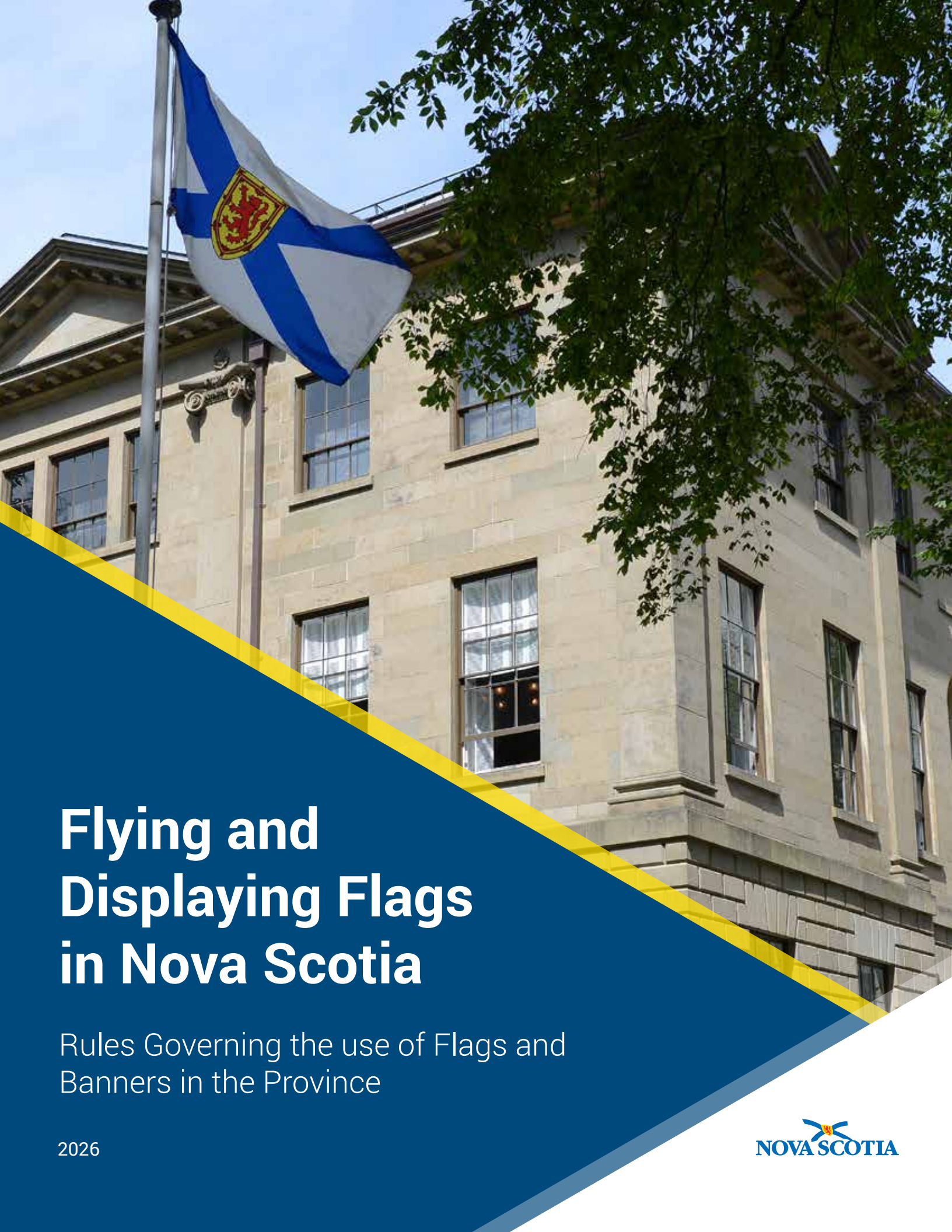


A photograph of the Nova Scotia flag, featuring a white saltire on a blue field with the Royal Arms of Nova Scotia in the center, flying from a tall pole. The background is a large, multi-story stone building with many windows, partially obscured by green tree branches on the right. A large blue diagonal banner with a yellow border covers the bottom left portion of the image.

# Flying and Displaying Flags in Nova Scotia

Rules Governing the use of Flags and  
Banners in the Province

2026

  
NOVA SCOTIA

A flag is a symbol that identifies a country,  
province, unit or some other community of people.

It is a symbol of honour, and as such, should be  
treated with dignity and respect.



# Preface

Flags and banners in various forms have been used since the earliest times and have become essential symbols of nationhood. They have been a source of pride and a rallying point leading to acts of great sacrifice and courage.

A nation's flag is a key symbol which represents its people, its history, and its ideals. There are others aside from national flags. Each of Canada's provinces and territories have their own distinctive flags, and Nova Scotia's is the oldest such flag flown in Canada. In addition to the National Flag and Provincial Flag, it is common to see other flags flown in Nova Scotia, notably; the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack), Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag, Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag, Pan African Flag, flag of the Canadian Armed Forces and its various services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Flag and municipal flags as well. Different non-governmental organizations and communities also regularly fly flags, be it the Pride/Progress Flag, Universities and Colleges, businesses and some cultural associations have their own flags.

The Government of Nova Scotia promotes the flying of both the National Flag and the Provincial Flag, and encourages everyone, especially young people, to become familiar with the protocols for the correct use of these flags.

In the interest of uniformity, the guidelines used by the Government of Canada will be followed by the Government of Nova Scotia, and are recommended for use by other organizations or individuals who wish to display flags in Nova Scotia.

The purpose of this manual is to outline how flags should be flown in Nova Scotia, and provides specific examples of how the National Flag, Provincial Flag and other flags should be flown. While there is no legislative basis for the guidelines outlined herein, the flag etiquette followed by the Government of Canada is used as the baseline, this having been adapted from a combination of international custom and past established practice.



# Table of Contents

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Preface</b>                                               | 3  |
| <b>Flying and Displaying the Nova Scotia Flag</b>            | 6  |
| Introduction                                                 | 6  |
| Description and Specifications                               | 7  |
| General                                                      | 7  |
| Precedence                                                   | 8  |
| Manner of Flying                                             | 8  |
| Flags flown together                                         | 9  |
| Etiquette                                                    | 9  |
| <b>Flags and Banners in Nova Scotia</b>                      | 10 |
| Frequently Flown Flags and Banners                           | 10 |
| Royal and Vice-Regal Personal Flags (Standards)              | 12 |
| <b>Etiquette</b>                                             | 13 |
| National and Provincial Flag                                 | 13 |
| National and Provincial Flag with other Flags                | 13 |
| Place of worship, auditorium, school, or other meeting place | 20 |
| Parades and processions                                      | 22 |
| Flying Flags from Different Types of Flag Poles              | 23 |
| <b>Provincial and Territorial Flag Display</b>               | 24 |
| Other Flags and Banners                                      | 25 |
| Indoor Flag Displays                                         | 26 |
| Mourning                                                     | 28 |
| <b>Half-Masting</b>                                          | 29 |
| Purpose and timing                                           | 29 |
| Occasions of half-masting                                    | 30 |
| Methods of Half-Masting                                      | 34 |
| <b>Royal Union Flag</b>                                      | 35 |
| <b>Care of Flags and Banners</b>                             | 36 |
| <b>Specifications for the Nova Scotia Flag</b>               | 37 |
| <b>Appendices</b>                                            | 38 |
| A: Half-masting Dates                                        | 38 |
| B: Half-Masting Notices                                      | 39 |
| C: Further Reading                                           | 39 |
| D: Acknowledgements                                          | 39 |

# Flying and Displaying the Nova Scotia Flag



*The earliest known version of the Nova Scotia flag, pictured above, is held at the Nova Scotia Archives.*

## Introduction

The basis of the Nova Scotia Flag is found in the Coat of Arms of Nova Scotia, which was registered by Lord Lyon King of Arms on 28 May 1625 under the authority of King James VI of Scotland and reconfirmed by Royal Warrant of King George V dated 19 January 1929. The Nova Scotia Flag is the oldest Provincial Flag in Canada, having been flown since 1858.

