

## National Song, Flag and Medals



### *National song*

The music of *O Canada*, written by Calixa Lavallée in 1880, was commissioned to honour the official visit to Quebec of the Marquis of Lorne, who was then Governor General of Canada. The French words were written by Sir Adolphe Routhier. Usually, only the first verse is sung :

O Canada! Our home and native land  
True patriot-love in all thy sons command  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North, strong and free,  
And stand on guard, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, glorious and free!  
We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

Many English versions have been sung, but the accepted one is Stanley Weir's, written in 1908 and published in official form in 1927 on the occasion of Canada's diamond jubilee. After several years considering the problem, the Canadian Parliament has still not officially adopted a version of the lyrics or music ; Canada has no national anthem recognized by statute.

### *National flag*

The first flag to fly over Canada was the red cross of St. George on a white background, raised on behalf of England by John Cabot in 1497. The French emblem was brought by Jacques Cartier in 1534 – three gold fleur-de-lys on a blue background. The official flag for the Canadian colonies after 1763 was the Union Jack.