



BANK OF CANADA
BANQUE DU CANADA

Uniquely Canadian— Designing Canada's Polymer Bank Notes

What do a toy canoe, a photograph of the Arctic and maple syrup have in common? They're all items that people associate with being Canadian.

A few years ago, the Bank of Canada was researching its new series of bank notes, and wanted to know what average Canadians would like to see featured on their money.

Public consultations in 14 cities gave people a chance to have their say and brainstorm ideas for the new notes. Participants were asked to bring along items they identified as being uniquely Canadian. The list above captures but a few of their treasures.

What was clear during these sessions was the fact that Canadians are passionate about their country. Our new bank note themes and images emerged from these consultations, and in the end, the notes speak to the country's spirit of innovation.

What's on Canada's New Polymer Notes

The \$100 note focuses on medical innovation and speaks to Canada's long-standing commitment to medical research. The \$50 note features the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Amundsen*, a research icebreaker. It supports environmental research and provides the world's oceanographers, geologists and ecologists with unparalleled access to the North.

The remaining notes have yet to be unveiled, so until they are, you will have to use your imagination to envision what they will look like:

- \$20—The Canadian National Vimy Memorial
- \$10—The *Canadian* train
- \$5—*Canadarm2* and *Dextre*

(see over)

From the Lab to Your Wallet

Visit www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes and watch the Design video. It's the second in a five-part series called *The Life of a Bank Note: From the Lab to Your Wallet*.

Next Up—Production

In September, our video series *The Life of a Bank Note: From the Lab to Your Wallet* will look at bank note production. It's not a simple matter of starting the presses. With the introduction of longer-lasting polymer bank notes, the Bank of Canada is raising the bar on security and production quality. It's also about meeting the demand for bank notes.

Where Security and Artistry Meet

When launching a new note, the Bank needs to address both technical and design requirements. “While we recognize that it’s important for bank notes to be functional and secure, they are a form of art as well—art that we hope will instil pride in all Canadians,” says Martine Warren, Scientific Adviser with the Bank’s Currency Development Team.

Bank note engravers are a rare breed, and historically they used steel plates and etching tools to engrave the portraits and other images we see on bank notes. But engravers have become tech-savvy. These days, they use digital tools like specialized computer software, tablets and styluses to craft their designs.

Designing for Polymer

Canada is not the first country to go the polymer route. Bank of Canada experts drew on the experience of other polymer-issuing countries when devising this new series. The Bank consulted with security experts and searched the world to ensure that our bank notes are state-of-the-art.

The polymer material has allowed the Bank to integrate new features into the design of the new series. The most striking is the large transparent window that contains a detailed metallic portrait and building that can be seen from both sides of the note.

While security against counterfeiting is always the Bank’s top priority for a new series of notes, that security is integrated with designs that celebrate our Canadian experiences.

For more information and free training tools:
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For story ideas or to get more information on Canadian bank notes, please contact media relations at 613 782-8782 or email communications@bankofcanada.ca