

## Canada Day (History and Celebrations)

I'm going to start with a brief background about Canada Day and then jump into the fun things like how we Canadians like to celebrate it.

The British North America Act (now the Constitution Act) was enacted on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1867. It united the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Québec as a domestically self-governing federation; creating Canada. On June 20th, 1868, all Her Majesty's subjects across Canada (Yep, the Queen of England was/is still our monarch) were asked to celebrate July 1st. In 1879, July 1<sup>st</sup> became a statutory holiday called the "anniversary of the Confederation", which would later be named "Dominion Day". The holiday that all us Canucks know and love was formed; and we have been planning our celebrations every year since! Dominion Day became known as Canada Day in 1982.

Canada Day is a day to celebrate everything that makes us Canadian; we celebrate our values, diversity, freedom, and the natural beauty of our country. We also have some fun embracing the stereotypes. We eat Canadian food, dress in true Canadian fashion and enjoy some classic Canadian festivities. As Canadians, we like to enjoy our Tim Hortons, Poutine, Beavertails and of course Caesars.

In the province of Quebec, many home leases start on July 1 and last for exactly one year. Hence, many people in Quebec spend Canada Day moving their possessions from one house to another. So in Quebec, Canada Day is also known as Moving Day.

In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, July 1 is also Memorial Day. This commemorates the heavy loss of life in the Newfoundland Regiment on the first day of the Battle of the Somme during World War I. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the morning of July 1 is usually somber. Flags are flown at half-mast and memorial services are held at cenotaphs (war memorials). In the afternoon, Canada Day celebrations in the province are similar to those in the rest of the country.

Canada Day is not only celebrated across the country, but by Canadians worldwide. There are International celebrations held throughout the world, with some of the more prominent ones being in Trafalgar Square in London, a celebration of hockey and food in New York's Central Park and at Bund Beach in China by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, just to name a few.

Canadians love to get outdoors on Canada Day and appreciate the amazing spaces that we are so lucky to call home. If you know any Canadians, chances are you will find yourself at a backyard barbecue at the very least. All national parks and historic sites are free to enter on Canada Day so take advantage of the holiday and go explore some of our beautiful country.

See the link below on other ways you can celebrate Canada Day and your country.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Canada-Day>