# Description and Specifications

The Flag of Nova Scotia is a representation of the province's shield of arms in a flag or banner form. It may be flown by individuals and organizations and should be given the same respect as the Canadian flag. This manual provides information on the proper use and care of the Provincial Flag.

## Heraldic description

*"Argent a saltire Azure, overall on an escutcheon Or a lion rampant within a double tressure flory-counter-flory Gules."*

In common language, the Nova Scotia Flag may be described as consisting of a white (argent) field with a blue (azure) cross saltire, with a gold (or) shield, displaying in the centre a red (gules) lion, surrounded by a double border decorated with fleur de lys also in red.

## Size

All Nova Scotia Flags shall be rectangular in shape and of the following proportions: two by length and one by width, with the shield in the centre of the cross saltire.

## Colours

The colours blue and white are the same as those found on the flag of Scotland, along with yellow to represent gold. For spot colour reproduction, black plus the following Pantone Matching System (PMS) colour are used: Pantone 293 (Blue), Pantone 032 (Canada Red); Pantone 116 (Yellow). Full specifications are provided at the end of this manual.

# General

## Applications of rules

These rules shall apply whenever and wherever flags are flown at provincial buildings, sites and establishments within Nova Scotia. They should also be followed by other organizations and individuals.

## Individuals and organizations may fly the flag

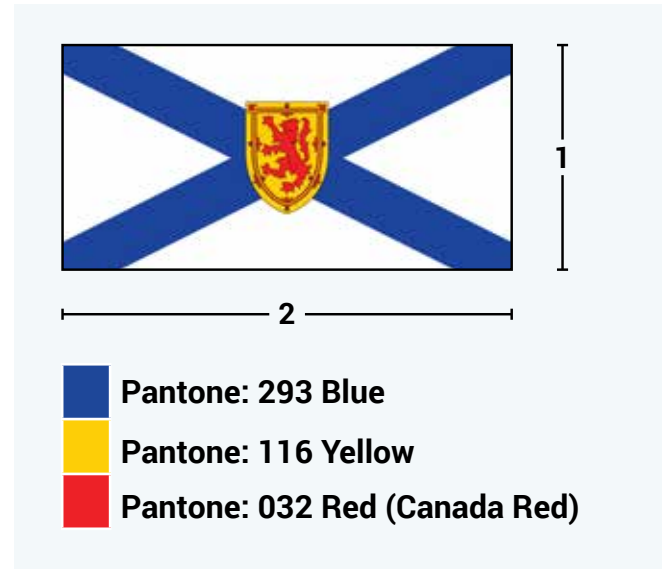
It is appropriate for the Nova Scotia Flag to be flown or displayed by individuals or organizations. It should be treated with dignity and respect at all times and flown or displayed in accordance with these rules.

## Responsibility for flag policy

The development and interpretation of policies and guidelines for flying and displaying flags in Nova Scotia is the responsibility of the Protocol and Honours Secretariat of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs.

## Arrangement of flags

In these rules and illustrations the disposition of flags is given from left to right from the point of view of spectators in front of the flags. Display diagrams are provided for many different flag arrangements, and these include a number below each flag to indicate their precedence (rank) in such a display.



## Precedence

The Canadian Flag shall be given precedence at all times in Nova Scotia and shall occupy the place of honour when flown with the Nova Scotia Flag and shall be flown in accordance with the rules set out by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Within the Province of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Flag takes precedence over all flags except the Canadian Flag.

The remainder of this manual outlines the precedence for flying additional flags in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Flag. Specifically, the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack), Provincial and Territorial Flags, Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag, Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag, Pan African Flag, along with the various Royal and Vice-Regal Personal Flags.

The flags of other foreign and Commonwealth countries, when flown with the Nova Scotia Flag, rank ahead of the Nova Scotia Flag and are normally flown in English alphabetical order if there is more than one on display. For specific occasions, the Protocol and Honours Secretariat should be consulted.

## Manner of Flying

Flags flown or displayed will be kept clean and in good repair. They will be hoisted close up to the mast head and flown freely from taut halyards.

### Height of flag poles and flag sizes

Flag poles mounted together should be of the same height.

The length of a flag pole will help determine the flag size to be flown from it. Generally speaking the taller the flag pole, or the higher a flag is above the viewer at the base of the pole or the building from which the flag is flown, then the larger the flag should be. The following dimensions are a guide to selecting an appropriate flag size:

| Length of Pole             | Flag Size                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5.5 – 6.5 m (17 – 20 ft.)  | 1.14 x 1.83 m (45 x 72 in.)  |
| 9.5 – 11.5 m (30 – 35 ft.) | 1.70 x 2.74 m (67 x 108 in.) |

# Flags flown together

Flags flown together should be approximately the same size and should be flown at the same height.

Two flags should not be flown on the same pole.

## Etiquette

### Order of hoisting and lowering

When more than one flag is to be flown, all the flags should be hoisted and lowered together, but if that is not possible then the senior flag should be hoisted first followed by the next ranking flag and so on. When the flags are to be lowered the junior flag will be lowered first, followed by the next ranking flag and so on with the senior flag lowered last.

### Draping

The Nova Scotia Flag may be used as an unveiling drape for a monument, picture, or tablet or draped on a casket but should be properly draped and prevented from falling to the ground. Under no circumstances should the Nova Scotia Flag or other flags be allowed to touch the ground or floor.

### Prohibited use

The Nova Scotia Flag should never be used as a covering for a box, desk, podium, table or any other object. Flags should not be used as decoration.

The Nova Scotia Flag should not be festooned over doorways and arches, tied in bows or fashioned into rosettes.

The Nova Scotia Flag should not be used for commercial advertising purposes. It is appropriate to fly the flag at business establishments or to identify Nova Scotia exhibits at commercial fairs. Use of the flag in these, as in other cases, should reflect respect for the flag.



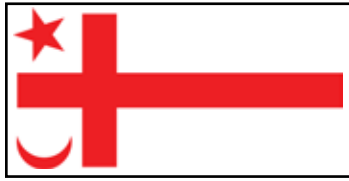


# Flags and Banners in Nova Scotia

## Frequently Flown Flags and Banners

Ten flags are frequently flown in Nova Scotia (listed by precedence).

|                                                                                     | Flag                                    | Background                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | National Flag of Canada (National Flag) | The National Flag of Canada (Maple Leaf Flag), was adopted on 18 December 1964 and inaugurated on 15 February 1965.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | Nova Scotia Flag (Provincial Flag)      | The Provincial Flag (Nova Scotia Flag), is the oldest Provincial Flag in Canada, dating from 1858, it represents the Province as a self-governing jurisdiction within Canadian Confederation. Approved by King George V in 19 January 1929, registered with the Canadian Heraldic Authority on 20 July 2007, and recognized as the official flag of the Province by the <i>Provincial Flag Act</i> , 2013. |
|  | Royal Union Flag (Union Jack)           | Flown as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth and allegiance to the Crown, as approved by the Parliament of Canada on 18 December 1964. Within the Province it is flown to acknowledge that Nova Scotia was the first jurisdiction to achieve Representative and then Responsible Government in the Commonwealth.                                                                           |



Grand Council  
Flag of the Mi'kmaq  
(Mi'kmaq Flag)

This flag represents the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq. Created in 1900, it is believed to have first been flown in Halifax in 1901. This flag represents the Mi'kmaq nation and the foundational Crown-Indigenous relationship as embodied in the Treaties of Peace and Friendship.



