

Button

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This round diaper pin badge is white and features an illustration of a farandole of white and blue fleur-de-lis with a yellow circle in the background. Below the illustration is blue text. On the back, a white rectangular sticker with handwritten inscriptions has been affixed.

Accession Number 2022.12.63

Materials metal, paper, plastic

Measurements 5,3 cm

Historical context

This button symbolizes Quebec's national holiday, commonly known as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, celebrated annually on June 24.

Pagan peoples have long celebrated the summer solstice at the end of June. To celebrate the light of the "longest" day of the year, a bonfire usually accompanies the event. The Church reworked this tradition in New France. A little later, Ludger Duvernay, publisher of the committed newspaper "La Minerve", wanted to create a national holiday for French Canadians. On June 24, 1834, he organized a banquet attended by such distinguished guests as Jacques Viger, Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine and Georges-Étienne Cartier. A number of patriotic topics were discussed. Of course, the event was well publicized in the newspaper "La Minerve": "This festival, whose purpose is to cement the union between Canadians (...) will be celebrated annually (...)". By the following year, celebrations of the holiday were multiplying. From then on, this annual event became a must for French Canadians. In 1843, the Association Saint-Jean-Baptiste, founded by Duvernay, organized a parade on June 24. In 1925, the Quebec government recognized the day as a statutory holiday. Over time, more and more contemporary cultural elements were added to the shows. 1976 was a particularly successful national holiday, with the "1 fois 5" show. Gilles Vigneault, Jean-Pierre Ferland, Robert Charlebois, Claude Léveill   and Yvon Deschamps made this memorable event a huge success. Finally, in 1974, Ren   L  vesque officially declared June 24 F  te nationale du Qu  bec.

The farandole of white and blue fleurs-de-lis in front of a yellow circle on this button is the logo used by the Quebec government and its partners, the official organizers of the F  te nationale, from 1985 to 1999. It appears on all official posters for the event.



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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich