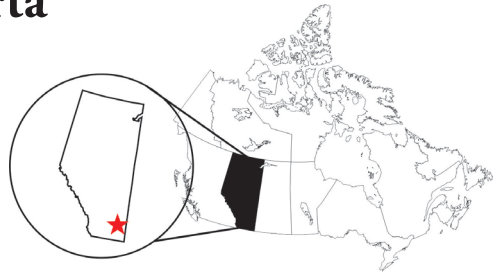


Medicine Hat, Alberta

Population Rank: Canada . . . 50
Province . . . 6

Proportions: 3:5

Adopted: 14 July 1998



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Medicine Hat has a golden yellow field. A wavy horizontal stripe in blue with five undulations, one-fifth the height of the flag, crosses its centre. Above the stripe are three elements in a row: a steam locomotive wheel in blue, the top of a stylized gas street-lamp in black and white with a blue flame, and a cogwheel in blue, all with black details. Below the stripe are three flames in a row, in a blend of white, blue, and black.

SYMBOLISM: The golden yellow field recalls the prairie ranchlands that surround the city and the wealth created by the community. The wavy stripe represents the South Saskatchewan River, which runs through the city. Medicine Hat is known as “The Gas City”, for its large natural gas fields, hence the gas lamp and the flames (a British visitor, Rudyard Kipling, once described the city as having “all hell for a basement”). The locomotive wheel represents the city’s connection to the original Trans-Canada line of the Canadian Pacific Railway; the cogwheel recalls the manufacturing which burgeoned in “the Pittsburgh of the West”. The flag is a banner of the city’s arms.

HOW SELECTED: The city applied to the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of a flag.

DESIGNER: Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority.



FORMER FLAG: A flag contest was announced on 17 September 1973 and closed on 14 December 1973. Flag contest designs submitted by Leslie Bischoff, Suzanne Faure, Emily Nott, and Barry Shakeshaft were combined by David Cormier into the final design. The

contest was judged by a panel comprising Alderman Lucille Moyer, chair; Alderman Peter Simpson; David Cormier, city economic development advisor; Donna MacLean, citizen; and W. A. Keith, city clerk. After the panel selected the winning design, the city council adopted the flag by resolution on 1 April 1974. On a blue field is an oval nearly the full height of the flag, oriented horizontally. Ringing the oval is a white band with a narrow black line toward its outer edge. Within the line is inscribed **CITY OF MEDICINE HAT** above and **ALBERTA** below. Inside the ring, on a blue field, is a naturalistic image of the head of a Cree medicine man in black and white (some depictions show blue on white). The image is a copyrighted mark used by permission of the *Medicine Hat News*.