

ALBERTA DAY FUN FACTS

In the 120 years since Alberta became a province on September 1, 1905, we have achieved some pretty incredible things. In honour of Alberta Day, here are 120 things you may or may not have known about our great province!



1

Did you know that the oldest national park in Canada is in Alberta? Banff National Park was established in 1885 as Canada's first national park.



2

Grab your coat! The lowest temperature officially recorded in Alberta was a staggering -61.2°C at Fort Vermilion on January 11, 1911.



3

The first car trip between Edmonton and Calgary was made in 1906 by H.G White. The journey took two days, and the car reached speeds over 30 mph.



4

The Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium in Edmonton was built in 1960, making it Canada's first planetarium.



5 John Carter Callaghan of the University of Alberta performed Canada's first open heart surgery in 1956.



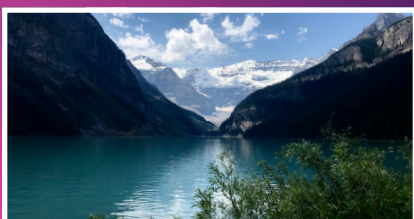
6 Ready, set, go! The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics were a historic moment for Alberta. As the first Winter Games to run for 16 days, they brought the world's spotlight to Calgary and marked the final Olympic appearance for both the Soviet Union and East Germany. The event left a lasting legacy on Alberta's identity as a host of world-class sporting events.



7 Two of the most unforgettable stories from the 1988 Calgary Olympics came from underdogs who didn't win medals but won hearts. The Jamaican Bobsled Team and British ski jumper Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards were later featured in the hit movies Cool Runnings and Eddie the Eagle, forever tying their legacy to Alberta.



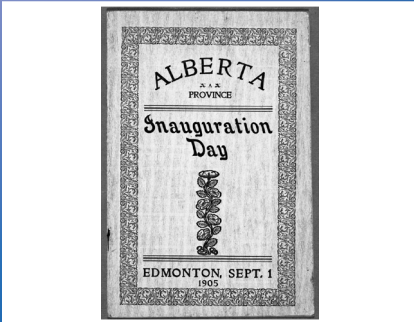
8 Cowley Ridge, the first commercial wind farm in Canada, was established near Pincher Creek in 1993.



9 Lake Louise is Canada's highest elevation, sitting at 1,650 metres above sea level.



10 How sweet it is...University of Alberta chemistry professor Raymond Lemieux was the first to synthesize sucrose in 1953.



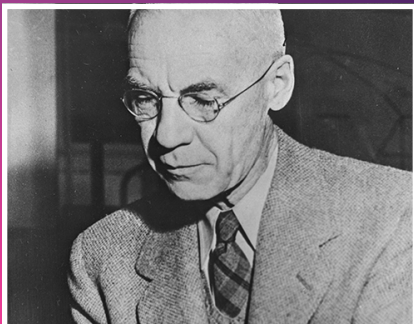
11 On September 1, 1905, Alberta became a province. The inauguration was hosted in Edmonton, where approximately 20,000 people attended—an astounding number, since the last census had counted the population of the city at 4,176!



12 Devil's Coulee, located about 45 minutes south of Lethbridge, was the first dinosaur nesting site discovered in Canada.



13 On May 14, 1914, Alberta's first major oil and gas discovery took place in Turner Valley. The Turner Valley Gas Plant is now a national and provincial historic site, sharing this moment in Alberta's history with the world.



14 Dr. Karl Clark was the first person to extract oil from bituminous sand deposits near Fort McMurray in 1929.



15 Bertie Beaver has been the symbol for wildfire prevention in Alberta since 1958. The idea for Bertie was born after forestry staff and film crews from Walt Disney Studios worked together on a number of wildlife film documentaries in Kananaskis as part of Disney's True Life Adventure Series. Walt Disney had his illustrators design Bertie's image for fire poster designs.



16 Each year, for nearly 60 years, Alberta has distributed about 70,000 ready-to-plant seedlings to grade one students across the province. That totals 4.2 million trees!



17 Wood Buffalo National Park features the largest beaver dam in the world. It is so large that it's visible from space!



18 Alberta is home to Canada's only two museums dedicated solely to the study of palaeontology: the [Royal Tyrrell Museum](#) in Drumheller and the Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in Wembley.



19 Edmonton-awr! Edmonton was the first Canadian city to have a dinosaur named after it: the Edmontosaurus.



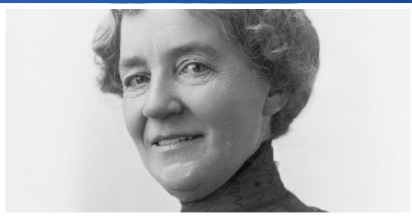
20 Al-Rashid Mosque, the first mosque in Canada, was built in Edmonton in 1938.



21 The first Ukrainian settlement in Canada was founded in the Edna-Star region located in East-Central Alberta in 1892.



22 Leduc is the site of the first oil well in the province in 1947, starting off the Alberta oil boom.



23 In 1917, Calgary magistrate Alice Jamieson was the first woman to be declared a person in Canada.



24 Women Power! The Famous Five, a group of women from Alberta petitioned the British Privy Council to recognize women as “persons” under the law in 1929, giving women the right to run for public office, attend university and become judges or senators.



25 “Tansi” is how you say “hello” in Cree, one of several Indigenous languages spoken across Alberta. There are 46 First Nations in the province, with commonly spoken languages including Cree, Kainai (Blackfoot), Chipewyan, Dene, Sarcee and Stoney (Nakoda Sioux).



26 In 1986, Alberta was the first province to create a Ministry of Culture and Multiculturalism.



27 James Gladstone (or Akay-na-muka, meaning “Many guns”) of High River was Canada’s first Aboriginal Senator, appointed in 1958.



28 Yes, Madam Justice...Beverly McLachlin, Canada’s first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, is from Pincher Creek.



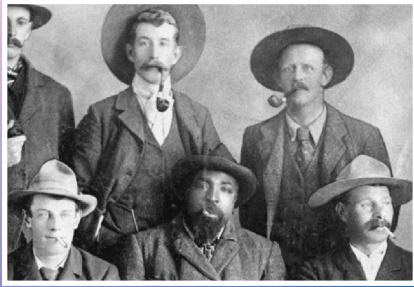
29 In 1953, Violet King, a graduate of the University of Alberta law program, became the first black female lawyer in Canada.



30 Edmonton was the first city in Canada to have a memorial to the Holodomor.



31 Roberta MacAdams, elected as an Alberta MLA in 1917, was the first woman to introduce and pass legislation in the British Empire.



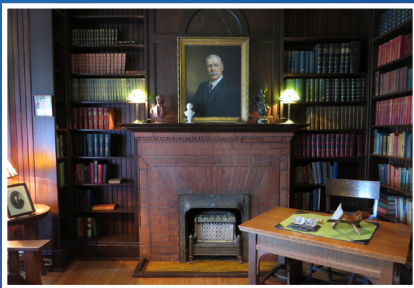
32

John Ware arrived in the district of Alberta in 1882 on a trail crew driving thousands of cattle to the site that became known as the Bar U Ranch. In 2022, Ware was recognized as a person of national historic significance.



33

In 1905, the first meeting of the Alberta legislature was held in a hockey rink, and thereafter, the first two sessions were held on the third floor of McKay Avenue School.



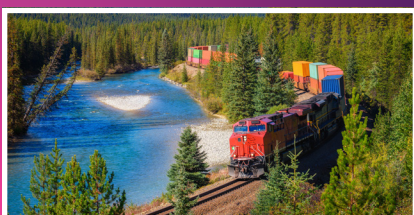
34

Alexander Cameron Rutherford, Alberta's first premier, was also Alberta's first Minister of Education. His home on the University of Alberta campus is preserved as a provincial historic site known as [Rutherford House](#).



35

Louise McKinney made history in 1917 as the first woman elected to a legislature in Canada and the British Empire. Serving as an MLA in Alberta, she championed women's equality, education and social reform. Her legacy is commemorated across the province, including at the Louise McKinney Riverfront Park and the Louise McKinney Building in Edmonton.



36

Beep Beep! Alberta's highly developed transportation network of roads and rail lines facilitates the movement of over \$75 billion worth of products to international markets each year!



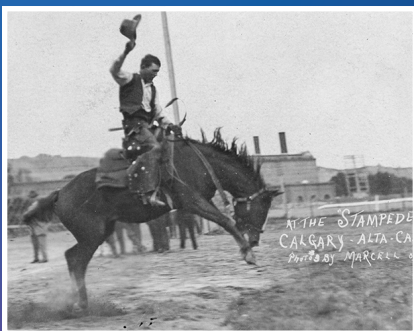
37

Alberta's Amber Valley was once one of the largest Black settlements in Western Canada! Located 180 km north of Edmonton, this turn-of-the-century settlement grew to over 1,000 people from Oklahoma, Texas and other southern US states seeking freedom from racial segregation and violence.



38

Alberta's Legislature Building was built on the original site of Fort Edmonton and opened in 1912.



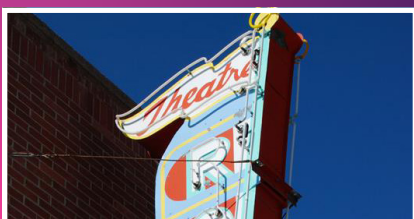
39

The first Calgary Stampede was held in 1912 and drew 80,000 visitors—twice the number of people who lived in Calgary at the time. Attendees included the Governor General of Canada, Princess Louise Margaret and Princess Patricia.



40

Alberta was the first province to establish a provincially-owned telephone system, Alberta Government Telephones, in 1906. It was privatized beginning in 1990 and would eventually become Telus Corporation.



41

Alberta is home to 398 places protected as Provincial Historic Resources, including [Battle River Hospital](#), [Greenridge Farm](#), [Roxy Theatre \(Coleman\)](#) and [Women's Buffalo Jump](#).



42 Alberta's forested public lands cover over half the province—roughly 35 million hectares. That's about the size of Germany!



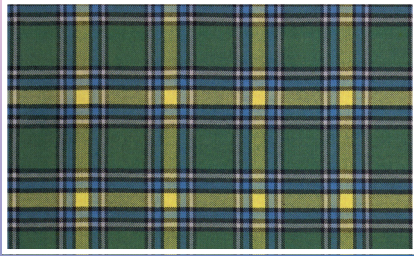
43 Big Rock Brewery is named after the [Okotoks Erratic](#), also called the Big Rock, which is a 16,500-tonne glacial erratic west of Okotoks.



44 Only in Alberta will you find the world's largest perogy. Located in Glendon, the town's Giant Perogy, complete with fork, stands 27 feet tall and weighs approximately 6,000 pounds. A giant nod to Alberta's Ukrainian and Polish immigrants who introduced their version of a dumpling to the prairies over 100 years ago.



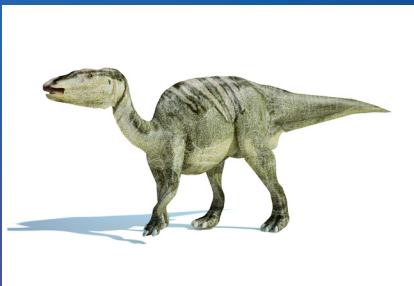
45 Live long and prosper! Alberta is home to one of the Star Trek capitals of the world: the town of Vulcan. Established in 1912, decades before the sci-fi series began, this rural community between Calgary and Lethbridge has fully embraced its galactic namesake. Often called Canada's quirkiest town, Vulcan draws Trekkies from near and far with its 31-foot Starship Enterprise replica, proudly displayed beside a spaceship-shaped visitor centre. The plaque on the sculpture is written in English, Vulcan and Klingon!



