

MAIN FOYER

In the main foyer, visitors are greeted by the flags of some 186 nations with which Canada maintains diplomatic relations, the only such collection in the country.

Directly above the entrance is Canada's Coat of Arms, granted by royal proclamation in 1921. The motto, *A mari usque ad mare* (From sea to sea), is taken from Psalm 72: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." This beautiful rendition of the Arms of Canada was hand-carved by acclaimed Ottawa sculptor Arthur Price, renowned for designing the National Research Council's silver sphere displayed in front of the corporate headquarters on Montreal Road, Ottawa.

Directly opposite the entrance hangs a vivid mural entitled *Canada West Canada East*, painted in 1943 by Quebec City artist Alfred Pellan on a commission for the Canadian Legation (later Embassy) in Rio de Janeiro. Though not typical of the abstract-surrealist style associated with this artist, the panels have their own interest and charm: they depict the immensity of Canada and its infinite variety, from the villages of Quebec on the St. Lawrence River to the mountains and totem poles of British Columbia.

To the right of the entrance, in the northwest corner of the foyer, the Lester B. Pearson Commemorative Area honours the memory of Canada's foremost diplomat and a true world statesman.