



Flying and Displaying Flags at Government House

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Government House
Halifax

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December 2021

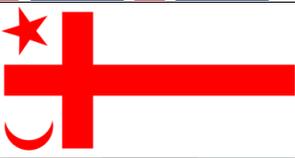
First Edition

FLAGS & BANNERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

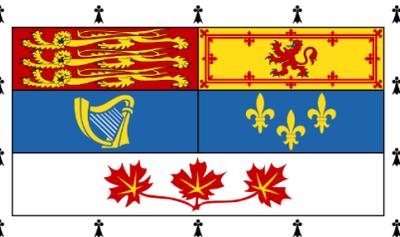
Background

This document outlines the rules and protocol governing the flying of flags, indoors and out at Government House Halifax. Further direction is provided on the flying of the Lieutenant Governor's Flag offsite.

Six flags are frequently flown in Nova Scotia (listed by precedence):

Flag	Image
Lieutenant Governor's Flag	
National Flag of Canada	
Provincial Flag	
Royal Union Flag (Union Jack)	
Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag	
Acadian Flag	
Gaelic Flag	
African-Nova Scotian Flag	

LESS COMMON FLAGS

Flag	Image
The Queen's Personal Canadian Flag	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left, a central gold circular emblem containing a crown and the letter 'E', and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves.</p>
Flag of the Governor General of Canada	 <p>A blue field featuring a gold lion passant guardant holding a red maple leaf in its right paw.</p>
Flag of HRH The Prince of Wales	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left, a central gold circular emblem containing a crown and a white eagle with wings spread, and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves.</p>
Flag of HRH The Duke of Cambridge	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left, a central gold circular emblem containing a crown and the letters 'TC', and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves.</p>
Flag of HRH The Earl of Wessex	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left, a central gold circular emblem containing a crown and the letter 'E', and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves.</p>
Flag of HRH The Princess Royal	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left, a central gold circular emblem containing a crown and the letter 'A', and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves.</p>
Flag used by other members of the Royal Family	 <p>The flag features a red and white top section with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom and the Royal Arms of Canada. Below this is a blue section with a gold harp on the left and three gold fleur-de-lis on the right. The bottom section is white with three red maple leaves. The flag is surrounded by a decorative border of small black figures.</p>

PRECEDENCE

BACKGROUND

Flags are always displayed in order of their precedence or rank and are never arranged for decorative purposes. Official flags, which in Canada consist of the Queen's Personal Flag, the Governor General's Flag, the Flags of the Lieutenant Governors, the National Flag of Canada, the Flags of Members of the Royal Family, the Provincial and Territorial Flags, and the Royal Union Flag are accorded precedence over other flags and banners.

For the purpose of this document the term "flag" is used generically for any piece of cloth that is flown/displayed from a flag pole. Generally, Flags are only officially granted/designated heraldic designs that have been adopted by or approved by the Government of Canada, either through an Order-in-Council, resolution of Parliament, Proclamation or a grant from the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Technically the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag, Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag and African-Nova Scotia Flag are banners and hold no official precedence. Nevertheless, they should be treated with the same dignity and reverence as an official flag.

In Canada the flag of the Head of State (the Queen's Personal Canadian Flag) takes precedence over all other flags, and from this flows the protocol that the flag of the Queen's various representatives; the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors, are the senior most ranked flags in their respective jurisdictions. Thus, in Nova Scotia, **the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia's Flag** takes precedence over all other flags, unless The Queen is present or, under some circumstances where the Governor General is present and discharging a federal function. The Lieutenant Governor's Flag is flown on the Flag Mast at Government House on all occasions when the Lieutenant Governor is in residence.

The **National Flag** of Canada (Maple Leaf Flag) which was adopted on 18 December 1964 and inaugurated on 15 February 1965, is the second highest ranked flag. The National Flag is flown on the Flag Mast at Government House during daylight hours.

The **Provincial Flag**, which in the case of Nova Scotia, is the oldest provincial flag in Canada, dating from 1858, is normally ranked third as it represents the Province as a self-governing jurisdiction within Canadian Confederation. On occasions when a Commonwealth or Foreign dignitary is on an official visit, precedence is given to the flag of the visiting Commonwealth or Foreign dignitary. The Provincial Flag is flown on the flag mast at Government House during daylight hours.

The **Royal Union Flag** (Union Jack), has been flown in Nova Scotia since 1621 and today is flown as a symbol of membership in the Commonwealth and allegiance to the Crown, as approved by the Parliament of Canada on 18 December 1964, simultaneous with the adoption of the National Flag of Canada. It is also flown in Nova Scotia at Government House and Province House to acknowledge that Nova Scotia was the first jurisdiction to achieve Representative and then Responsible Government in the Commonwealth. The Royal Union Flag is flown on the flag

mast at Government House during daylight hours – except on certain occasions when it is replaced by the Mi’kmaq Grand Council flag, the Acadian flag or the Pride flag, as outlined in this document.

The **Royal Union Flag** is also flown as the flag of the United Kingdom under certain circumstances (i.e. when the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom is visiting). On these occasions the Royal Union Flag is given precedence ahead of the provincial Flag.