Acadian Flag

Flown as a symbol of the Atlantic region's Acadian heritage. It was first flown in 1884 at the second Acadian National Convention, and has been flown throughout Atlantic Canada since that time.



Pan African Flag

Flags Representing  
People of African  
Descent

In Nova Scotia, African Nova Scotian Communities fly one of two flags.

The Pan African Flag, which was adopted in the early 1920s in response to anti-black racism in the USA and has since become an international symbol of the African diaspora.



African Nova Scotian  
Flag

The African Nova Scotian Flag, flown for the first time in 2021.

*These flags have equal precedence and either may be flown.*



Gaelic Flag

Sròl nan Gàidheal (Flag of the Gaels)  
Flown to honour Nova Scotia's Gaelic language, cultural heritage and identity. This flag was created in 2008.



House of  
Assembly Flag

The official flag of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, this flag is flown at Province House when the Legislature is in session. This flag was created in 2019.



Order of Nova Scotia  
Banner

The banner of the Order of Nova Scotia, this flag is flown at a location where an Order of Nova Scotia investiture or meeting of the Advisory Council of the Order of Nova Scotia is taking place. This flag was created in 2023.

## Royal and Vice-Regal Personal Flags (Standards)

The Sovereign, members of the Canadian Royal Family, the Lieutenant Governor, and Governor General each have their own Personal Flags, sometimes called Standards. These Royal and Vice-Regal Personal Flags are only flown when the individual in question is personally present in a building, vehicle or on a vessel, or an aircraft. Royal and Vice-Regal Personal Flags outrank all other flags, including the National Flag and the Nova Scotia Flag, and are given the place of honour in an outdoor display of flags. These flags are not displayed indoors.

The Flag of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is used by the Administrator of the Province, who is entitled to the same honours as the Lieutenant Governor when performing duties in place of the Lieutenant Governor. Royal and Vice-Regal Personal flags are never half-masted.

| Description                                                      | Flag                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The King's Personal Canadian Flag                                |    |
| Flag of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (Vice-Regal Flag) |   |
| Flag of the Governor General of Canada                           |  |
| Flag of HRH The Prince of Wales                                  |  |
| Flag of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh                                |  |
| Flag of HRH The Princess Royal                                   |  |
| Flag used by other members of the Canadian Royal Family          |  |

# Etiquette

The following section outlines the various ways in which multiple flags should be displayed, providing the correct order of precedence for each. In these illustrations the disposition of the flags is given from left to right from the point of view of the spectators in front of the flags. The number listed below each individual flag indicates the flag's relative precedence – 1 being the highest precedence, 2, the next highest and so on.

## National and Provincial Flag

| National Flag                                                                      | Provincial Flag                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1                                                                                  | 2                                                                                   |

## National and Provincial Flag with other Flags

### National Flag, Provincial Flag & Royal Union Flag

| Provincial Flag                                                                     | National Flag                                                                        | Royal Union Flag *                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                   | 1                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     |

\* When not being flown as a national flag

National Flag, and two Provincial Flags

| Provincial Flag                                                                   | National Flag                                                                      | Provincial Flag                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                 | 1                                                                                  | 2                                                                                   |

National Flag, Provincial Flag & Commonwealth or Foreign Flag

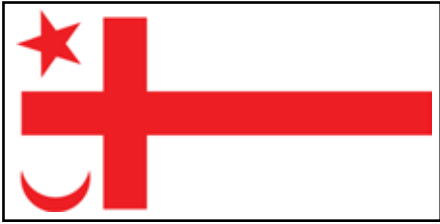
| Commonwealth/Foreign Flag                                                         | National Flag                                                                      | Provincial Flag                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                 | 1                                                                                  | 3                                                                                   |



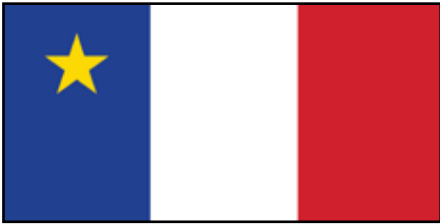
National Flag, Provincial Flag and Recognized International Organization Flag

|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Nations Flag                                                                 | National Flag                                                                        | Provincial Flag                                                                       |
|    |    |    |
| NATO Flag                                                                           | National Flag                                                                        | Provincial Flag                                                                       |
|    |    |    |
| Commonwealth Flag                                                                   | National Flag                                                                        | Provincial Flag                                                                       |
|   |   |   |
| Francophonie Flag                                                                   | National Flag                                                                        | Provincial Flag                                                                       |
|  |  |  |
| Red Cross Flag                                                                      | National Flag                                                                        | Provincial Flag                                                                       |
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                   | 1                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     |

### National Flag, Provincial Flag & the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag

| Provincial Flag                                                                   | National Flag                                                                      | Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                 | 1                                                                                  | 3                                                                                   |

### National Flag, Provincial Flag & Acadian Flag

| Provincial Flag                                                                    | National Flag                                                                       | Acadian Flag                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                  | 1                                                                                   | 3                                                                                    |

### National Flag, Provincial Flag, Acadian Flag and Francophonie Flag

| National Flag                                                                       | Francophonie Flag                                                                   | Provincial Flag                                                                     | Acadian Flag                                                                         | National Flag                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 3                                                                                   | 4                                                                                    | 1                                                                                     |
| OR                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |
| 1                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 3                                                                                   | 4                                                                                    |                                                                                       |
|  |  |  |  |                                                                                       |
| National Flag                                                                       | Francophonie Flag                                                                   | Provincial Flag                                                                     | Acadian Flag                                                                         |                                                                                       |



**National Flag, Provincial Flag, Royal Union Flag, Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag, Acadian Flag, Gaelic Flag and Pan African Flag**

| National Flag                                                                       | Provincial Flag                                                                     | Royal Union Flag                                                                    | Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag                                                   | Acadian Flag                                                                         | Gaelic Flag                                                                           | Pan African Flag                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 3                                                                                   | 4                                                                                   | 5                                                                                    | 6                                                                                     | 7                                                                                     |
| OR                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| 6                                                                                   | 4                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 1                                                                                   | 3                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 7                                                                                     |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pan African Flag                                                                    | Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag                                                   | Provincial Flag                                                                     | National Flag                                                                       | Royal Union Flag                                                                     | Acadian Flag                                                                          | Gaelic Flag                                                                           |

**Other Provincial & Territorial Flags**

| Provincial Flag                                                                     | National Flag                                                                        | Visiting Province Flag                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                   | 1                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     |

## Municipal Flags

There may also be occasions when it is appropriate to display flags related to a Canadian municipality. A municipal flag, when displayed indoors, should be displayed in conjunction with both the National and Provincial Flags (thereby demonstrating the three orders of government). The flag of a Nova Scotia municipality will have precedence over that of the municipality of another Province or country.

