



## Nanaimo, British Columbia

**Population Rank:** Canada. . . . 38  
Province. . . . 6

**Proportions:** 1:1

**Adopted:** Unknown  
(arms granted 1951)



**DESIGN:** The flag of the City of Nanaimo has a white field bearing a red cross whose bars' widths are one-eighth the height of the flag and whose ends extend to its edges. In the upper left quarter is a three-masted square-rigged ship with a brown hull, black masts, white sails, and two red pennants, sailing to the left atop the upper of two wavy blue stripes. In the lower right quarter is a pattern of full and partial black diamonds, arrayed 1-2-1-2-1 (the top and bottom diamonds are truncated); their width nearly matches that of the cross's bars.

**SYMBOLISM:** The cross of St. George of red on white derives from the coat of arms of the Hudson's Bay Company, which founded Nanaimo in 1849 as a trading post and fort. The ship, a barque, is a representation of the *Princess Royal*, which brought the first settlers from England to Nanaimo to develop the nearby coal mines. The black diamonds (known as "lozenges" in heraldry) represent coal. In 1849, the Snuneymuxw Chief Ki-et-sa-kun told the Hudson's Bay Company of the presence of coal in the area. The coal mining industry developed soon after, becoming the primary economic activity in Nanaimo up to 1960. The flag is a banner of the city's arms.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown. The arms were designed by heralds of the College of Arms in London, England, and granted 28 September 1951.



**OTHER FLAG:** Nanaimo also uses a logo flag. It has a white field inscribed **CITY OF NANAIMO** across the top in serifed letters in medium blue. Below is **THE HARBOUR CITY** in smaller sans-serif letters, and below that are

medium and dark blue stylized waves. The logo reflects Nanaimo's ties to the ocean and its progressive nature. This flag flies alongside the city flag in front of City Hall.