The **Mi’kmaq Grand Council Flag** (Mi’kmaq Flag), dates from 1900 and is believed to have first been flown in Halifax in 1901. The Mi’kmaq Flag is flown at Government House on occasions when a member of the Grand Council or the Grand Council is present, on Treaty Day, and during the month of October in honour of Mi’kmaq heritage month. This flag is given precedence immediately after official flags as it represents the Mi’kmaq nation. The remaining flags (Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag, African Nova Scotian Flag) are arranged by the order in which the flags were adopted/created.

The **Acadian Flag**, was created in 1884 and was flown for the first time at the second Acadian National Convention which took place in Prince Edward Island of that year, and has been flown throughout Atlantic Canada since that time. The Acadian Flag is flown at Government House on la Fête nationale de l’Acadie and other occasions when Acadian related events are taking place at Government House.

The **Gaelic Flag**, was created in 2008 and is flown at events on occasions when there is a Gaelic related event taking place at Government House.

The **African Nova Scotian Flag**, was created in 2020 and is flown at events or occasions when there is an African Nova Scotian event taking place at Government House.

Flags of Canadian Provinces and Territories

When provincial and territorial flags are flown with the National Flag, the order is based on the date of entry into Confederation of the Provinces, followed by the Territories by date of their establishment. In a grouping of flags that includes the National Flag and all the Flags of the Provinces and Territories, the order of precedence is:

1. National Flag of Canada
2. Ontario (1867)
3. Quebec (1867)
4. Nova Scotia (1867)
5. New Brunswick (1867)
6. Manitoba (1870)
7. British Columbia (1871)
8. Prince Edward Island (1873)
9. Saskatchewan (1905)
10. Alberta (1905)
11. Newfoundland (1949)

12. Northwest Territories (1870)
13. Yukon (1890)
14. Nunavut (1999)

The exception to this is IF Nova Scotia is hosting a Federal/Provincial/Territorial event, in this case, it is customary to rank the host flag (Nova Scotia) immediately after the National Flag.

OUTDOORS

BACKGROUND

When Government House was opened in 1805 there is no record of a flagpole being installed on the property, however, by 1820 a retractable flag pole had been added to the roof of the building (accessible through the high attic). At some point after 1870 a permanent outdoor flagpole was erected on the location of the present Flag Mast. The retractable flagpole remained in use until the Halifax Explosion, when the pole was torn off and not replaced – it had also caused a persistent leaking issue in the high attic. Three flagpole mounts were added to the roof of the Portico over the steps leading to the back garden in advance of the 1967 Centennial Celebrations.

FLAG MAST

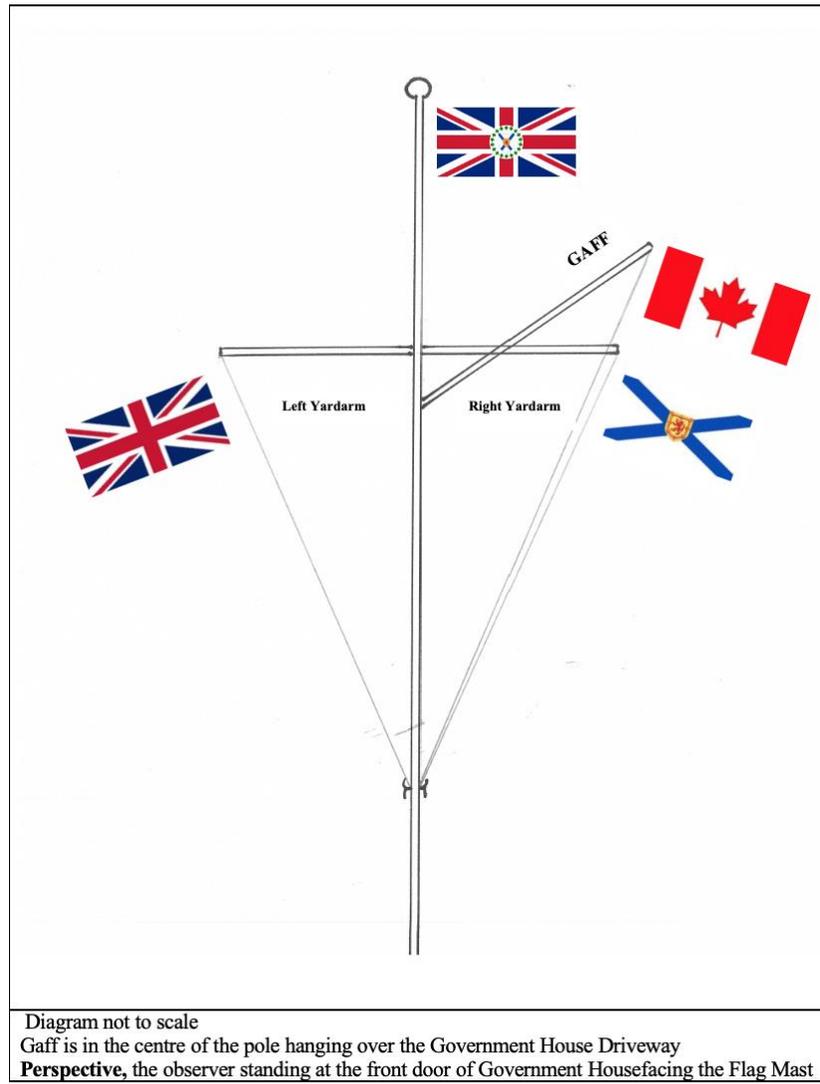
The present Flag Mast in front of the building was installed prior to the Second World War and has been retrofitted on several occasions. The Flag Mast is pole fitted with a yardarm and a gaff (allows for the flying of four flags in total. The Lieutenant Governor’s Flag (or that of the Sovereign when HM is in residence) is flown from the top of the mast as it is the “house flag.” With a flag mast that includes a gaff (the part that sticks out of the middle of the pole) the gaff is over the stern of the ship, which means the precedence of the flags off each of the yardarms is treated accordingly.