| Provincial Flag                                                                   | National Flag                                                                      | Nova Scotia Municipal Flag*                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                 | 1                                                                                  | 3                                                                                   |

## Municipal Flags (including Municipal Police & Fire) when flown with the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag, Provincial Flag

| National Flag                                                                       | Provincial Flag                                                                     | Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag                                                    | Nova Scotia Municipal Flag*                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 3                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     |

## Out of Province Municipal Flag

In the event that a municipal leader is visiting from another Province or Territory the flag of their Province or Territory should also be displayed along with their municipal Flag.

| National Flag                                                                       | Provincial Flag                                                                     | Other Province Flag                                                                  | Out of Province Municipal Flag**                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 3                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     |

**Out of Province Municipal Flag with Nova Scotia Municipal Flag**

In the event that a Nova Scotia municipal leader and a municipal leader from another province or territory is visiting the flag of their Province or Territory should also be displayed along with their municipal Flag.

| National Flag                                                                     | Provincial Flag                                                                   | Visiting Province Flag                                                            | Nova Scotia Municipal Flag*                                                        | Out of Province Municipal Flag**                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1                                                                                 | 2                                                                                 | 3                                                                                 | 4                                                                                  | 5                                                                                   |

\*Cape Breton Regional Municipality flag depicted

\*\* Ville de Quebec flag depicted

**Out of Country Municipal Flag with Nova Scotia Municipal Flag**

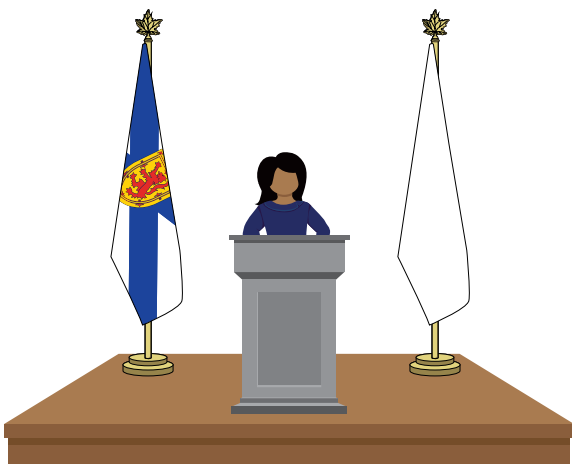
| National Flag                                                                      | Visiting Country Flag                                                              | Provincial Flag                                                                    | Nova Scotia Municipal Flag                                                          | Visiting Municipality Flag                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1                                                                                  | 2                                                                                  | 3                                                                                  | 4                                                                                   | 5                                                                                    |



## Place of worship, auditorium, school, or other meeting place

The Nova Scotia Flag may be flown in a place of worship, auditorium, school, or other meeting place in one of the following ways:

- a. In the chancel of a place of worship, on a speaker's platform or in a classroom, the Nova Scotia Flag should be flown to the right of the clergyman, speaker or teacher with the next ranking flag on the left of the officiant, speaker or teacher unless the Canadian Flag is flown in which case the Nova Scotia Flag would occupy the position to the left of the clergyman, speaker or teacher.

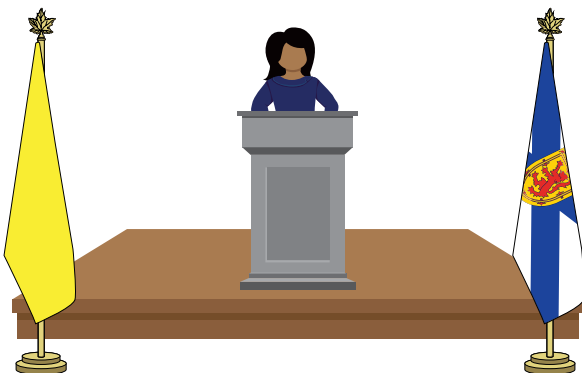


**When the Canadian Flag is not displayed**

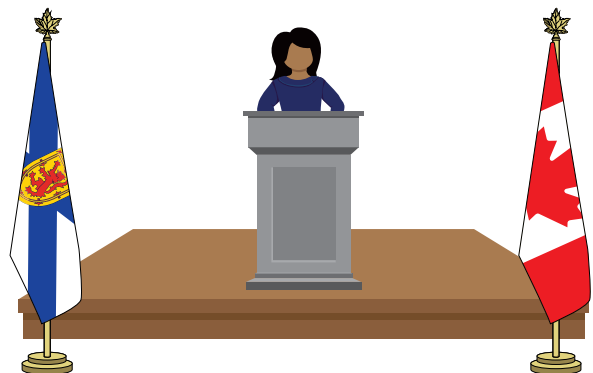


**When the Canadian Flag is displayed**

- b. In the nave or body of a place of worship or in the body of an auditorium, the Nova Scotia Flag should be flown on the right of the congregation or audience unless the Canadian Flag is flown in which case the Nova Scotia Flag would be flown on the left.



**When the Canadian Flag is not displayed**



**When the Canadian Flag is displayed**

### On a wall

The Nova Scotia Flag may be displayed flat against a wall and should be to the rear of the platform and above the speaker as follows:



Horizontally with the sleeve to the left as seen by the observer



Vertically with the sleeve uppermost and the point of the shield aimed left.

When the Nova Scotia Flag and another flag are displayed together from crossed poles against a wall, the Nova Scotia Flag will be on the left and the other on the right as viewed by the observer. The staff of the Nova Scotia Flag, or the senior flag, will be in front of the staff of the other flag.



When the Canadian Flag is not displayed



When the Canadian Flag is displayed

When two or more than three flags are flown together, the Nova Scotia Flag occupies the position of honour on the left as seen by spectators in front of the flags. If a number of countries, provinces or other jurisdictions are displayed then the Provincial Flag may be flown at each end of the line of flags.

## Parades and processions

The Nova Scotia Flag may be carried in parades and processions and, if the Canadian Flag is not flown, occupies the position of honour at the marching right or centre front.



