



Information Guide 2015



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada



Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

Canada

Draw it!



THE CANADA DAY CHALLENGE

Presented by the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Day Challenge is a well-known arts, photography and creative writing competitions for youth in Canada! With roots dating back to 1987, hundreds of thousands of participants have taken up the Challenge and shown their pride in Canada.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Youth aged **8 to 18 years old**, who live in Canada.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This year, the theme is: **Strong. Proud. Free.**

Entries will be accepted from **January 1 to April 2, 2015.**

We are looking for entries that explore Canada's history, culture, and identity and illustrate the important milestones that have shaped our country on *The Road to 2017* when Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary!

You are invited to draw a picture, take a photo, or write a short story, a poem or an essay — you decide which category works best for you. Can't decide? You can also submit an entry in each of the three categories.

Make sure to read through the contest [Official Rules](#) before submitting an entry, as there are specific requirements for each category.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR EACH CATEGORY

DRAW IT!

Our home and creative land! From St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, to Johnson Street in Victoria, British Columbia, vibrant colour abounds in Canada, so try your best to create an original, colourful drawing or painting using a variety of mediums.

The goal is to create an entry that illustrates what makes you proud to be Canadian. Avoid using clip art or photographs in your entry. Instead, use your imagination to create art that is completely original!

Did you know that when Canada became a country in 1867, it included only four provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec?

Visit the Canada150.ca web site to know more about the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Did you know that 2015 is the "Year of Sport" in Canada?

Visit pch.gc.ca/sports to learn more about the Year of Sport!



SNAP IT!

Take a picture of what you believe makes this country a truly special place — for example, capture Canadian symbols, like the National Flag of Canada, in your home town or city, or explore local museums, national historic sites, or even a public park to discover the people, places and events of our past and present!

You can submit up to five (5) photos. Your photo should be saved as a JPEG/JPG or PNG format. For all photos containing images of people, you will have to affirm that you have the [Canada Day Challenge 2015 Personal Information Consent Form](#) signed and on file.

We're looking for clean focus and high resolution, so remember to set your camera to its highest resolution.

Did you know that February 15, 2015 will mark 50 years since the day in 1965 when our red and white maple leaf flag was first raised over Parliament Hill in Ottawa?

Visit the [Canada150.ca](#) web site find interesting information on the National Flag of Canada, including its history and how it came to be the flag of Canada, its symbolism, flag etiquette and more!

WRITE IT!

Calling all aspiring writers, poets and those who want to answer the question: What makes you proud to be Canadian?

Sharpen your skills and spark your imagination with this category by submitting an original piece of creative writing no more than 500 words in length, in English or French. Canada is a vast country, with stories to share and tell from coast to coast to coast. Share your story!

Did you know that 2015 marks the bicentennial of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth?

Visit the [Canada150.ca](#) web site to learn more about Sir John A. Macdonald.

ENTER TO WIN A TRULY CANADIAN ADVENTURE AND CELEBRATE CANADA DAY 2015 IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL!

Nine finalists three from each category — will be selected to come celebrate Canada Day 2015 in the Nation's Capital. Of these nine finalists, three of them will also be selected as the National Winners to represent each category as part of winning posters for [Celebrate Canada](#).

GRAND PRIZE

Get ready to pack your bags for an unforgettable, all-expenses paid adventure in the nation's capital region!



This year, we will award nine grand prize trips for two (for the winner and a parent or legal guardian) to travel to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day 2015 activities.

Finalists and their family members will be provided VIP access to exciting places, as well as the opportunity to meet some of Canada's most exciting and inspiring personalities! They will tour museums, galleries and so much more!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Finalists will also receive the opportunity to work with the talented team of education specialists from the National Film Board of Canada to create their very own short films about their adventures in Ottawa.

SEE YOUR WORK ON EXHIBIT AT A NATIONAL MUSEUM!

Finalists will have their work displayed as part of a special summer exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History.

PLUS, THERE'S EVEN MORE TO BE EXCITED ABOUT THIS YEAR!

Each of our sponsors will provide our finalists with a memento to remember their experience as part of the Canada Day Challenge.

And, one lucky winner in the **Write It!*** category will be invited to spend a week in Ottawa with our partner, Encounters with Canada, Canada's largest youth forum, to learn about Canadian institutions, explore exciting career options, develop their civic leadership skills and live an extraordinary bilingual experience!

(*For participants between the ages of 14 and 17 only. Encounter with Canada reserves the right to change and defer the prize to another category if entrants do not meet the age criteria.)