



Victoria, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada. . . 15
Province. . . 2

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown (arms granted 1962)



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Victoria has a light blue field with the city's coat of arms in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply-curved sides forming a pointed "U" shape. On it appears a white "V" shape with narrow arms descending from the upper corners to a point nearly reaching the base. The field above it, forming an inverted triangle, is red and bears a royal crown in red, yellow, and white, with gems of various colours and filling most of the space. The field below the "V" is blue. Atop the shield is a knight's helmet, in blue with black, white, and light blue details. Above that is a three-towered mural crown in golden yellow. Over the crown is a white dove in flight, descending with a green olive branch in its beak. Above the dove is a light blue equilateral triangle, edged in golden yellow, bearing an eye in blue and golden yellow, radiating from its base several rays of golden yellow which continue the angles of the triangle's sides. Around the knight's helmet is red and yellow mantling. On either side of the shield is an angel depicted naturalistically in robes of white with blue details and golden yellow wings. The angels stand on white clouds edged at their base by two wavy stripes, white over blue, and their inner hands each

support a branch of green laurel. Below is a yellow scroll with a red back, outlined in black, inscribed **SEMPER LIBER** in serified letters, in red.

SYMBOLISM: The “V” stands for “Victoria”. The area beginning at the base of the “V” and going upward and outward suggests the growth of the city. The red inverted triangle above the “V” symbolizes the peninsula on which Victoria is located, while the blue area represents the sea into which the peninsula juts. The white stripe between the two suggests the surf of the coastline. The royal crown honours Queen Victoria, the city’s namesake, who was queen of both the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada at its founding in 1841. The angels represent the twin sisters “Colonization” and “Civilization”. The laurel branches are a tribute to those who have served the municipality. The “All-Seeing Eye” is the emblem of the Trinity and implies constant dependence on the blessing of life from the bounty of the deity. The dove and olive branch together signify hope and peace; the mural crown signifies municipal authority. The red and gold of the mantling, considered royal colours, refer to Queen Victoria. The wavy stripes of the cloud symbolize water and Victoria’s island location. The City’s Latin motto, *Semper Liber* or “Always Free” recalls the Free Port System in Victoria’s history and the freedom of its civil institutions.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown. The arms were granted by the English Kings of Arms in London, England, on 10 May 1962.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The city flag is used for special council meetings and official protocol functions involving visiting dignitaries. While the council chamber has a Canadian flag and a Commonwealth flag on the dais in a fairly permanent position, the City of Victoria flag does not fly during



regular council meetings. However, Victoria’s city hall flies the flag at its entrance. Outside, in Centennial Square, the British Columbia flag flies with the logo flag. On a field of white and in proportions of 1:2, the logo flag places the city’s light

blue flag-like stylized-V logo in the centre, with the CITY OF in small letters over **Victoria** in large letters, all sans-serif and black, below.