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Bank of Canada Unveils New \$5 and \$10 Polymer Bank Notes

OTTAWA – Canada’s new and more secure \$5 and \$10 polymer bank notes were unveiled today at the Bank of Canada’s Ottawa head office, and from aboard the International Space Station. Both of the new notes will begin circulating, at the same time, this November.

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney and Paul G. Smith, Chairman of the Board at VIA Rail Canada, were joined via satellite by Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Chris Hadfield, Commander of the International Space Station, to unveil these final two notes in the new *Polymer* series.

“Canadians can be very proud of their new polymer bank notes,” said Minister Flaherty. “With today’s unveiling of the final two notes in the series, one can see not only the unique story that each of the five denominations tells, but the unifying theme that underlies them all – the profound courage, determination, and ingenuity of our nation and its people.”

The new \$5 and \$10 notes will carry the same leading-edge security features as the \$20, \$50 and \$100 polymer notes already in circulation. Featuring a sophisticated combination of transparency and holography, this is the most secure bank note series ever issued by the Bank of Canada. The *Polymer* series is more economical, lasting at least two and half times longer than cotton-based paper bank notes, and will be recycled in Canada.

“The *Polymer* series notes are at the frontier of bank note technology. The new \$5 and \$10 bank notes depict the frontiers of our country and our planet,” Governor Carney said. “It is fitting that we are today crossing the final frontier for a world first – the unveiling of a bank note from space.”

While orbiting more than 350 kilometres above Earth, Commander Hadfield gave Canadians their first look at the new \$5 polymer note. It features images of *Canadarm2* and *Dextre* – robotics innovations used to build and maintain the Space Station and that symbolize Canada’s ongoing contribution to the international space program.

“I try to inspire young Canadians to aim high. This new \$5 bill should do the same,” Commander Hadfield said. “By giving prominence to Canadian achievements in space, this bank note reminds us that not even the sky is the limit.”

The front of the \$5 note features a portrait of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911.

VIA Rail Canada’s Paul G. Smith unveiled the new \$10 polymer note at the Bank of Canada. The new \$10 note features a striking image of *The Canadian* train journeying through the Rocky Mountains, and represents the enormous feat of engineering that linked Canada’s East and West by rail. A portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald, who was Prime Minister of Canada (1867–1873, 1878–1891) at the time of the railway completion, is featured on the front of the note.

“The transcontinental railway helped build modern Canada. On behalf of VIA Rail, I am delighted that this accomplishment, through the use of this iconic image, has been honoured on the new \$10 bank note,” Mr. Smith said. “Not only did the railway contribute to Canada’s economic prosperity by moving people and goods across this vast land, but it also gave Canadians the means to seek new frontiers of their own.”

Over the months leading up to the issuance of these notes in November 2013, the Bank will continue to work closely with financial institutions, manufacturers of bank-note-handling equipment and retailers to ensure a smooth transition. Businesses that use note-handling and processing equipment are encouraged to contact their suppliers about machine compatibility and plans for upgrades.

More information on the new *Polymer* series can be obtained by contacting Jeremy Harrison at 613 782-8782 or communications@bankofcanada.ca.

Additional links:

- High-resolution [images](#)
- [Bank note](#) web pages
- *Bank of Canada Review* article: “[Paying with Polymer: Developing Canada’s New Bank Notes](#)”