The Flag Mast shall have the following flags flown from it:

- 1) TOP (highest point on the Flag Mast)
Lieutenant Governor’s Personal Flag:
 - a. Shall be superseded by the Personal Flag of The Sovereign;
 - b. The Lieutenant Governor MAY cede precedence:
 - i. to the Governor General of Canada IF they are in residence and holding an event of a Federal nature,
 - ii. to a senior member of the Royal Family on a Royal Tour or Private Working Visit and in residence at Government House (previously done for HRH The Prince of Wales, 2014; HRH The Earl of Wessex, 2015 and; HRH the Duke of York, 2019).
- 2) GAFF (centre)
National Flag of Canada;
- 3) RIGHT YARDARM (senior position after the National Flag)
Provincial Flag;
- 4) LEFT YARDARM (most junior position on the Flag Mast)
Royal Union Flag;
 - a. On prescribed occasions, the Royal Union Flag may be replaced with the following:
 - i. Pride Flag (10 days in July as part of Halifax Pride),
 - ii. Acadian Flag (15 August to 31 August as part of National Acadian Day),
 - iii. Mi’kmaq Flag (1 October to 31 October as part of Treaty Day commemorations)

In the event that a Commonwealth or foreign Head of State, Head of Government, High Commissioner, Ambassador or Cabinet level office holder is in residence, the Royal Union Flag shall be replaced by the flag of the Commonwealth or foreign dignitary who is in residence at Government House. This flag shall be the appropriate size and dimension for flying on the Flag Mast (4.5 ft by 9 ft).

Standard Placement for Flags on the Government House Flag Mast



Perspective is with your back towards the Flag Mast (looking towards the front door of Government House)

It is the **Left Yardarm** where the Mi'kmaq, Acadian and other flags are flown from on special occasions in place of the Royal Union Flag.

Placement for Flags on the Government House Flag Mast for special occasions

When flying the Mi'kmaq Flag

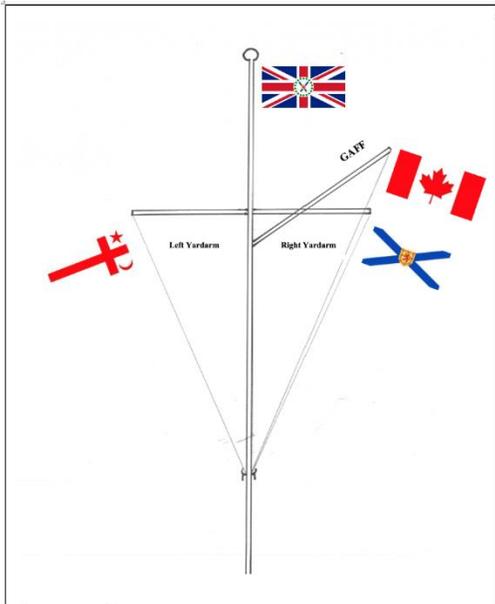


Diagram not to scale
Gaff is in the centre of the pole hanging over the Government House Driveway
Perspective, the observer standing at the front door of Government House facing the Flag Mast

When flying the Acadian Flag

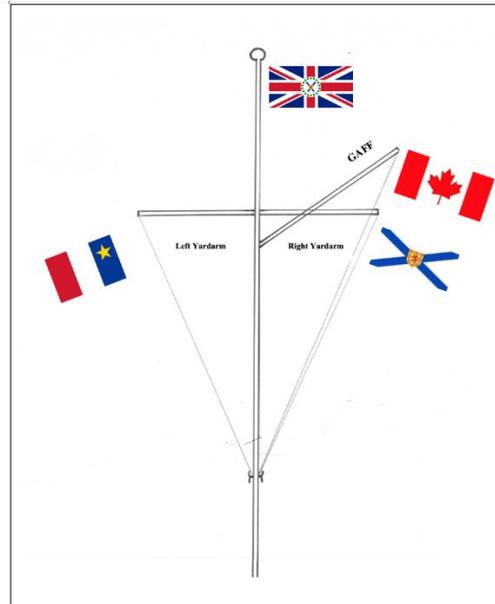


Diagram not to scale
Gaff is in the centre of the pole hanging over the Government House Driveway
Perspective, the observer standing at the front door of Government House facing the Flag Mast

