

## **GENERAL RULES FOR FLYING AND DISPLAYING THE CANADIAN FLAG AND OTHER FLAGS IN CANADA**

### **THE CANADIAN FLAG**

The Canadian Flag was approved by Parliament and on February 15th, 1965 proclaimed by Her Majesty The Queen. It is described as a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width, containing in its centre a white square the width of the flag, bearing a single red maple leaf.

### **GENERAL**

1. It is appropriate for the Canadian Flag to be flown or displayed by individuals and organizations; but at all times the Flag should be treated with dignity and respect and flown or displayed properly.
2. When possible the Flag is flown daily from sunrise to sunset at all federal government building, airports, and military bases and establishments within and outside Canada. It is not contrary to etiquette to have the flag flying at night.
3. The Flag may be displayed flat or flown on a staff. If flat, it may be hung horizontally or vertically. If it hangs vertically against a wall, the Flag should be placed so that the upper part of the leaf is to the left and the stem is to the right as seen by spectators.
4. The Flag may be flown or displayed in a church, auditorium, or other meeting place. When used in the chancel of a church or on a speaker's platform the Flag should be flown to the right of the clergyman or speaker. When used in the body of a church or auditorium the Flag should be flown to the right of the audience or congregation. The Flag should not be used to cover a speaker's table or be draped in front of the platform; nor should it be allowed to touch the floor. If displayed flat against the wall at the back of a platform, the Flag should be above and behind the speaker.
5. When used on the occasion of unveiling a monument, tablet, picture, etc. the Flag should be properly draped and prevented from falling to the ground or floor.
6. In a procession, where several flags are carried, the Canadian Flag should be in the position of honour at the marching right or at the centre front.
7. The Flag should not be used for commercial advertising purposes. It is quite appropriate to fly it at business establishments or to display it to identify Canadian exhibits at fairs. Its use in such cases, as in all others, should reflect respect for the Flag.

### **FLOWN WITH OTHER FLAGS**

8. No flag, banner or pennant should be flown or displayed above the Canadian Flag.
9. Flags flown together should be approximately the same size and flown from separate staffs at the same height.
10. The Canadian Flag should be given the place of honour when flown or displayed with other flags:
  - a) When two or more than three flags are flown together, the Canadian Flag should be on the left as seen by spectators in front of the flags; if a number of countries are represented, the Canadian Flag may be flown at each end of a line of flags.
  - b) When three flags are flown together, the Canadian Flag should occupy the central position, with the next ranking flag to the left and third ranking flag to the right, as seen by spectators in front of the flags.

- c) Where more than one flag is flown and it is impossible to hoist or lower them at the same time, the Canadian Flag(s) should be hoisted first and lowered last.

## **DESTRUCTION**

11. When a flag becomes worn, noticeably faded or otherwise unfit for service, it should be disposed of privately by burning.

## **HALF-MASTING**

12. The position of the Flag when flying at half-mast will depend on its size the length of the flagstaff and its location; but as a general rule, the centre of a flag should be exactly half-way down the staff. When hoisted to or lowered from half-mast position, a flag should first be raised to the masthead.
13. (a) Subject to (c) and (e), or special instructions issued under (d), the Flag on the Peace Tower of the Parliament Building, Ottawa, is flown at half-mast on the death of the Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the Sovereign (that is to say, husband or wife, son or daughter, father, mother or brother or Sister), the Governor General, a former Governor General, a Lieutenant-Governor, a Canadian Privy Councillor, a Senator, or a Member of the House of Commons.
- (b) Subject to (c) and (e) or special instructions issued under (d), the Flag or other federal government buildings, airports, and military bases and establishments is flown at half-mast.
- (i) throughout Canada, on the death of the Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the Sovereign, the Governor General, the Prime Minister of Canada, or a Federal Cabinet Minister;
- (ii) within a province, on the death of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Provincial Premier, or another person similarly honoured by that province;
- (iii) within his own riding, on the death of the Member of the House of Commons, or the Member of the Provincial Legislature;
- (iv) at his place of residence, on the death of a Senator, a Canadian Privy Councillor, or a Mayor.
- (c) "Death" for the purposes of (a) and (b) may be taken to include the day of death and up to and including the day of the funeral.
- (d) Flags at federal buildings and other locations are also half-masted subject to special instructions on the death of members of the Royal Family other than the Sovereign or those related in the first degree to the Sovereign, a Head of a Foreign State, or some other person whom it is desired to honour.
- (e) During periods of half-masting, the Flag is raised to full-mast on all federal building, airports and military bases and establishments on statutory holidays, and also on the Peace Tower while a Head of State is visiting Parliament Hill; but this procedure does not apply while flags are half-masted for the death of the Sovereign when they are only raised to full-mast for the day on which the accession of the new Monarch is proclaimed.
- (f) On Remembrance Day, November 11th, the Flag is flown at half-mast at 11:00 a.m. on the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings.