

Facts About Canada

Just Some Basics on One of the Most Beloved Countries on the Planet

GOVERNMENT

The capital of Canada is Bay Street. The government, however is located in Ottawa, a sunny, semi tropical city on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. **We think.**

ECONOMY

The main product manufactured in Canada is snow. Canada also exports sulfate, bauxite, nitrate, alunite and cellulite (winter only, see Florida). Canada has many other industries as well, which you are more than welcome to look up. In an encyclopedia. Or maybe an almanac.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar, also known as El Paso de Norte. Canadians affectionately refer to their dollar as "the loonie" because there is a picture of a large crazed woman on it.

Two Loonies = One Toonie

Two Toonies = about 50 cents U.S.

POPULATION

There are 30,000,000 people in Canada - all of whom have at some point, frozen their tongues to the side of a chainlink fence or flagpole. Even though their mothers told them not to. Indeed, at any given time of the year, it is winter somewhere in Canada and someone, somewhere, is stuck to a flagpole. **"Hap me, hap me. Tumbuddy, pwease hap me."**

I.Q.

See above.

SIZE

In Canada, size matters. **Everything is very big in Canada**, from the size of the deficit to the girth of the Canadian buttocks - as can be observed while standing in line at any IGA or Safeway checkout counter. Big mountains, big skies, big helpings and massive coronaries: in Canada everyday is Supersized Day! **Canada is the Big Gulp of nations.** It's enormous; larger than Donovan Bailey's ego (remember him?), larger than a Shawinigan bank loan, larger than an MP's pension fund.

NOTE: It is considered bad manners to point out to Canadians that, although their country is indeed very large, **more than 50% of it is permanently frozen.** This is the "We burned your fries so we gave you extra" school of customer satisfaction. As in: "Sure, most of your land is an unhabited frozen wasteland- but you've got lots of it!" **Memo from God: I froze half your country, so I gave you extra.**

NATIONAL EMBLEM

Canada's national emblem is a fallen leaf (see also: Toronto). **And no, the Canadian Flag does not look like a giant nose bleed**, so put that thought out of your mind right now.

CLIMATE

Canada has two anthems, two languages and two versions of its history. There is the assumption that Canada has only two seasons as well: Winter and Not Winter. But this isn't true. In fact, **Canada has no fewer than six distinct seasons:** Tax, Hockey, More Hockey, Still More Hockey; Summer (also known as July Long Weekend, also known as "Was that it") and finally Good God, Isn't the Hockey Season Over by Now? **In defiance of both Einstein and the space-time continuum, hockey in Canada now lasts sixteen months a year.** Hockey is the Muzak of Canadian society. If you want to appear Canadian, all you have to do is tuck a beaver under your arm and stroll along humming the **Hockey Night in Canada theme song.**

- Excerpts from "How to be a Canadian" by Will and Ian Ferguson