When flying the flag of a Commonwealth or Foreign Nation during an official visit by a Head of State, Head of Government or Cabinet level officeholder

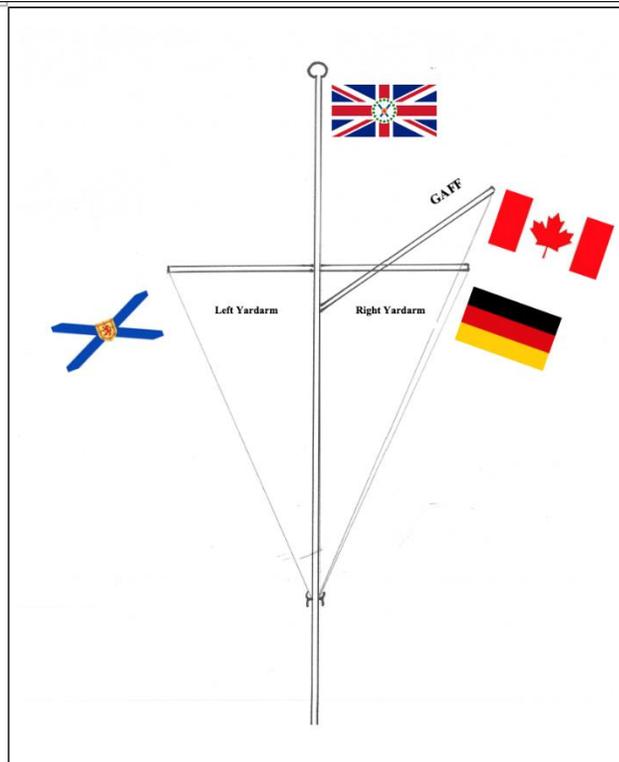


Diagram not to scale
Gaff is in the centre of the pole hanging over the Government House Driveway
Perspective, the observer standing at the front door of Government House facing the Flag Mast

COURTESY FLAGPOLES

In November 2021 a pair of courtesy flagpoles were added to the garden immediately in front of Government House. These poles are only to be used periodically to fly flags and for most of the year will not be dressed with a flag. The poles will normally be stored in the Carriage House when not in use.

The Courtesy Flagpoles may be used on the following occasions:

1. To fly the National Flag of a visiting Commonwealth or Foreign Diplomat;
2. To fly the flag of another province or Territory during a visit by a Lieutenant Governor, Territorial Commissioner, Premier, Speaker or Provincial/Territorial Minister of the Crown;
3. To fly the Service Flag of a visiting General or Flag Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces;
4. To fly the Divisional Flag of a visiting senior RCMP Officer;
5. To fly the Municipal Flag of a visiting Mayor;
6. To fly the Acadian flag, Gaelic flag and African Nova Scotian flag on occasions when it is deemed appropriate for them to be displayed (i.e. a specific event at Government House related to one of the communities represented).
7. To fly the Red Cross flag when a Canadian Red Cross related event is taking place at Government House;
8. To fly the Order of St. John Flag or the Priory of Canada Flag when a St. John Ambulance event is taking place at Government House;
9. To fly the flag of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, when a Duke of Edinburgh Award event is taking place at Government House;
 - a. Flag shall be flown on the pole closest to the Carriage House
 - b. Under normal circumstances the second pole will not be used for a visiting Commonwealth or Foreign Diplomat
10. Both poles may be used to fly;
 - a. the National Flag of Canada, on Canada Day or other occasions when such a display is deemed appropriate by the Private Secretary;
 - b. the Provincial Flag on occasions when such a display is deemed appropriate by the Private Secretary;
 - c. a National and Provincial Flag may be flown from each pole during visits by the Prime Minister or a Federal Cabinet Minister;
 - d. The Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag may be flown from both poles when the Grand Council is meeting at Government House or there is a specific event related to the Mi'kmaq taking place at Government House;
 - e. Historic Canadian Flags may be flown from one pole or each pole on specific anniversary occasions as deemed appropriate by the Private Secretary (i.e. anniversary of the founding of the RCN, RCAF, Vimy Ridge Day, the appropriate historic ensign may be flown);
 - f. Royal Jubilee/Coronation/National Commemoration (ie. Canada 175) flags.

PORTICO FLAGS

Mounts for three flags are set into the roof of the Portico leading to the back garden. Flags are only flown from this position during the annual Garden Party or if an official function is being held in the back garden (i.e. during the ceremonial welcome of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners to the 2016 Vice-Regal Conference which was hosted at Government House).

Proper precautions should be taken when venturing onto the Portico roof to install these flags. Aluminum poles are on hand for the display of flags from the Portico roof. Under no circumstances should ceremonial wooden poles be used in this location.

Bishop Street	Façade of Government House			Carriage House Side
	Provincial Flag	National Flag	Royal Union Flag	
				
	Centre			

TEMPORARY FLAG POLE(S)

From time to time it is necessary for a temporary flag pole or poles to be set up in front of Government House or in the back garden. It is NOT POSSIBLE, nor is it appropriate, to half mast from a temporary flagpole.