46 Alberta has its own official tartan made up of colours that represent the green forests, gold wheat fields, blue skies and lakes, pink wild roses and black petroleum.



47 While most people know about Banff's Mount Rundle or Jasper's Mount Edith Cavell, Mount Columbia, located on the Alberta-B.C. border, is Alberta's highest peak at 3,747 metres (12,293 feet). It's also the second-highest mountain in the entire Canadian Rockies!



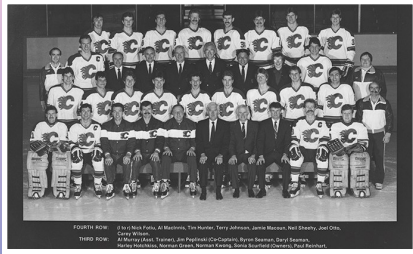
48 The largest dinosaurs found in Alberta are Tyrannosaurus and Edmontosaurus. Tyrannosaurs weighed up to 10 tonnes and were 12m long, and Edmontosaurus weighed up to 14 tonnes and 14m long.



49 The oldest dinosaur fossil found in Alberta is the Suncor nodosaur. It is estimated to be over 110 million years old. It was named Borealopelta markmitchelli after Royal Tyrrell Museum technician Mark Mitchell, who spent five years and 7,000 hours working on the specimen.



50 The Albertosaurus was first discovered in 1884 by Joseph Burr Tyrrell. The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology was named after him in recognition of this discovery.



51

Let's Go Oilers...Go Flames Go! Every year between 1983 and 1990, the Stanley Cup Finals featured a team from Alberta.



52

The [Frank Slide](#) is the deadliest rockslide in Canadian history. On April 29, 1903, over 90 million tonnes of limestone crashed down Turtle Mountain, burying part of the town of Frank in just 90 seconds. The disaster reshaped the landscape of the Crowsnest Pass and, today, its story is preserved at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, which overlooks the debris field and honours the lives lost.



53

According to a Halloween historian, the earliest reference to the saying "trick or treat" appeared in a 1927 southern Alberta newspaper article.



54

Ginger Beef and the Caesar drink were both invented in Calgary.



55

The Lethbridge High Level Bridge, called a viaduct by Canadian Pacific Railway engineers, is the longest and highest trestle bridge of its type in the world.



56 Alberta is home to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites including [Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump](#). It is one of the oldest buffalo jumps, where Indigenous Peoples drove buffalo over a cliff for food and other resources such as clothes, tipis and more.



57 The [Remington Carriage Museum](#) in Cardston is the largest carriage museum in the world, with more than 240 carriages on display.



58 The first feature film made in Canada was filmed in Alberta in 1919. It's called *Back to God's Country*. A copy is stored in the Provincial Archives of Alberta collection.



59 Lights, Camera, Action! Various Alberta locations and animals were used when filming the hit blockbuster *Game of Thrones*. A wolf named Quigley was hired from Alberta-based Instinct Animals for Film to play Jon Snow's dire wolf, Ghost.



60 Approximately 100 Alberta newspapers received a special citation from the Pulitzer Foundation for defending the freedom of the press in 1938.



61

Get your fringe on! Edmonton is the home of Canada's oldest and largest Fringe theatre festival.



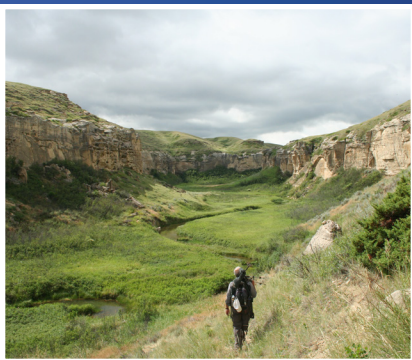
62

Turn the radio up...CKUA Radio's first broadcast was on November 21, 1927, making it the first public radio station in Canada.



63

The biggest ice cream sundae was created in Edmonton, Alberta in 1988. It weighed 24 tons!



