

# Flag

## *Ville de Montréal*

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Antique Montreal city flag featuring a fleur-de-lis, thistle, shamrock and rose printed on a white background with a red cross. The flag is made of fabric with a polychrome print.

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Accession Number 2021.47.37

Materials fiber

Measurements 15 x 26,5 cm

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## Historical context

This flag first appeared in 1939 and incorporates the symbolism of the various elements that make up the coat of arms of the City of Montreal. First of all, the red heraldic cross recalls the city's links with Christianity, particularly with regard to the founding and development of Ville-Marie. The fleur-de-lis, symbol of the royal house of Bourbon, represents the French people who helped found Montreal. The red rose of Lancaster symbolizes the English settlers, the thistle the Scots and the shamrock the Irish.

As of 2017, the flag and coat of arms of the city of Montreal are modified. To mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the city's 375th anniversary, Mayor Denis Coderre wishes to highlight the ancestral presence of indigenous peoples. A white pine, symbolizing peace, harmony and concord, is added to the center of the flag to represent these communities.