BACK GARDEN (Hollis Street side)

Temporary flagpoles may be set up in the back garden on occasions when it is also appropriate to fly flags from the roof of the Portico.

For occasions such as the annual Garden Party, it has become customary to fly flags from six temporary flagpoles in the following order.

Bishop Street	Façade of Government House						Carriage House Side
	Back Steps and Patio						
	National Flag	Provincial Flag	Royal Union Flag	Mi'kmaq Flag	Acadian Flag	National Flag	
							
	1	2	3	4	5	1	

INDOORS

Background

Flags are often displayed indoors at Government House on wooden poles with brass coloured bases, couplings and finials. It is not customary (or safe) to use wooden indoor poles outdoors as they are not able to remain upright with even a modest amount of wind.

Wooden flag poles should be firmly fixed into the brass coloured base so that the pole is upright and not on an angle. If a flag spreader is present, this may be used to evenly display the flag. It is not necessary to have a flag spreader on every flagpole.

Finials (flag pole toppers)

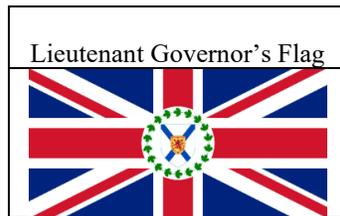
Finial	Images	Customary Usage
Maple Leaf		National Flag of Canada Lieutenant Governor's Flag
Spear		Provincial Flags Commonwealth, Foreign and Organizational Flags
Acorn		
Flying Eagle		Flag of the United States of America ONLY

Fringe and Tassels

In some locations it is customary for flags to be trimmed with gold fringe and accompanied by a pair of tassels on gold cording. Gold fringed flags have only rarely been used at Government House. If one flag on display has gold fringe and tassels, then all of the flags on display along with the fringed flag should have gold fringed and tassels.

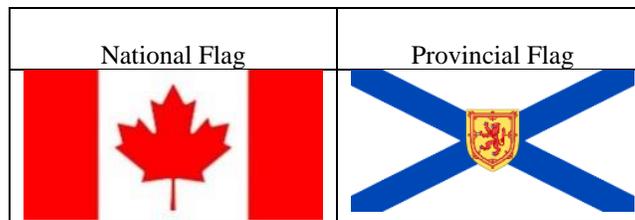
The Lieutenant Governor's Flag

The Lieutenant Governor's Flag shall only be placed on display indoors in the Study.



National Flag & Provincial Flag

The National Flag and Provincial Flag are on permanent display at the end of the Front Foyer. The National and Provincial Flag may also be placed on display in the Ballroom, Drawing Room or Dining Room for ceremonies where it is deemed appropriate by the Private Secretary.



National Flag, Provincial Flag & Royal Union Flag

The National Flag, Provincial Flag and Royal Union Flag, may be placed on display in the Drawing Room in front of the Fireplace, in a row, during occasions when it is deemed appropriate. During the summer months when there are routine tours of Government House these three flags shall be on display in the Drawing Room.



National Flag, Provincial Flag & Commonwealth or Foreign Flag

In addition to the National Flag and Provincial Flag, it is appropriate for a Commonwealth or Foreign Flag to also be displayed, in a row, on occasions when there is a senior Commonwealth or foreign official or dignitary present. This is normally limited to courtesy calls when they take place in the Drawing Room or a similar sort of event taking place in the Dining Room (such as a luncheon or dinner) or the Ballroom (such as an awards ceremony where a foreign national is being recognized).

Commonwealth/Foreign Flag	National Flag	Provincial Flag
		

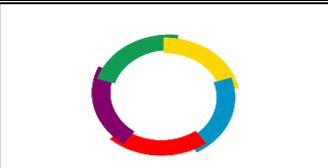
National Flag & Commonwealth or Foreign Flag

The National Flag and a Commonwealth or Foreign Flag, shall be displayed side by side, in the Morning Room for courtesy calls. The Morning Room is not of sufficient size to allow for the display of the Provincial Flag as well.

National Flag	Cwlth/Foreign Flag
	

National Flag, Provincial Flag and Recognized International Organization Flag

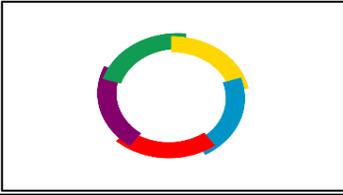
The National Flag and the flag of a recognized international organization, shall be displayed in a manner similar to that of when a Commonwealth or Foreign Flag is on display. Recognized International Organizational Flags include: United Nations, NATO, Commonwealth, Francophonie and the International Red Cross. The International Organizational Flag is treated with the same precedence as a Sovereign nation.

United Nations Flag	National Flag	Provincial Flag
		
NATO Flag	National Flag	Provincial Flag
		
Commonwealth Flag	National Flag	Provincial Flag
		
Francophonie Flag	National Flag	Provincial Flag
		

National Flag and Recognized International Organization Flag

The National Flag and the flag of a recognized international organization, shall be displayed in a manner similar to that of when a Commonwealth or Foreign Flag is on display. The International Organizational Flag is treated with the same precedence as a Sovereign nation.