64

Indigenous history is etched into the Alberta landscape going back more than 11,000 years and 500 generations—from ancient rock carvings at Writing-on-Stone in the southern part of the province, to a 10,000-year-old spear point unearthed in the Athabasca lowlands in the north.



65

According to the 2021 census, more than 284,000 Indigenous People live in Alberta—the third-largest Indigenous population among Canadian provinces. This represents nearly 16% of the country's total Indigenous population of 1.8 million.



66 Can you Bee-lieve? Alberta beekeepers manage over 20 billion bees to produce on average over 33 million pounds of honey each year! That makes Alberta the number one honey producer in Canada.



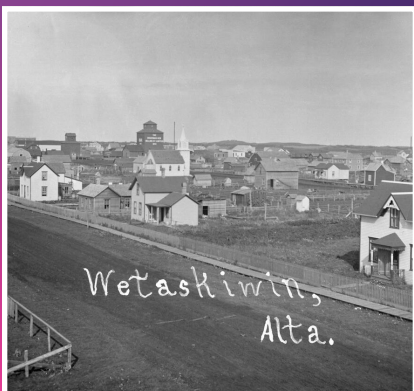
67 Alberta is the largest cattle-producing province in Canada, representing 43 per cent of the national total head of cattle.



68 Alberta's one of the few jurisdictions in the world that can claim to be rat-free (the others are islands).



69 Fort Vermillion and Fort Chipewyan were the first European settlements in Alberta and were both established in 1788.



70 Many locations in Alberta take their names from the Cree language. For example, the City of Wetaskiwin comes from the Cree phrase wi-ta-ski-oo ch-ka-tin-ow, which means "the place of peace" or "the hill of peace."



71 Hollywood North! John Scott, a 2025 Alberta Order of Excellence inductee, has played a key role in shaping Alberta's film and TV industry. With experience on seven Academy Award-winning films and a successful production company based in Longview, his work has helped put Alberta on the cinematic map.



72 Just 10 minutes south of Smoky Lake you will find [Métis Crossing](#), the first Indigenous meeting site for the Métis, Europeans and other Indigenous Peoples.



73 I'll take that to go, please...Polychemical Industries of Edmonton was the first Canadian company to manufacture polystyrene coffee cups in 1953.



74 Introduced in 1983, the Calgary Flames' mascot, Harvey the Hound, was the first-ever NHL mascot.



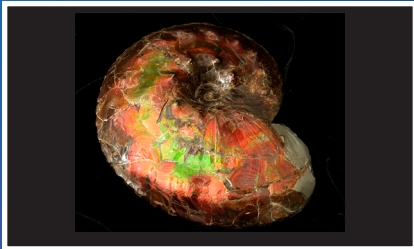
75 Alberta is the only province in Canada in which Métis people have rights over specific territories—the Métis Settlements. Eight settlements cover 512,121 hectares (1.25 million acres) of land in northern Alberta and give Métis people a land base, autonomy at a local level and self-sufficiency.



76 Some Indigenous members of the Alberta Order of Excellence include Jim Boucher (2020), Victor Buffalo (2007), Alex Janvier (2010), Leroy Little Bear (2016), Dr. Wilton Littlechild (2014), Lena Heavy Shields-Russell (2021) and Muriel Stanley Venne (2019).



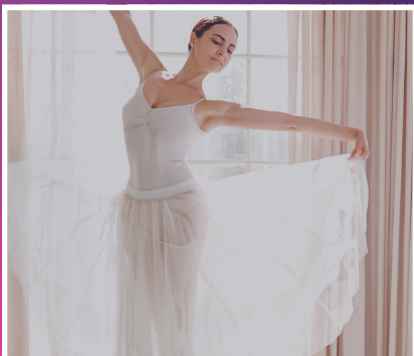
77 Alberta was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, Queen Victoria's fourth daughter.



78 Rare as Alberta's beauty, the Ammolite gemstone can only be found in Alberta. Ammolite became Alberta's official gemstone in 2022.



79 The Edmonton Grads women's basketball team were national and international champions, and from 1915 to 1940 won more than 95% of their games.



80 Dance, paint and sing your heart out! Alberta is the first and only province to have a month dedicated to celebrating artists. Celebrate [Month of the Artist](#) in September.



81

The first Muslim cabinet minister in Canada, Larry Shaben, was elected as the MLA for Lesser Slave Lake in 1975.



82

Alberta has an official provincial song, called Alberta. The song was created for the centennial of the province in 2005. You can find sheet music for various instruments on alberta.ca/alberta-emblems.



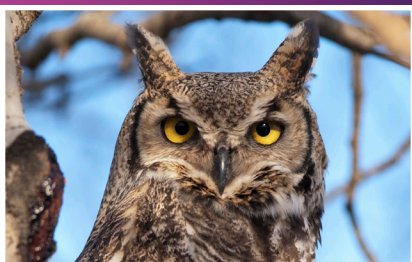
83

Raise the flag! Alberta's provincial flag, adopted in 1968, features a crest that beautifully captures the province's iconic landscapes. At the base are golden wheat fields, rising through rugged prairie and foothills and crowned by the majestic Rocky Mountains beneath a clear blue sky.



84

Alberta's two provincial colours are blue and gold, representing the big blue sky and vast golden prairies of the province.



85

What a hoot! In 1977, children across the province voted on a provincial bird of Alberta, ultimately choosing the Great Horned Owl.



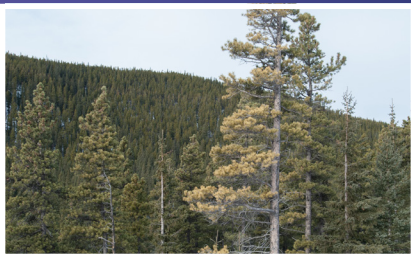
86 Stop and smell the roses... Alberta's official flower is the wild rose, which grows almost everywhere in the province.



87 Alberta has the largest area of rough fescue grassland in the world and is the only place in North America that has plains, foothills and northern rough fescue. In 2003, rough fescue became the official grass of Alberta.



88 Alberta's official stone is petrified wood. It's commonly found in gravel pits and is made of fallen trees from the Cretaceous and Paleocene eras—60 to 90 million years ago!



89 Alberta's official tree is the lodgepole pine. It was used to make rail ties in the early 1900s and still plays an important role in Alberta's forest industry.



90 Alberta's official mammal is the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Prehistoric bighorn sheep remains have been found in river valleys across Alberta.



91 Alberta's official fish is the bullhorn trout. Bullhorn trout is one of eight species of trout found in Alberta.



92 Vroom vroom! The [Reynolds-Alberta Museum](#) has the largest collection of cars, airplanes, tractors and industrial machines in Canada.



93 More than 261,000 Albertans—that's 6.2% of the population—can speak French well enough to hold a conversation according to the 2021 census!



94 Approximately 2,000 communities and natural sites in Alberta have French-influenced names, and four municipalities are officially bilingual (Beaumont, Legal, Falher and Plamondon).



95 The [Royal Alberta Museum](#) officially opened its doors on December 6, 1967. Back then, it was called the "Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta". It was renamed "Royal" after Queen Elizabeth II visited in 2005.



96 The home of Stephan Stephansson, known as “the poet of the Rocky Mountains,” is preserved at [Stephansson House](#) near Markerville as a provincial historic site.



97 The first Indigenous police officer in Canada, Alexander Decoteau, joined the Edmonton Police in 1911. He also represented Canada at the 1912 Summer Olympics in the 5-kilometre race.



98 Katherine Hughes became the first woman to head a provincial archives in Canada in 1908.



99 Yeehaw! The first professional rodeo in Canada took place in Raymond in 1903.



100 Did you know that the first car in Alberta was a Locomobile brought to Calgary by W.E. Cochrane?



101

Up, Up and Away! Lethbridge-born Rosella Bjornson was the first female commercial pilot in Canada.



102

Annie Gale was elected to Calgary City Council in 1917, becoming the first woman to be elected to a municipal government in Canada.



