






# OFFICIAL EMBLEMS OF MANITOBA

## The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Act

<p><b>Coat of Arms</b></p> 	<p><b>The original Coat of Arms of Manitoba</b> was granted to Manitoba by a Royal Warrant of King Edward VII on 10 May 1905. The shield is also featured on the provincial flag and the design is based on the 1870 Great Seal of Manitoba. The bison represents the Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba who used the bison for both food and clothing. The red cross on white at the top of the shield is the cross of St. George, the patron saint of England. This cross was also found on the arms of the Hudson's Bay Company which originally governed the territory from which Manitoba was established.</p>
<p><b>Floral Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The flower known botanically as the <i>Aenomone patens</i>, and commonly known as the crocus was officially adopted as the floral emblem of Manitoba on March 16, 1906. The first flower to bloom on the prairies each spring, its mauve petals are often seen before the last snow has melted was chosen by Manitoba school children as the floral emblem of the province. This spring to early summer flower, known in Manitoba as the <b>Prairie Crocus</b>, is a true sign that spring has arrived in Manitoba.</p>
<p><b>Tartan</b></p> 	<p><b>The Manitoba Tartan</b> was approved by the Lord Lyon King at Arms, guardian of Scottish Heraldry, and received Royal Assent on May 1, 1962. The Manitoba Tartan is registered in Scotland as the official tartan of the province. The dark red squares represent the Red River Settlement while the green squares showcase the natural resources of the province. The azure blue lines are for Lord Selkirk, founder of the Red River Settlement. The forks created by the joining of the Red and Assiniboine rivers are represented by the intersecting blue lines. Manitoba's rich agricultural heritage is showcased by golden lines, while dark green lines represent the men and women of many races who have enriched the life and history of Manitoba.</p>
<p><b>Flag of Manitoba</b></p> 	<p><b>The official flag of the Province of Manitoba is the Red Ensign bearing the provincial Coat of Arms.</b> This flag was given royal approval by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in October 1965, and officially proclaimed by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly on May 12, 1966. The Red Ensign features the Union Jack in the canton, and the Coat of Arms on a red field or ground. This intentional use of the Red Ensign was seen as a way to preserve the rich heritage of the Red Ensign that some felt was lost after the Canadian Red Ensign was replaced by the Maple Leaf flag on February 15, 1965.</p>
<p><b>Avian Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The bird ornithologically known as <i>Strix nebulosa</i> and commonly known as the <b>Great Gray Owl or Great Grey Owl</b> is the avian emblem of Manitoba, as of July 16, 1987. Chosen to represent Manitoba by numerous naturalists and school groups, the Great Gray owl is a year-round resident of Manitoba. The Great Gray Owl is North America's largest owl, with a wingspan of 1.3 metres. It can be found throughout the mixed wood and coniferous forests of Manitoba, from the southeastern corner of the province, west to Riding Mountain National Park and north to the treeline.</p>
<p><b>Arboreal Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The tree known botanically as <i>Picea glauca</i> and commonly known as the <b>White Spruce</b> was adopted as and is the arboreal emblem of Manitoba on July 5, 1991. The white spruce was chosen as Manitoba's provincial tree emblem because of its extensive use by early and modern cultures. Easily identifiable and esthetically pleasing, the white spruce has a high economic value and is found throughout most of Manitoba. The white spruce is also disease resistant and capable of growing in most of the climatic and environmental conditions of Manitoba.</p>

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<p><b>Augmented Coat of Arms</b></p> 	<p>The Coat of Arms of Manitoba, first designated May 10, 1905 by King Edward VII, was <b>augmented</b> on October 23, 1992 by Governor-General Ramon Hnatyshyn and granted Royal Assent on July 27, 1993. The 1905 shield at its centre rests on seven croci, while above are a gold helmet, red and silver mantling, a beaver holding a prairie crocus, and finally a crown. A unicorn and a white horse support the left and right sides. Other elements that symbolize Manitoba's past include maple leaves, the wheel of a Red River cart, and Aboriginal bead and bone decorations. The shield and supporters rest on a base representing a diverse landscape, with a banner below bearing the Latin version of Manitoba's provincial motto, "Glorious and Free."</p>
<p><b>Motto</b> <i>GLORIOSUS ET LIBER</i></p>	<p>Manitoba's motto, <i>Gloriosus et liber</i> in Latin, means "<b>Glorious and Free</b>", and is a phrase from Canada's national anthem, "O Canada". It evokes the democratic inheritance of Manitobans. The motto was granted with the Augmented Coat of Arms by Royal Assent on July 27, 1993.</p>
<p><b>Provincial Soil</b></p> 	<p>The soil technically called <i>Orthic Black Chernozem</i> commonly called <b>Newdale soil</b> became the official soil of Manitoba on June 17, 2010. This soil is very fertile and rich in organic matter, and is located near the surface and is black in colour. Manitoba has more Orthic Black Chernozem than any other province in Canada; Newdale soil covers approximately 1.3 million acres. Newdale soil is a specific type of Orthic Black Chernozem that is found north of Brandon, MB and continues northwest to the Saskatchewan border. The name Newdale came from a town on the Yellowhead Highway, west of Minnedosa, MB.</p>
<p><b>Mammal Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The animal known zoologically as <i>Bison bison bison</i>, commonly known as the <b>North American Plains Bison</b> has long been a symbol of the Province of Manitoba, since the Great Seal of Manitoba in 1870. The bison was used in the Canadian Coat of Arms to represent Manitoba, and has been on the Coat of Arms since 1905. The bison has become a majestic symbol of Manitoba's pioneering spirit and is the official symbol of Manitoba's provincial government. However, it wasn't until June 12, 2014 that the North American Plains Bison was designated as the mammal emblem of Manitoba.</p>
<p><b>Fish Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The fish known ichthyologically as <i>Sander vitreus</i> and commonly known as the walleye was designated as the fish emblem of Manitoba on June 12, 2014. <b>The walleye, or pickerel</b>, as many Manitobans commonly call it, was one of several species up for the prestigious nomination. The province received about 4,000 nominations from Manitobans on which fish should be crowned our official fish and the walleye/pickerel won with 1,450 votes. Manitoba's commercial walleye industry is the second largest inland fishery in Canada.</p>
<p><b>Grass Emblem</b></p> 	<p>The grass known botanically as <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> and commonly known as <b>Big Bluestem</b> was designated as the grass emblem of Manitoba on June 12, 2014. Chosen by the people of Manitoba, Big Bluestem is a tall leafy grass that is found in large clumps and can reach a height of 150 cm (60 in). This distinctive grass is recognizable by its wide long blue-green leaves sometimes tipped with red or purple and its purplish flowering head that resembles a turkey's foot. Big Bluestem is one of the main species of the Tallgrass prairie because it loves the heat and moisture, and it occurs throughout the prairie grassland areas of southern Manitoba.</p>
<p><b>Marine Reptile Fossil</b></p> 	<p>The <b>mosasaur</b> known as <i>Tylosaurus peminensis</i> was designated as the marine reptile fossil emblem of Manitoba on June 30, 2015. This fossilized specimen, which has been nicknamed "Bruce the mosasaur", is permanently displayed at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden, MB. Bruce is the world's largest fossilized specimen of the prehistoric marine reptile and was discovered near Morden, MB in 1974.</p>