National Flag	United Nations Flag
	

National Flag	NATO Flag
	
National Flag	Commonwealth Flag
	
National Flag	Francophonie Flag
	

National Flag, Provincial Flag & Mi’kmaq Flag

In addition to the National Flag and Provincial Flag, it is appropriate for the Mi’kmaq Flag to be displayed, in a row, on occasions when the Grand Chief, Grand Keptin or a Mi’kmaq Chief is present for a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor, or there is a Mi’kmaq event taking place (such as Treaty Day).



National Flag, Provincial Flag & Acadian Flag

In addition to the National Flag and Provincial Flag, it is appropriate for the Acadian Flag to be displayed, in a row, on occasions when an event is taking place related to the Acadian community, Acadian culture and or Acadian history.



National Flag, Provincial Flag, Acadian Flag and Francophonie Flag

In addition to the National Flag and Provincial Flag, it is appropriate for the Acadian Flag and Francophonie Flag to be displayed in a row at an event that involves both the Acadian and Francophonie communities (i.e. presentation of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for l’Acadie and Francophonie).



National Flag, Provincial Flag, Royal Union Flag Mi’kmaq Flag, Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag, African Nova Scotian Flag. This combination has been displayed at a number of swearing in ceremonies for the full Executive Council (i.e. a new Premier and Cabinet are sworn in).



Other Provincial & Territorial Flags

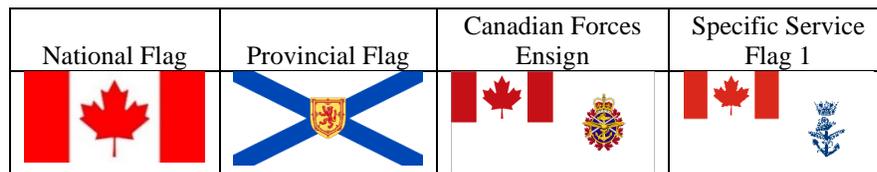
There may also be occasions when it is appropriate to display the flag of another Province or Territory.



Canadian Armed Forces Flags

There are occasions when it is appropriate to display flags related to the Canadian Armed Forces. In addition to the Canadian Forces Ensign, it is permissible to display the Royal Canadian Navy Ensign, the Canadian Army Flag and/or the Royal Canadian Air Force Ensign. There is no set precedence for the RCN, CA and RCAF flags/ensigns, and precedence for these is set on the basis of the nature of the event. If it is a primarily Army event at which there is also an RCN connection, the Army Flag would be placed ahead of the RCN Ensign.

Two Canadian Armed Forces Flags/Ensigns



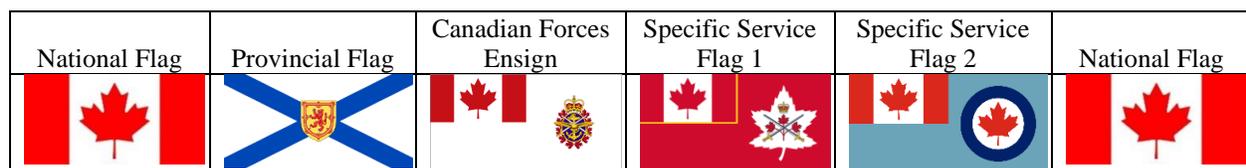
OR



Three Canadian Armed Forces Flags/Ensigns



OR



Four Canadian Armed Forces Flags/Ensigns

National Flag	Provincial Flag	Canadian Forces Ensign	Specific Service Flag 1	Specific Service Flag 2	Specific Service Flag 3
					

OR

National Flag	Provincial Flag	Canadian Forces Ensign	Specific Service Flag 1	Specific Service Flag 2	Specific Service Flag 3	National Flag
						

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Flags

There may also be occasions when it is appropriate to display flags related to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In addition to the RCMP Flag, it is permissible to display the “H” Division Flag as well.

Two RCMP Flags

National Flag	Provincial Flag	National RCMP Flag	RCMP “H” Division Flag
			

One RCMP Flag

Provincial Flag	National Flag	RCMP “H” Division Flag
		

Canadian Coast Guard Flag

There may also be occasions when it is appropriate to display the Canadian Coast Guard Flag.

Provincial Flag	National Flag	Canadian Coast Guard Flag
		

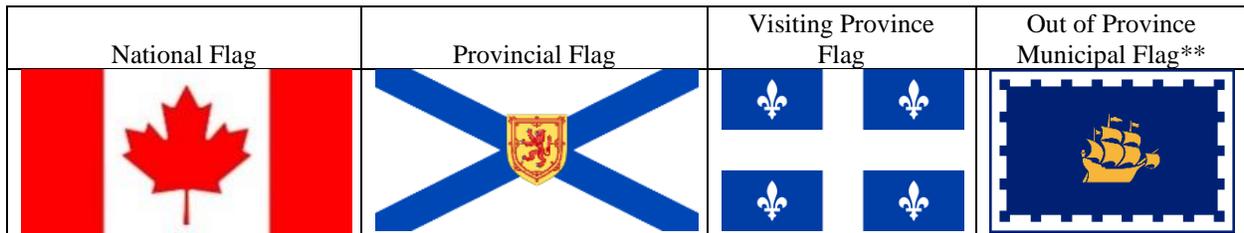
Municipal Flags (including Municipal Police & Fire)

There may also be occasions when it is appropriate to display flags related to a Canadian municipality. A municipal flag, when displayed indoors, should be displayed in conjunction with both the National and Provincial Flags (thereby demonstrating the three orders of government).