**Marching Right**



**Centre Front**



# Flying Flags from Different Types of Flag Poles

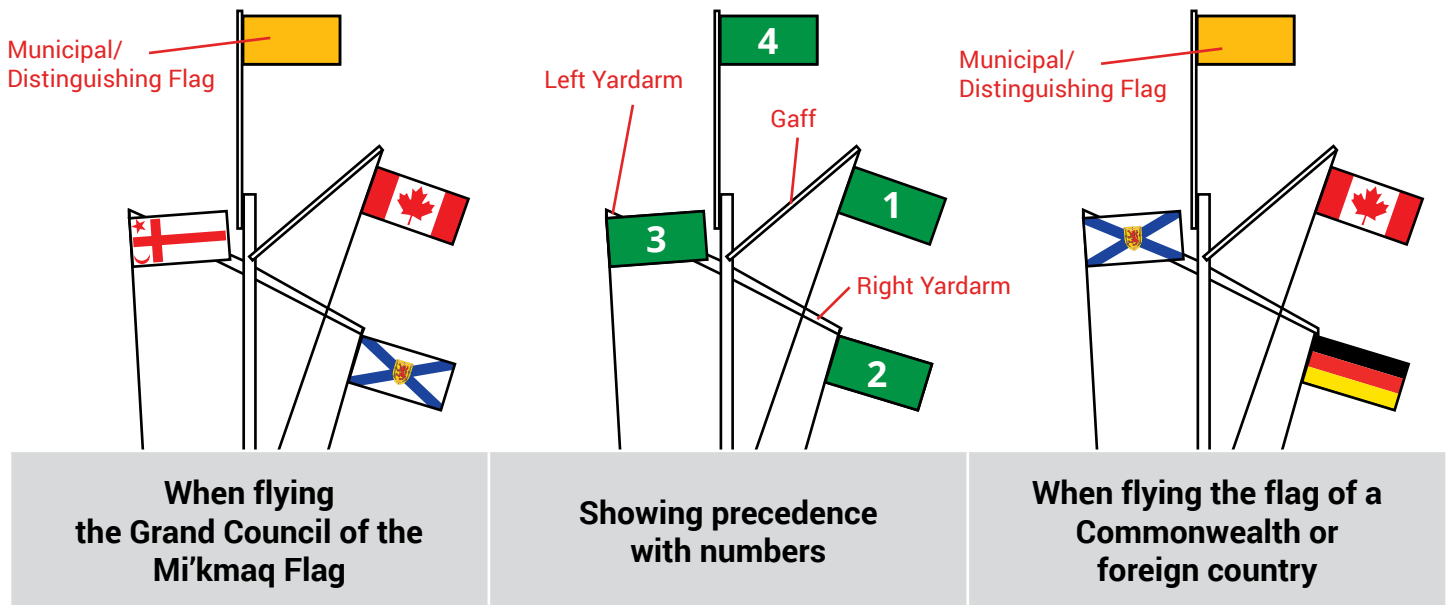
There are various types of flag poles from which flags may be flown outdoors. In general their precedence is the same as when displayed indoors, however, this changes in the case of a single flag pole with the ability to fly multiple flags – what is known as a flag mast.

There are two principal types of flag mast used on land. A cross bar flag mast which allows for the flying of three flags, and a flag mast with a cross bar and a gaffe. This section outlines the order of precedence which should be followed for the different types of flag masts.



## Flag Mast with Cross Bar

The place of honour is the flag which is flown from the top of the mast – the highest point. The next flag in precedence should be flown from the left arm of the flag mast and the third flag flown from the right arm. It is appropriate for only one or two flags to be flown at a time from this sort of flag mast.



## Flag Mast Cross Bar and Gaffe

The place of honour is the flag which is flown from the gaffe, or the bar that protrudes from the upper mid-part of the flag mast. While it may seem counterintuitive, as the place of honour is not at the highest point, the origins of this type of flag pole is nautical and the gaffe on a ship is the place of honour. During the age of sail the flag at the top mast could not be easily seen, hence the gaffe (the pole on an angle located at the stern of a ship) became the place of honour, and this carried forward to land based Flag Masts with a Cross Bar and Gaffe – and has been formalized by the Canadian Armed Forces through their regulations. When the Lieutenant Governor, Governor General or a member of the Royal Family is in residence, it is customary for their Personal Flag to fly from the top of the Flag Mast as a distinguishing Flag or 'house flag.'

# Provincial and Territorial Flag Display

## Flags of Canadian Provinces and Territories

When provincial and territorial flags are flown with the National Flag, the order is based on the date of entry into Confederation of the Provinces, followed by the Territories by date of their establishment. In a grouping of flags that includes the National Flag and all the Flags of the Provinces and Territories, the order of precedence is:

1. National Flag of Canada
2. Ontario (1867)
3. Quebec (1867)
4. Nova Scotia (1867)
5. New Brunswick (1867)
6. Manitoba (1870)
7. British Columbia (1871)
8. Prince Edward Island (1873)
9. Saskatchewan (1905)
10. Alberta (1905)
11. Newfoundland (1949)
12. Northwest Territories (1870)
13. Yukon (1890)
14. Nunavut (1999)

The exception to this is IF Nova Scotia is hosting a Federal/Provincial/Territorial event, in this case, it is customary to rank the host flag (Nova Scotia) immediately after the National Flag.

## National Flag, Provincial and Territorial Flags

In order of precedence (from spectators point of view)



## National Flag, Provincial and Territorial Flags, when Nova Scotia is the host Province

In order of Precedence with Nova Scotia as the host Province of Nova Scotia



## Other Flags and Banners

There are occasions when it is appropriate to display other flags and banners in conjunction with the Canadian Flag and the Nova Scotia Flag. Other flags include the various ensigns of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP Flags, Canadian Coast Guard Flag, Correctional Services of Canada Ensign, the Canada Border Services Agency Ensign, etc. The flags and ensigns of national, provincial and municipal organizations rank after the Nova Scotia Flag.

### National Indigenous Organizations

When flags of various National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs) are displayed, they should be ranked in order of the organization's establishment, with precedence given to the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag.

1. National Flag
2. Provincial Flag
3. Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag
4. Assembly of First Nations (1982)
5. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (1971)
6. Metis National Council (1983)

Out of respect for the Crown-Indigenous Relationship, municipal flags and the flags of other organizations should be ranked AFTER the flags of the various NIOs.



### NGOs and the Pride/Progress Flags

Flags such as the Pride/Progress Flag, flags of cultural organizations, businesses and non-governmental institutions/organizations should be flown AFTER the Provincial Flag and should be ranked after the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Flag or the flags of any National Indigenous Organization.

OVERALL, it is NOT advisable to displace the National Flag or the Provincial Flag in locations where there are insufficient numbers of outdoor flag poles, consideration should be given to establishing an indoor flag display in the front entrance of the relevant building which will allow for the display of other flags to mark special occasions, celebrations, etc.



*LEFT: Indoor flag display*

# Indoor Flag Displays

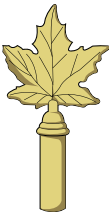
Flags are often displayed indoors in government buildings and other locations on wooden poles with brass coloured bases, couplings and finials. It is not customary (or safe) to use wooden indoor poles outdoors as they are not able to remain upright with even a modest amount of wind.

Wooden flag poles should be firmly fixed into the base so that the pole is upright and not on an angle. If a flag spreader is present, this may be used to evenly display the flag. It is not necessary to have a flag spreader on every flagpole.



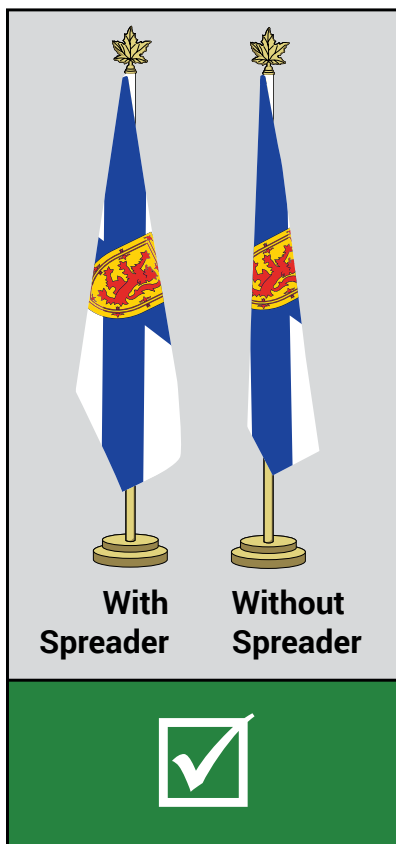
## Finials

On the top of indoor flag poles there is a decorative element called a finial. This is normally in the form of a brass maple leaf, spear or acorn shaped device that is affixed to the top of the pole. The chart below outlines the customary usage for the finials typically used in Nova Scotia. It is not advisable for a Commonwealth or foreign Flag or the flag of an international organization (UN, NATO, Commonwealth, la Francophonie) to be displayed on a pole with a Maple Leaf Finial.

| Finial          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | Maple Leaf                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Spear                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Acorn                                                                                 |
| Customary Usage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Flag of Canada</li> <li>Provincial Flags</li> <li>Any Flag or Banner of a Canadian Institution/Organization (Canadian Armed Forces, Coast Guard, CBSA, etc.)</li> <li>Should only be used with flags representing Canadian jurisdictions, institutions or organization</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Flag of Canada</li> <li>Provincial Flags</li> <li>Commonwealth, Foreign Flags</li> <li>Flags of International Organizations (NATO, UN, EU, Francophonie, etc.)</li> </ul> |                                                                                       |

## Fringe and Tassels

In some locations it is customary for flags to be trimmed with gold fringe and accompanied by a pair of tassels on gold cording. Gold fringed flags have only rarely been used in Nova Scotia. If one flag on display has gold fringe and tassels, then all of the flags on display along with the fringed flag should have gold fringed and tassels.



