



# Fun Facts about CANADA



## Canada Day —what a great time of year!

The sun is shining, the winter's a distant memory, and we're looking forward to a weekend at the cabin. Sounds pretty good, eh? The only thing better is to have some reading material for your leisurely lounging at the lake, so we've put together this year's selection of "Fun Facts about Canada"! We are very proud to be a 100% Canadian company, which is why we want to share these with you — they offer up bits and pieces of information that you may or may not have known about our wonderful country. You can also find the brochures on our website, as they become available.

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## Prime Ministers of Canada

While the Queen may be Canada's head of state, and the governor general the Queen's ceremonial stand-in, it's the prime minister who truly rules Canada. Known as the nation's head of government, his office is said to be one of the most powerful leadership positions in any western democracy, meaning a great deal of Canadian political life revolves around his deeds and decisions. A person becomes prime minister by being leader of the political party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons in a Canadian federal election. Did you know the proper way to address them is "The Right Honourable Prime Minister" or "Prime Minister of Canada"? In this edition, we present to you a history list of former to the current prime minister of Canada!

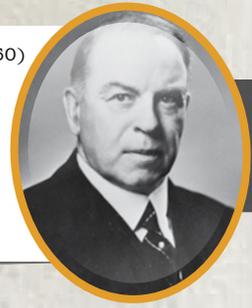
Edition  
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Reigning Monarch  
Queen Victoria



**Sir John A. Macdonald** (B. 1815 - D. 1891)  
1867 - 1873; 1878 - 1891 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Integration of Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory into Canada.  
British Columbia and Prince Edward Island joined the confederation.  
Creation of the North-West Mounted Police.  
Died in office (stroke).

**William Lyon Mackenzie King** (B. 1874 - D. 1950)  
1921 - 1926; 1926 - 1930; 1935 - 1948 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Canada's longest serving prime minister and was also the prime minister during World War II.  
He was also the Minister of Labour.  
Introduced unemployment insurance.  
Some of his controversial beliefs came to light in biographies after his death, making him an intriguing figure to Canadians to this day.



**Alexander Mackenzie** (B. 1822 - D. 1892)  
1873 - 1878 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Creation of the Supreme Court.  
Establishment of the Royal Military College.  
Created the office of the Auditor General.



**Arthur Meighen** (B. 1874 - D. 1960)  
1920 - 1921; June - September 1926 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Secretary of State for Canada, Solicitor General of Canada.  
A controversial public figure with unequalled debating skills.  
Prominent in ending the Winnipeg General Strike.



**Sir John Abbott** (B. 1821 - D. 1893)  
1891 - 1892 Term in office  
Of interest:  
His government established the first Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce.  
Retired due to ill health.  
First prime minister born in what would become Canada, and first of only two prime ministers to serve while in the Senate.



**Sir Robert Borden** (B. 1854 - D. 1937)  
1911 - 1920 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Remarkable leader during the First World War.  
Introduction of income tax (a "temporary" measure).  
Played a key role in establishing greater autonomy for Canada.



Reigning Monarch  
King George V

Reigning Monarch  
King Edward VII

**Sir John Thompson** (B. 1845 - D. 1894)  
1892 - 1894 Term in office  
Of interest:  
First Roman Catholic prime minister.  
A proud Canadian, he worried about a possible annexation of Canada by the USA.  
Died in office (heart attack).



**Sir Wilfrid Laurier** (B. 1841 - D. 1919)  
1896 - 1911 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Alberta and Saskatchewan created during his term.  
Creation of the Royal Canadian Navy.  
First French Canadian prime minister.  
Longest uninterrupted term for a prime minister.



**Sir Mackenzie Bowell** (B. 1823 - D. 1917)  
1894 - 1896 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Minister of Customs.  
Minister of Militia and Defence.  
He was a newspaper editor and publisher before entering politics.  
Last prime minister to serve while in the Senate.



**Sir Charles Tupper** (B. 1821 - D. 1915)  
May - July 1896 Term in office  
Of interest:  
Oldest Canadian prime minister and shortest term in office (at 10 weeks).  
He was a hospital surgeon and a municipal medical officer.





## R. B. Bennett (B. 1870 - D. 1947)

1930 - 1935 Term in office

Of interest:

He was the conservative member for Calgary East in 1911.

It proved to be a major challenge to be prime minister during the Great Depression.

Reigning Monarch  
King Edward VIII

Reigning Monarch  
King George VI



## Jean Chrétien (B. 1934)

1993 - 2003 Term in office

Of interest:

Led the federal government to its first surplus in nearly 30 years.

Would not allow Canada to participate directly in the Iraq war without authorization from the UN Security Council.

He has received numerous awards and honours.

photo credit: canadiantandmine.org

More on the back!

## Louis St. Laurent (B. 1882 - D. 1973)

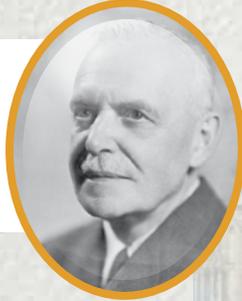
1948 - 1957 Term in office

Of interest:

Dominion of Newfoundland joins confederation.

Hospital insurance enacted.

Equalization payments between the provinces approved.



Reigning Monarch  
Queen Elizabeth II

## John Diefenbaker (B. 1895 - D. 1979)

1957 - 1963 Term in office

He championed the Canadian Bill of Rights and the extension of vote to First Nations.

Wheat sales to China and agricultural reforms revitalized western agriculture; he nominated the first Aboriginal member of the Senate; as well he appointed the first female Cabinet minister.

There was deep resentment for many years when he cancelled the Avro Arrow (airplane project).



## Brian Mulroney (B. 1939)

September 1984 - June 1993 Term in office

Of interest:

Brought in the Free Trade Agreement with the USA and oversaw passage of the (very unpopular) GST.

He took a strong stand against apartheid which recommended stiff sanctions against South Africa.

Passed the Environmental Protection Act and created 8 new national parks.

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## Kim Campbell (B. 1947)

June - November 1993 Term in office

Of interest:

Served as minister of state for 2 departments in 1989.

Only female prime minister of Canada.

1993 election saw the Conservative party suffer the greatest defeat in Canadian political history.

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## Lester B. Pearson (B. 1897 - D. 1972)

1963 - 1968 Term in office

Of interest:

Received Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts during the Suez Crisis in Egypt.

Creation of the Canada Pension Plan, universal medicare system, unified armed force, and the creation of a new Canadian flag were all legacies left during his term in office.

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## John Turner (B. 1929)

June - September 1984 Term in office

Of interest:

He was minister of justice and minister of finance before his 11-week term as prime minister (the second shortest in Canadian history).

An accomplished sprinter, he was the fastest man in Canada in 1947.

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## Pierre Trudeau (B. 1919 - D. 2000)

1968 - 1979; 1980 - 1984 Term in office

Of interest:

Probably Canada's best-known politician, he was responsible for the Official Languages Act in 1969, making Canada officially bilingual.

Instrumental in negotiating constitutional independence from the British Parliament; also a new Charter of Rights. Some of his policies deeply alienated western provinces, despite his hopes at a new equality between English and French Canada.

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## Joe Clark (B. 1939)

1979 - 1980 Term in office

Of interest:

Became Canada's youngest prime minister (only one day before his 40th birthday), and the first prime minister born in western Canada.

His 6-month old government fell in a vote of non-confidence after the Finance Minister's austerity budget.

He is honorary chief of the Samson Cree First Nation.

photo credit: cbc.ca

● Liberal Party

○ Historical Conservative Parties (Includes but not specific to Liberal-Conservative, Conservative (historical), Unionist, National Liberal and Conservative, Progressive Conservative)

## Fun Fact

If a prime minister submits a resignation, it is effective after the end of the previous day (ex. If the current prime minister resigns anytime on July 5, they are no longer the prime minister the start of July 5.)



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### Paul Martin (B. 1938)

2003 - 2006 Term in office

Of interest:  
Spearheaded several initiatives including a national child care program, health accords with the provinces, the legalization of same-sex marriage, and created the Kelowna Accord across Canada to improve the quality of life for Indigenous peoples.

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*Currently holding office*

### Justin Trudeau (B. 1971)

2015 - Current Term in office

Of interest:  
He became the leader of the Liberal party in 2013. Once he became prime minister, his party was responsible for welcoming tens of thousands of Syrian refugees; for legalizing marijuana; for legalizing assisted dying in certain circumstances; in addition he formed a cabinet that was made up of an equal number of men and women, a first in Canada.

photo credit: nationalpost.com, Peter Power/The Canadian Press

### Stephen Harper (B. 1959)

2006 - 2015 Term in office

Of interest:  
The first sitting prime minister to visit the front lines of a combat operation (Ma'sum Ghar, Afghanistan) in 2007. His government toughened the Criminal Code; as well they delivered federal stimulus spending between 2009 and 2012, meaning Canada emerged from the global financial crisis in better shape than most western countries.

photo credit: richwilkins.wordpress.com, Jason Ransom



● Conservative Party ● Liberal Party

### Did you know...

On December 4, 2008, a poll revealed that 51% of the sample group thought the prime minister was directly elected by Canadians.

How far does a Canadian mouse have to travel to find a Wi-Fi connection?

..Just a couple of clicks! 🐭



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