

# Security Features of the Canadian Journey Series



## 1. Metallic stripe

Tilt the note. The numbers and maple leaves change colour.

## 2. Ghost image

Hold the note up to the light and look through it. A small, ghost-like image of the portrait appears. It is visible from both sides of the note.

## 3. Dashes

- Hold the note up to the light and look through it. The dashes form a solid line.
- Tilt the note. The dashes shift from gold to green. Small characters (e.g., CAN 20) match the note's value.

## 4. Puzzle number

Hold the note up to the light and look through it. Irregular marks on the front and back of the note form a complete number. It is visible from both sides of the note.

**Note:** The original \$5 and \$10 notes of the *Canadian Journey* series (2001–2002) had different security features that did not include any of the above.

## Counterfeiting Offences

Refer to Sections 448 to 462 of the *Criminal Code*.

- S. 449: Making counterfeit money
- S. 450: Possession of counterfeit money
- S. 452: Uttering counterfeit money

Maximum sentence: 14 years

**Note:** Forged polymer bank notes fall within the definition of “counterfeit money” under S. 448(b) of the *Criminal Code*.

## For Information on Counterfeiting

National Anti-Counterfeiting Bureau  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
613 993-0664  
[NACB@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:NACB@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

For basic skills in dealing with counterfeit bank notes, complete *Counterfeit Currency Analysis* (an online course for police) available at [www.cpkn.ca](http://www.cpkn.ca) or Agora for the RCMP.

For more on security features and training materials, including *Wise Up to Counterfeiting: A Guide for Police Officers*:

**Bank of Canada**  
**1 888 513-8212**  
**[education@bankofcanada.ca](mailto:education@bankofcanada.ca)**  
**[www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes)**

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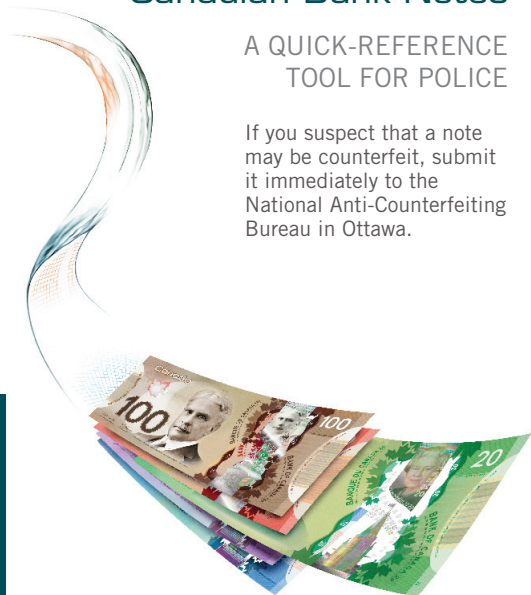


BANK OF CANADA  
BANQUE DU CANADA

## Security Features of Canadian Bank Notes

A QUICK-REFERENCE  
TOOL FOR POLICE

If you suspect that a note may be counterfeit, submit it immediately to the National Anti-Counterfeiting Bureau in Ottawa.



# Security Features of the \$20, \$50 and \$100 Notes in the *Polymer Series*

## How to Verify Bank Notes

Checking the security features on bank notes is simple to do. Even reasonably good counterfeits are easy to recognize when you focus on the security features.

- Make it a habit to **Feel, Look and Flip** each note.
- Compare a suspect note to a genuine note.
- Look for differences rather than similarities.

Frosted maple leaf window

Large window



Hidden numbers

Raised ink

## Feel

Feel the smooth, unique texture of the note. It's made from a single piece of polymer with some transparent areas.

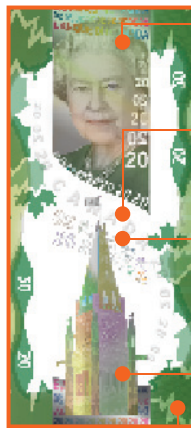
### Raised ink

Feel the raised ink on the large number, the shoulders of the large portrait, and the words "Bank of Canada" and "Banque du Canada."

## Look

### Large window

Look for transparency through the large window that contains the following features.



### Metallic portrait

Look at the details in the metallic portrait. It matches the large portrait.

### Transparent text

Look at the word "Canada." It is transparent and feels slightly raised.

### Small numbers

Look at the numbers in and around the large window that match the note's value. Some of the numbers appear in reverse.

### Metallic building

Look at the details in the metallic building. Tilt the note to see sharp colour changes in the building.

### Maple leaf border

Look at the maple leaves that border the large window. Some of the leaves cross into the window.

## Flip

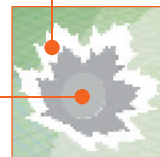
Flip the note to see the features in the large window repeated in the same colours and detail on the other side.

### Frosted maple leaf window

Look at the frosted maple leaf window to see that it has a transparent outline.

### Hidden numbers

The hidden numbers are an additional security feature that you can use after checking the other features if you're still unsure that a polymer note is genuine.



1. Use a small light that is located about a metre away from you.
2. Bring the note right up to your eye, until it almost touches your nose.
3. Look at the light through the frosted maple leaf window.
4. See a circle of numbers matching the value of the note appear through the frosted maple leaf window.

