



# The Fleurdelisé, a national symbol since 1948



Picture : Fonds Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, BanQ Québec, Omer Beaudoin - 1948. E6,S7,SS1,P66636.

Since the Quiet Revolution, the Fleurdelisé has been a key symbol for the identity of the people, of all languages and origins, who live in Québec. This national symbol was adopted in the late 1940s under the government led by Maurice Duplessis.

## AN INFLUENTIAL MOMENT

After seeing the Red Ensign, a flag that incorporated the British Union Jack, flying on Canadian government buildings, René Chaloult, an independent member of the Legislative Assembly, tabled a motion requesting the adoption of a “truly Québec flag”.

On January 21, 1948, after lengthy debates, the Fleurdelisé was adopted in the morning session, and by the afternoon was flying above the Parliament Building in Québec.

The Québec flag flying above the Parliament Building in Québec.

## A FLAG OF HIGH SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE

The Fleurdelisé is based on the Flag of Carillon, raised by the parish priest of Saint-Jude, Elphège Filiatrault, over his church house in 1902. The flag uses the fleur-de-lis, the white cross and the sky blue ground as a reference to the Kingdom of France.

The Flag of Carillon was also used by troops led by Montcalm during the Seven Years’ War (1756-1763).

Flag of Carillon



Picture : © MRC des Maskoutains



Picture : Archives Montreal Gazette

## THE FIRST PROVINCIAL FLAG IN CANADA

To mark the adoption of the Fleurdelisé, Maurice Duplessis declared to the members of the Legislative Assembly, “We want it to stand for our desire to live and to survive, and to herald the glorious future awaiting Québec.”

Québec became the first Canadian province to adopt a distinctive provincial flag.

Premier Maurice Duplessis unveiling a Québec flag at the opening of the Monseigneur-Langlois bridge in Valleyfield in 1954.