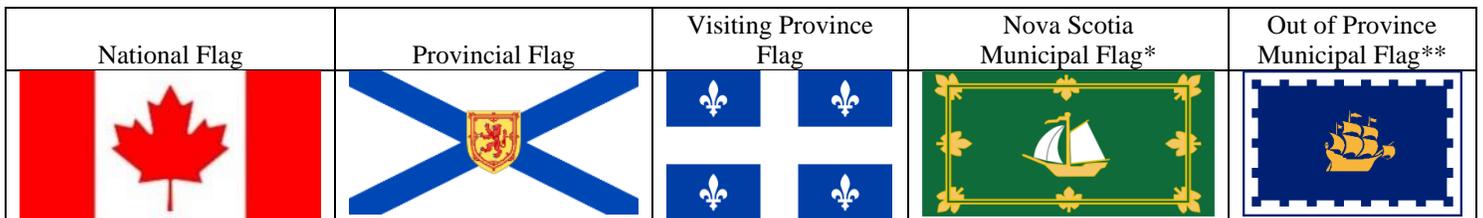
Out of Province Municipal Flag

In the event that a municipal leader is visiting from another Province or Territory the flag of their Province or Territory should also be displayed along with their municipal Flag.



Out of Province Municipal Flag with Nova Scotia Municipal Flag

In the event that a Nova Scotia municipal leader and a municipal leader is visiting from another Province or Territory the flag of their Province or Territory should also be displayed along with their municipal Flag.



*Cape Breton Regional Municipality Flag depicted

** Ville de Quebec Flag depicted

MOURNING

Background

During periods of official mourning the following protocol shall be followed in relation to the flying and display of flags at Government House. The most common way in which mourning is demonstrated is through the half-masting of flags. Following the death of a significant state official, Pall Ribbons shall be affixed to the appropriate indoor flagpoles as outlined below.

Half-Masting

Only flags on the Flag Mast in front of Government House shall be half-masted. It is not possible to half mast flags on a temporary flagpole, flags flown from the portico or flags displayed indoors.

When direction is received from the Government of Canada (via the Department of Canadian Heritage) or from the Government of Nova Scotia (via the Protocol Office), the flags on the Flag Mast, other than the Lieutenant Governor's Flag, shall be half-masted for the specified duration.

A standing list of national days when flags are half-masted is maintained by the State Ceremonial Secretariat of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Half-masting may also take place on the direction of the Private Secretary.

Pall Ribbon

During a period of official mourning following the death of the Sovereign or a senior member of the Royal Family, a serving Governor General, a serving Lieutenant Governor, a serving Prime Minister or a serving Premier, Pall Ribbons (a black ribbon), shall be attached to all indoor flags on display – other than the Lieutenant Governor's Flag.

The Pall Ribbon shall consist of a black ribbon measuring between 1 and 2 inches in width, with a bow, 6 inches wide, at the top, from which shall hang two tails of black ribbon, measuring 4 feet in length, affixed to the back of the bow. Each end tail shall be cut in the swallowtail fashion. The length of the ribbon can be varied depending on the size of the flag, the general rule being that they should fall roughly in the middle of a draped flag (see photo).

The bow is affixed to the top of the flagpole (immediately below the finial, just above where the halyard affixes to the pole) with the two tails hanging over the outward facing side of the flag.

Duration of Use

It is customary for the Pall Ribbons to be affixed upon receipt of official word of the death of the senior state official until the end of the funeral service for the same individual.

Other

It is not appropriate to place a Pall Ribbon on any outdoor flag.

USE OF PALL RIBBONS

Indoor Flag Poles



Pall Ribbon on an Indoor Flag



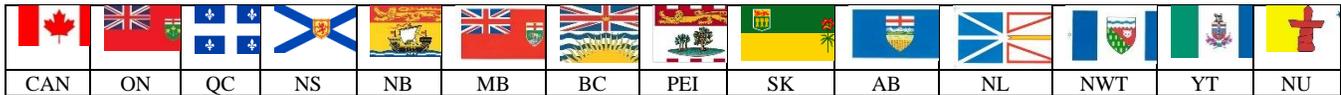
Close-up of Pall Ribbon for Indoor Flag

PROVINCIAL FLAG DISPLAY

Precedence for the Flags of Canada, Provinces and Territories

National Flag, Provincial and Territorial Flags

In order of precedence (from spectators point of view)



National Flag, Provincial and Territorial Flags, when Nova Scotia is the host Province

In order of Precedence with Nova Scotia as the host Province of Nova Scotia

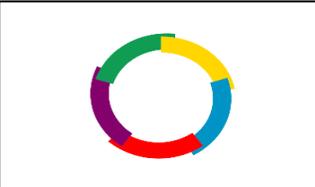


National Flag, Provincial and Territorial Flags when Royal Union Flag is also included

If the Royal Union Flag is included in either of these displays, it may be placed immediately before Ontario or after Nunavut, depending on local preference.



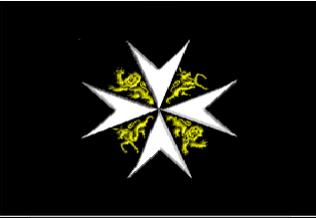
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FLAGS

Organization	Flag
United Nations	 The flag of the United Nations, featuring a white emblem of a world map surrounded by olive branches, centered on a blue field.
NATO	 The flag of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), featuring a white compass rose emblem centered on a dark blue field.
Commonwealth	 The flag of the Commonwealth of Nations, featuring a yellow sunburst emblem centered on a blue field.
Francophonie	 The flag of the Francophonie movement, featuring a circular emblem composed of colored segments (green, yellow, blue, red, purple) arranged in a ring, centered on a white field.
International Red Cross/ Canadian Red Cross	 The flag of the International Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross, featuring a red cross emblem centered on a white field.

United Nations Bodies/Agencies

Flags of UN Bodies/Agencies such as the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Authority etc., shall be given precedence AFTER the United Nations Flag.

ORGANIZATIONAL FLAGS

Organization	Flag
Pride Flag	
St. John Ambulance Priory of Canada	
Order of St. John	
Duke of Edinburgh Award	
Victorian Order of Nurses	

FLAG PRECEDENCE – RESUMÉ

From the point of view of the spectators facing the flags:

- Two Flags – The flag which has the most precedence on the left.
- Three Flags – The flag which has the most precedence in the centre, second ranking is on the left and third ranking on the right.
- Four Flags or more – The flag which has the most precedence is on the left: the other flags in the order of precedence from left to right.

Order of Precedence when displaying flags in Nova Scotia when the Royal Union Flag is being displayed:

1. National Flag of Canada
2. Nova Scotia Flag
3. Royal Union Flag
4. Flags from other countries (in English alphabetical order)
5. Provincial Flag(s)
6. Mi'kmaq Flag
7. Acadian Flag
8. Municipal Flag(s)
9. Others

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S FLAG

The Lieutenant Governor's Flag – often called the Vice-Regal Flag – may be flown at any ceremony to indicate the presence of the Lieutenant Governor. The Flag may be flown day and night on a building, ship, or vehicle. There are customs and traditions for its use that vary from flying other flags. The following guidelines apply:

- The Flag is only displayed indoors in the Lieutenant Governor's Study in Government House;
- The Flag is not raised inside a building or flown over a church or religious institution;
- The Flag is only raised on a vertically oriented flagpole, not at an angle;
- The flagpole must have a rope to actually raise the Flag. (Exception: a small Flag mounted on a vehicle fender or boat);
- The preference is to raise the Flag on its own flagpole. It should be apart from other flagpoles. If the flagpoles are in a cluster, the Vice-Regal Flag should be the highest;
- If there is more than one flagpole and they are the same height, the Vice-Regal Flag should be placed as follows:
 - Two flagpoles - on the left pole as viewed by spectators facing the building or the pole closest to the building (if there is a significant difference);
 - Three flagpoles - on the central pole;
 - Four or more flagpoles - on the left pole as seen by spectators facing the building;
- The Flag is raised or “broken” just as the Lieutenant Governor's vehicle arrives and taken down at the moment of departure;
- Children may find it interesting to be involved in raising and lowering the Flag;
- If flown at night, and not visible through indirect lighting, the Flag, if possible, should be illuminated. If it will not be visible, it should not be raised for an evening event;
- The Flag may be flown behind the saluting base when the Lieutenant Governor is conducting military inspections;
- Various methods are available for getting a Vice-Regal Flag to the organizer of the event including delivery by the Aide de Camp prior to the event, via courier or through Canada Post;
- The full size Vice-Regal Flags are relatively expensive and in limited supply, therefore; they must be returned by expedited delivery to Government House immediately following each community visit;
- Small inexpensive desktop versions of the Vice-Regal Flag are available as gifts from the office.

Royal and Other Vice-Regal Flags:

- The Vice-Regal Flag is never flown in conjunction with other Vice-Regal Flags (i.e. the Governor General's Flag, the Flag of another Provincial Lieutenant Governor) or in conjunction with a Royal Flag (such as the Sovereign's Personal Canadian Flag or the Personal Canadian Flag of any member of the Canadian Royal Family). In the case of the Governor General or a member of the Canadian Royal Family OTHER than Her Majesty The Queen, the Lieutenant Governor may cede precedence to the Governor General or Royal visitor;
- The Sovereign's Personal Canadian Flag takes precedence over the Vice-Regal Flag.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Until 1 January 2022 a persistent error had been made with the placement of the Provincial Flag and the Royal Union Flag, whereby precedence was given to the Royal Union Flag, when it should have been given to the Provincial Flag. This error was corrected on New Year's Day 2022.