, was pleased to issue a proclamation that the flag we are about to raise today should be the flag of Canada.

So, at noon today, in this eighth month of our ninety-eighth year as a Confederation, our new flag will fly for the first time in the skies above Canada and in places overseas where Canadians serve.

If our nation, by God's grace, endures a thousand years, this day, the fifteenth day of February, 1965, will always be remembered as a milestone in Canada's national progress.

It is impossible for me not to be deeply moved on such an occasion or to be insensible to the honour and privilege of taking part in it.

### APPEAL TO PATRIOTS

There are many in this country who regret the replacement of the Red Ensign by the Red Maple Leaf. Their feelings and their emotions should be honoured and respected. But I am sure, now that the decision

has been made by the representatives of the Canadian people in Parliament assembled, that all Canadians, as good patriots, will accept that decision and fly with pride our national flag.

This ceremony today is not a break with history but a new stage in Canada's forward march from a group of separate and scattered and dependent colonies to a great and sovereign Confederation stretching from sea to sea and from our southern border to the North Pole.

No step by which we have advanced to our present position among nations has been an easy one and none has been taken without some nostalgia for the past.

This is inevitable in the succession of new beginnings that mark a nation's progress, as they do the course of human events, for each brings to an end a stage for which deep attachment often lingers.

The patriotic motives that have led Parliament to adopt a new Canadian flag do not include disrespect for our past or for the emblems of that past.

We salute the future, but we honour the past on which the future rests.

### SYMBOL OF UNITY

As the symbol of a new chapter in our national story, our Maple Leaf Flag will become a symbol of that unity in our country without which one cannot grow in strength and purpose, the unity that encourages the equal partnership of two peoples on which this Confederation was founded, the unity also that recognizes the contributions and the cultures of many other races.