



Kamloops, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 37
Province. . . . 5

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: 1 October 1985



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Kamloops is a modified Canadian pale design, three vertical stripes of red-white-red in proportions of 1:3:1. The coat of arms is in the centre, three-fourths the height of the flag. Above it arches **CITY OF KAMLOOPS** in black sans-serif letters. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape, with black edges and divisions. Its upper third is white bearing a red cross; in each quarter is a beaver (*Castor canadensis*) in natural colours facing to the left. Its lower two-thirds is white with ermine spots in black distributed throughout. A wavy blue “Y” figure runs from the base to the top corners. On each of the three branches of the “Y” is a white fish with black details, head pointed upward. Between the upper branches is a bull’s face, in natural colours. Above the shield is a knight’s helmet in silver with a white five-towered mural crown atop it. On top of the crown is an eight-spoked wheel in blue with white wings emerging from its hubs in front and back. Alongside the helmet and shield is heraldic mantling in white and red. Beneath the shield is a curved white ribbon inscribed **SALUS · ET · OPES** (Health and Wealth), in black serifed letters.

SYMBOLISM: Ermine, a heraldic fur, represents the commerce between the European fur traders and the First Peoples in the early days of the area. The “Y” shape symbolizes confluence of the North and South Thompson Rivers, which flows as one river to the sea at Kamloops, whose name means “the meeting of the rivers” in the native Shuswap language. The fish are mountain trout (perhaps *Salvelinus fontinalis*), swimming upstream. The bull’s head recalls the one-time role of Kamloops as the centre of the British Columbia cattle industry. The red cross and beavers derive from the arms of the Hudson’s Bay Company, as Fort Kamloops was founded in 1812 as an HBC trading post (the red cross is the cross of St. George, representing England, and the beavers signify the fur trade). The mural crown denotes civic authority. The wheel represents Kamloops as an important junction for the railways, airways, and highways; its wings represent progress.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Mayor Jim Walsh designed the flag, based on the city’s arms.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: In 1910 the council had called for the submission of designs conveying in heraldic language the history of Kamloops, and offering a financial reward to the successful competitor. One of three designs submitted by Mr. W. Miller Higgs of Walhachin was selected by a committee of three. In 1911, following a few minor modifications by Canon Beanlands, an English heraldic expert, the coat of arms was adopted by the city council. The arms were granted by the English Kings of Arms on 20 February 1981.



OTHER FLAG: Kamloops also uses a logo flag. It is blue, with the city’s multi-coloured logo centred over **Canada’s Tournament Capital** in white sans-serif letters.