

## STORY BEHIND MONTRÉAL'S COAT OF ARMS

The city's coat of arms was adopted by the City Council in 1833. It was modified in 1938, to be in keeping with rules of heraldic design.

Montréal's first coat of arms invited the different communities to join together in peace and harmony under one banner. The white pine conveys this same message of inclusiveness and peace.

The white pine stands for the original native presence in Montréal. It is in the centre of a circle open at the four compass points, representing the Circle of Life and the council fire—a place for meeting and dialogue.



The white pine will now appear alongside the other emblems on the city's coat of arms, spotlighting Montréal's five founding peoples:

The fleur-de-lys of the Royal House of Bourbon represents the French.



The rose of the House of Lancaster symbolizes the British.



The thistle stands for the Scottish.



The clover is for the Irish.



## KEY ELEMENTS KEPT

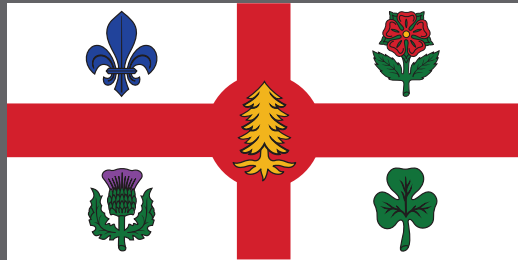
The city's new coat of arms preserves the key elements of its former version, specifically the shield's shape and background, the heraldic cross and the national emblems of the founding peoples, plus the pine symbol. The pine appears inside a red circle at the centre of the cross, representing the Circle of Life and the council fire.

The Latin motto *Concordia Salus* (*Salvation through harmony*) remains, along with the maple leaves, symbolizing the good relations between Montréal's different communities, as does the beaver, which represents industrious Montrealers who have worked so hard to build our city.

# MONTRÉAL, PROUD OF ITS INDIGENOUS ROOTS

## Montréal's New Coat of Arms and Flag





## VITAL LEGACY AND ESSENTIAL TRIBUTE

The Island of Montréal is a millennial political, diplomatic, economic and cultural hub, situated at a crossroads of peoples and history.

Indigenous Peoples have made important contributions to Montréal's history, development, economy and culture. With Montréal's history on front stage for our 375<sup>th</sup> birthday festivities, 2017 presents a unique opportunity for our city to express its deepest respect for and acknowledgement of the people who have lived since ancient times in what is now Montréal.

Celebrating this heritage, recognizing our history and promoting the values of the native peoples living here, opens a new chapter in the city's relations with Indigenous Peoples.

Their official inclusion in Montréal's historic landscape is part of a necessary and lasting reconciliation process.

## MONTRÉAL, METROPOLIS OF RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On June 21, 2016, during National Aboriginal Day, the city announced its intention to make Montréal a metropolis of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

This commitment is part of a vast reconciliation movement arising out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action launched in December 2015.

Montréal has improved its coat of arms and flag to better reflect the city's origins, establish a "nation-to-nation" relationship with Indigenous Peoples and recognize their importance and fundamental historical contribution.

## MONTRÉAL'S NEW COAT OF ARMS AND FLAG

On September 13, 2017, as we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Montréal will present its new coat of arms and flag with a white pine symbolizing the Indigenous Peoples, and standing for Peace and Harmony.

The city's new coat of arms will now reflect the five peoples who are at the origin of our metropolis's history and development. They are the First Nations, the French, the English, the Scottish and the Irish.

The city asked the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador to establish a committee of experts from different nations to select an iconic symbol to appear on our coat of arms and flag.

The white pine was chosen by an advisory committee consisting of a Kahnawake chief representing the three Mohawk communities, a representative of the Montréal's urban Indigenous community, an Anishinaabe elder and the director of the Centre d'histoire de Montréal. The Chief Herald of Canada also assisted the committee in its deliberations to ensure compliance with heraldry's high standards.

## THE ICONIC WHITE PINE

Throughout history, this pine has been the Tree of Peace for many Native Peoples of eastern North America. Also a symbol of peace and harmony, it appears on numerous diplomatic exchanges, including that of Kondiaronk, Chief of the Huron-Wyandot, at the Great Peace of Montreal of 1701:

*... Today, the sun slipped through the clouds to shine on this beautiful Tree of Peace, which has been planted on the world's tallest mountain ...*

The pine also has clearly visible roots, an invitation to follow them toward peace and living together: "Any person or nation seeking to observe the Great Law of Peace can simply travel up the roots to the source to the welcome shade of the protective pine tree." These words appeared in the recitation of the Great Law of Peace, at the origins of the Iroquois Confederacy. In 2001, a great pine was planted to commemorate the Tercentennial of the Great Peace of Montréal. This tree can be seen in the parc du Mont-Royal.