## Flag Spreaders

Flags may be displayed with the aid of a flag spreader, which aides in displaying a flag or banner in a more uniform fashion. These are attached to the back of an indoor flag pole approximately half way up the pole (just above where the two parts of the pole join, and the flag is spread out from there.) The flag should still hang loose and natural and not be stretched tight.

The flag should be draped in such a way that the base of the main emblem (i.e. the stem on the maple leaf on the National Flag, or the bottom of the shield on the Nova Scotia Flag) are pointed to the left.



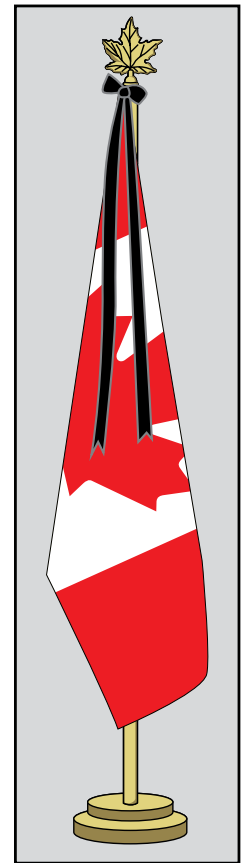
# Mourning

As it is not possible to half-mast flags indoors, during periods of official mourning (death of the Sovereign or other senior state official) the following protocol may be followed in relation to the display of indoor flags. The most common way in which mourning is demonstrated is through the half-masting of flags. Following the death of a significant state official, Pall Ribbons should be affixed to the appropriate indoor flagpoles as outlined below.

## Pall Ribbon

During a period of official mourning following the death of the Sovereign or a senior member of the Royal Family, a serving Governor General, a serving Lieutenant Governor, a serving Prime Minister or a serving Premier, Pall Ribbons (a black ribbon), shall be attached to all indoor flags on display – other than the Lieutenant Governor's Flag.

The Pall Ribbon shall consist of a black ribbon measuring between 3 and 6 cm in width, with a bow, 18 cm wide, at the top, from which shall hang two tails of black ribbon, measuring 130 cm in length, affixed to the back of the bow. Each end tail shall be cut in the swallowtail fashion. The length of the ribbon can be varied depending on the size of the flag, the general rule being that they should fall roughly in the middle of a draped flag (see photo).



The bow is affixed to the top of the flagpole (immediately below the finial, just above where the halyard affixes to the pole) with the two tails hanging over the outward facing side of the flag.

## Duration of Use

It is customary for the Pall Ribbons to be affixed upon receipt of official word of the death of the senior state official until the end of the funeral service for the same individual.

## Other

It is not appropriate to place a Pall Ribbon on any outdoor flag.

# Half-Masting

## Purpose and timing

The flying of flags at half-mast is a symbol of mourning. Nothing precludes individuals and private organizations from flying the Nova Scotia Flag at half-mast as a sign of mourning but the timing, manner, position of flying and exceptions should be followed as outlined herein.

The Nova Scotia Flag is flown at half-mast, upon the death of a significant person, at provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools, and vessels for a set period of time as outlined in this document.

### **Manner of half-masting**

Flags will only be half-masted on those flag poles fitted with halyards and pulleys. Flags flown from some buildings on horizontal or angled poles, without halyards, to which flags are permanently attached will not be half-masted.

The flag should first be hoisted close up to the masthead then lowered to the half-mast position.

### **Position of flag**

The position of the flag at half-mast will depend on its size, the size and length of the flag staff, and its location but, as a general rule, the centre of the flag should be exactly half-way down the staff. When two or more flags are flown together all flags will be half-masted.

### **Exceptions to half-masting**

During periods of half-masting, flags are raised to full mast at Government House and Province House and at all provincial buildings, sites, establishments and schools on statutory holidays (i.e. Canada Day), and at Government House and Province House when a Head of State is visiting. This procedure does not apply where flags are half-masted for the death of the Sovereign; then they are only raised to full mast for the day on which the Accession of the new Sovereign is proclaimed and are returned to half-mast the following day.

## Occasions of half-masting

Subject to special instructions from the Protocol and Honours Secretariat all flags\* shall be flown at half-mast from the notification of death until sunset the day of the funeral, except as indicated in Note 2. Half-masting shall not take place on Canada Day or Victoria Day, other than upon the death of the Sovereign.

| <b>To demonstrate a period of official mourning for the following individuals or days of significance</b> | <b>Government House &amp; Province House</b> | <b>Province Wide<br/>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels throughout the Province)</b> | <b>Limited Area<br/>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels within the deceased constituency or municipality of residence)</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family related to the Sovereign in the first degree (note 1)       | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia or a former Lieutenant Governor                                    | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Governor General of Canada or a former Governor General                                               | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Premier of Nova Scotia or a former Premier                                                            | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Prime Minister of Canada or a former Prime Minister                                                   | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Chief Justice of Nova Scotia or a former Chief Justice                                                | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Member of the Royal Family other than those related in the first degree to the Sovereign                  | All Flags                                    | All Flags                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Member of the Executive Council (Cabinet)                                                                 | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |
| Leader of the Official Opposition                                                                         | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |
| Leader of the Third Party                                                                                 | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |

| <b>CONTINUED</b>                                                                                                  |                                              |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>To demonstrate a period of official mourning for the following individuals or days of significance</b>         | <b>Government House &amp; Province House</b> | <b>Province Wide<br/>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels throughout the Province)</b> | <b>Limited Area<br/>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels within the deceased constituency or municipality of residence)</b> |
| Member of the King's Privy Council for Canada resident in Nova Scotia                                             | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |
| Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia                                                                 | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | The Law Courts, Halifax                                                                                                                                  |
| Member of the Legislative Assembly                                                                                | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |
| Member of the Senate who represents Nova Scotia                                                                   | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's municipality of residence                                                                                                                   |
| Member of the House of Commons who represents Nova Scotia                                                         | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's Constituency                                                                                                                                |
| A Mayor                                                                                                           |                                              |                                                                                                                     | Individual's municipality of residence                                                                                                                   |
| Deployed Member of the Canadian Armed Forces                                                                      | All Flags                                    |                                                                                                                     | Individual's municipality of residence                                                                                                                   |
| Former Speaker of the House of Assembly (note 2)                                                                  | All Flags<br>(day of service only)           |                                                                                                                     | Individual's municipality of residence<br>(day of service only)                                                                                          |
| An Honorary Member of the Executive Council (note 2)                                                              | All Flags<br>(day of service only)           |                                                                                                                     | Individual's municipality of residence<br>(day of service only)                                                                                          |
| Members of the King's Privy Council, Senators and Members of Parliament who do not represent Nova Scotia (note 3) |                                              |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Commonwealth and foreign Heads of State and Heads of Government (note 3)                                          |                                              |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |

| ROUTINE HALF-MASTINGS                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To demonstrate a period of official mourning for the following individuals or days of significance                    | Government House & Province House | Province Wide<br>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels throughout the Province) | Limited Area<br>(Provincial buildings, sites, establishments, schools and vessels within the deceased constituency or municipality of residence) |
| April 9, Vimy Ridge Day                                                                                               | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| April 18-19, Commemoration of the Mass Casualty in Nova Scotia                                                        | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| April 28, Day of Mourning for persons killed or injured in the workplace                                              | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| June 23, National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism                                                         | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Second Sunday in September, Firefighters National Memorial Day                                                        | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Last Sunday in September, Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day                                            | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation                                                               | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| November 11, Remembrance Day * (note 4)                                                                               | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| December 6, Commemoration of the Halifax Explosion & National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women | All Flags                         | All Flags                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |

## NOTES

\*The Personal Flag of The King, the Flag of the Lieutenant Governor, Governor General or a member of the Canadian Royal Family are never half-masted.

- (1) Spouse, child, parent, sibling of the Sovereign.
- (2) Half-masting shall take place from sunrise to sunset the day of the funeral/commemorative service.
- (3) Flags are not normally half-masted upon the deaths of current or former Commonwealth or foreign Heads of State or Heads of Government, nor members of the King's Privy Council for Canada, Senators or Members of Parliament who do not represent Nova Scotia as they fall under federal jurisdiction.
- (4) At a place where remembrance is being observed, half-masting can occur at 11:00am or according to the prescribed order of service, until sunset

## Other Half-Masting Occasions

### Specific Provincial buildings, sites, establishments and vessels

#### *Line of Duty Death*

In the event of the line-of-duty death of an employee of the Province of Nova Scotia, Crown agency or organization constituted by the Government of Nova Scotia, the Deputy Head of Department or person of equivalent authority, may direct that the all flags at the building, site, establishment or vessel, where the deceased was normally employed, be half-masted, from the notification of death until sunset the day of the funeral or memorial service.

#### *Non-Line of Duty Death*

In the event of the non-line-of-duty death of an employee of the Province of Nova Scotia, Crown agency or organization constituted by the Government of Nova Scotia, the Deputy Head of Department or person of equivalent authority, may direct that the all flags at the building, site, establishment or vessel, where the deceased was normally employed, be half-masted, on the day of the or memorial service.

## Schools, Colleges and Universities

In the event of the death of an employee or student of a school, college or university in the Province, the head of that institution may direct that all flags at that institution be half-masted in honour of the deceased individual on the day of their funeral or memorial service. It should be noted that extended periods of half-masting are reserved for senior officials only.

## Methods of Half-Masting

Half-masting of flags is only possible on an outdoor flag pole. Indoor flags cannot be half-masted. The way in which flags are half-masted is dependent on the type of flag pole(s) being used.



| On a standard flag pole | On a pole with intervening structure or surmounting a building | On a pole with cross trees, platform or top | On a peak or gaff, one half way up the halyards from the cleats | On a projecting flag pole |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                         |                                                                |                                             |                                                                 |                           |

# Dates for Flying the Royal Union Flag

The Royal Union Flag, commonly called the Union Jack, ranks after the Nova Scotia Flag. The Royal Union Flag was approved by the Parliament of Canada on 18 December 1964, for continued use as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown. In Nova Scotia it has additional meaning signifying that Nova Scotia was the first jurisdiction in the Commonwealth to achieve Representative and then Responsible Government. It is flown continuously from the flag mast at Government House and from the roof of Province House along with the National Flag and the Provincial Flag.

The list below outlines dates on which the Union Jack may be flown if it is not displayed on a regular basis.

## ANNUAL DATES FOR FLYING THE ROYAL UNION FLAG

Dates when the Union Flag (or Jack) may be flown at provincial buildings, sites and establishments when not displayed on a regular basis when a third flag pole is in place or available:

|                    |                                                                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March</b>       | Commonwealth Day (the second Monday in March)                             |
| <b>May</b>         | Victoria Day (the Monday preceding May 25)                                |
| <b>September 8</b> | Accession of His Majesty King Charles III to the Throne as King of Canada |
| <b>November 11</b> | Remembrance Day                                                           |
| <b>December 11</b> | Statute of Westminster Day (1931)                                         |

***\*Any other days for which notification is given***



# Care of Flags and Banners

Flags should be regularly inspected for signs of wear and damage and should be replaced when worn, noticeably faded, stained or otherwise unfit for service.

## **Cleaning**

To clean a soiled nylon flag or standard launder only, do not dry clean. Wash for ten minutes in soft water, if possible at 40 to 45 degrees Celcius, using a neutral laundry soap with no bleaching agent. Rinse in cold water. Remove excess water by using gentle pressure and hang up to dry, out of public view. Press if necessary, using warm iron only, set for synthetics.

## **Repairing**

Should fraying or tearing of a flag occur, it should be repaired at once to avoid further damage. If the appearance after repair is not presentable, it should be replaced.

## **Ironing**

Flags which are displayed indoors should be ironed and not displayed with folding marks or wrinkles. Place you steam iron on the synthetic (low/medium) setting and iron it flat on an ironing board. Be careful not to allow any part of the flag to touch the floor. It is also possible to steam a flag which is already hung from an indoor flag pole.

## **Destruction**

When a flag becomes worn, faded, or otherwise unfit for use, it should be disposed of privately.

### *Natural Material*

Flags made of natural fibers (wool, cotton, linen) should be burned in a dignified manner, privately without ceremony or public attention being drawn to the destruction of the material.

