

# Happy Flag Day

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February 15, 2011

Originally posted on MyPhilately.

February 15, 1965 is the day that the Flag of Canada was raised over the Houses of Parliament for the first time. The driving force behind a Canadian Flag was Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. He wanted a flag that was distinctly Canadian and not the Canadian Red Ensign that was selected by Sir John A. MacDonald at confederation.



Image from Library and Archives Canada

The flag debate was very divisive and eventually the choice of flag was left to an all-party committee. After going through thousands of designs the committee recommended that the "single-leaf, red and white design be adopted". Parliament debated and at 2:15 am on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1964 it was approved by the House of Commons. Senate approval came on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December and on January 28, 1965 the National Flag of Canada was proclaimed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to take effect on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1965.

In 1996, February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day.

## Sources:

Department of Canadian Heritage. *National Flag of Canada Day*.

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/jdn-nfd/index-eng.cfm>

Library and Archives Canada. *Canadian Postal Archives*.

[http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=0426&l=20&d=POST&p=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.collectionscanada.ca%2Farchivianet%2F020117%2F020117030115\\_e.html&r=1&f=G&SECT3=POST](http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=0426&l=20&d=POST&p=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.collectionscanada.ca%2Farchivianet%2F020117%2F020117030115_e.html&r=1&f=G&SECT3=POST)