### *Synthetic Material*

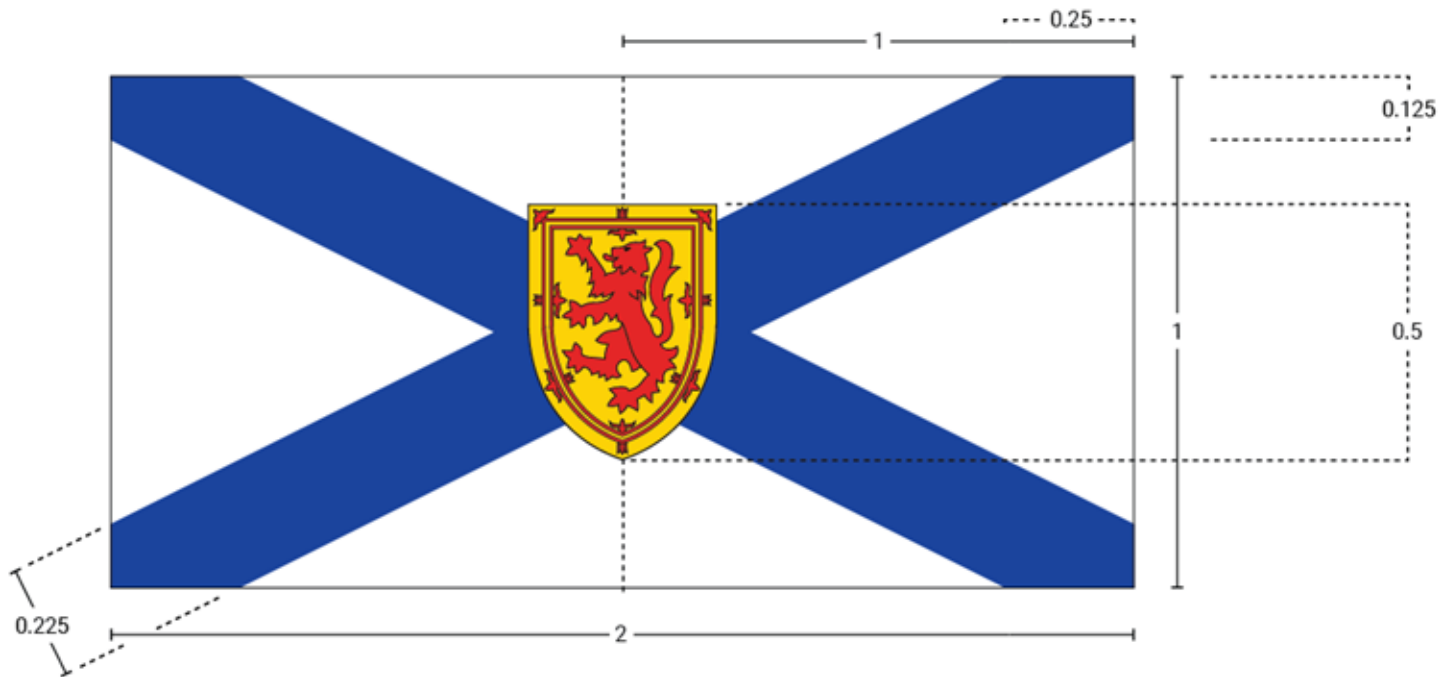
Flags made of synthetic material (nylon or polyester) should be respectfully torn into strips, with each element of the flag reduced to a single colour, so that the remaining pieces do not resemble a flag. The individual pieces should then be placed in a bag for disposal. The shreds of fabric should not be re-used or fashioned into anything.

Worn flags may be posted to the Protocol and Honours Secretariate for appropriate disposal.

## **For additional information regarding the flying of flags, please contact:**

Protocol and Honours Secretariat  
Department of Intergovernmental Affairs  
One Government Place, 2nd Floor  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS, B3J 1X5  
[protocol@novascotia.ca](mailto:protocol@novascotia.ca)

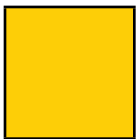
# Specifications for the Nova Scotia Flag



**BLUE | Pantone: 293 Blue**

R: 27 G: 68 B: 156

C: 100 M: 87 Y: 0 K: 0 HEX: 1B449C



**YELLOW | Pantone: 116 Yellow**

R: 255 G: 206 B: 6

C: 1 M: 18 Y: 100 K: 0 HEX: FFCD00



**RED | Pantone: 032 Red (Canada Red)**

R: 237 G: 38 B: 26

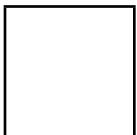
C: 0 M: 100 Y: 100 K: 0 HEX: ED1C24



**BLACK | Pantone: Process Black**

R: 0 G: 0 B: 0

C: 75 M: 68 Y: 67 K: 90 HEX: 000000



**WHITE | Pantone: 000C**

R: 255 G: 255 B: 255

C: 0 M: 0 Y: 0 K: 0 HEX: FFFFFFFF



# Appendices

## A: Half-masting Dates

Half-masting takes place on a number of set dates annually. These dates have been designated by the Government of Canada and or the Government of Nova Scotia to commemorate specific events.

On other occasions when the Government of Canada or Government of Nova Scotia determine that it is in the public interest to half-mast in honour of a public figure or event that warrants a period of mourning, a notice will be sent out by the Protocol and Honour Secretariat of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs via a Half-Masting Notice. To receive these notices please email [protocol@novascotia.ca](mailto:protocol@novascotia.ca) to be added to the distribution list.

### ANNUAL HALF-MASTING DATES

|                          |                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 9                  | Battle of Vimy Ridge                                             |
| April 18 and 19          | Commemoration of the Mass Casualty in Nova Scotia, 2020          |
| April 28                 | Day of Mourning for persons killed or injured in the workplace   |
| June 23                  | National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism             |
| 2nd Sunday in September  | Firefighters National Memorial Day                               |
| Last Sunday in September | Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day                 |
| September 30             | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation                        |
| November 11              | Remembrance Day                                                  |
| December 6               | Commemoration of the Halifax Explosion                           |
|                          | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women |



### HALF-MASTING NOTICE

FROM: Executive Director of the Protocol and Honours Secretariat  
TO: All Provincial Buildings and Establishments flying outdoor flags  
DATE: 26 March 2024  
RE: 9 April 2024 Half-Masting

Please half-mast all flags on Province House, Government House\* and all Provincial Buildings (including schools) and establishments, from sunrise to sunset on Tuesday 9 April 2024.

#### OCCASION(S)

1. The 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Battle of Vimy Ridge](#).

#### BACKGROUND

**1. Battle of Vimy Ridge:** The Battle of Vimy Ridge began at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, 9 April 1917. The first wave of 15,000-20,000 Canadian soldiers, many heavily laden with equipment, attacked through the wind-driven snow and sleet into the face of deadly machine gun fire. The Battle proved to be a great success, but it came at a heavy cost. The Battle resulted in 10,600 casualties, nearly 3,600 of which were fatal.

Further Reading: Veterans Affairs Canada, [The Battle of Vimy Ridge - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

#### AUTHORITY (IES)

Pursuant to *Nova Scotia Protocol & Honours Secretariat Half-Masting Policy*, "Routine Annual Half-Masting's,"  
Federal Authority, Section 11, *The Rules for Half-masting the National Flag of Canada*.

#### NEXT ROUTINE HALF-MASTING

Thursday April 18 and Friday April 19, Commemoration of the Mass Casualty in Nova Scotia, 18-19 April 2020.

Prepared by:  
Executive Director – Protocol and Honours Secretariat  
26 March 2024

\*As per standard practice the Flag of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, as a distinguishing flag, is not half-masted on any occasion.

## B: Half-Masting Notices

Periodically the Protocol and Honours Secretariat will issue a half-masting notice via email. These notices are distributed throughout the province and are considered a public document. They include details of the period of half-masting and the reason. For routine half-masting events two-weeks notice shall be given. In the case of a non-routine half-masting, the notice will be sent immediately upon confirmation of the death of a state official or a notice being issued by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

## C: Further Reading

*Rules for Flying the National Flag of Canada*

Department of Canadian Heritage

[Rules for flying the National Flag of Canada - Canada.ca](#)

*The Heritage Structure of the Canadian Forces*

Department of National Defence

A-AD-200-000/AG-000

[The Heritage Structure of the Canadian Forces - Canada.ca](#)

## D: Acknowledgements

This publication was written by Christopher McCreery and edited by Julie Langille and Roman Holz. Layout by Janaya Seath and Sohier Christie. The overall structure of this publication borrows from the Government of New Brunswick publication, *Flying and Displaying Flags in New Brunswick*, and the Department of Canadian Heritage publication, *Rules for Flying the National Flag of Canada*.



**Flying and Displaying Flags in Nova Scotia**  
**Rules Governing the use of Flags and Banners in the Province**