103

The SunRise residential building in Edmonton received a Guinness World Record in 2025 for featuring the world's largest solar panel mural, created by Indigenous artist Lance Cardinal.



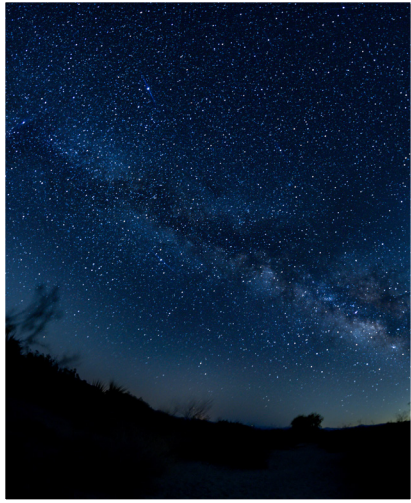
104

The Canadian Rockies Rodeo North, held annually in Calgary, is the only gay rodeo in Canada.



105

In 1998, the Vriend case led to sexual orientation being added to the protected grounds in the Alberta Human Rights Act, establishing a foundation for equal rights for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people across Canada.



106

Bon Accord was the first Canadian town to be designated an International Dark Sky Community. This designation, awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association, recognizes communities that actively work to reduce light pollution and protect the natural night environment. Through responsible lighting policies and community education, Bon Accord has become a leader in preserving dark skies, making it a prime spot for stargazing and connecting with Alberta's nightscape.



107

In 1872, to encourage people to immigrate to the prairies, the Canadian government offered 65 hectares for \$10, provided a residence was built on the land within three years. Many pioneers built sod huts for their families until they could build a permanent house.



108

Alberta's coat of arms includes several unique Alberta elements, including the wild roses on the base, a beaver and a pronghorn antelope. Alberta's motto is at the bottom: "Fortis et Liber" or "Strong and Free."



109

The Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was the first park in the world to span an international border, uniting Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park and the United States' Glacier National Park. This unique designation highlights the shared responsibility of protecting wilderness across borders and the cooperation in preserving natural landscapes.



110

Let's go shopping! Alberta is home to one of North America's largest shopping malls. West Edmonton Mall is home to over 800 stores, an NHL-sized skating rink, aquarium, hotel, mini golf and amusement park.



111

The world's first UFO landing pad was built in St. Paul in 1967.



112

Alberta is the fourth-largest province in Canada, covering an area of 661,000 square kilometres (255,000 square miles)—about the same size as the American state of Texas—and more than twice the size of Italy.



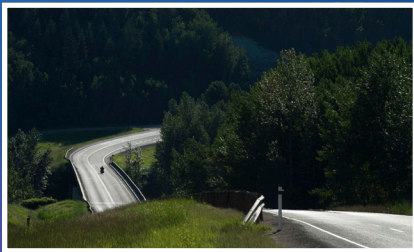
113

I'll have mine with chili sauce, please! Green Onion Cakes are considered the “unofficial” official food of Edmonton. The dish was introduced and popularized in the 1980s by chef Siu To, who came to Edmonton from northern China in 1978.



114

Alberta is home to many talented actors, musicians, dancers and artists, including Nathan Fillion, Nickelback, Brett Kissel, Tegan and Sara and Evangeline Lilly, to name a few!



115

Boreal forest covers almost half our province. We also have prairies, desert badlands and more than 600 lakes and 245 rivers to enjoy.



116

Our province has many unique landmarks. You can see the world's largest pysanka (Ukrainian Easter Egg) in Vegreville, the world's largest kubasa (Ukrainian sausage) in Mundare and a 1,500 pound beaver in, where else, Beaverlodge.



117

Joe Clark, born in High River, became the youngest person to ever head a government when, in 1979, he was sworn in as Canada's prime minister at the age of 39.



118 Season 1 of The Last of Us was filmed in more than 180 locations across Alberta.



119 Annie May Jackson became the first female police officer in Canada when she joined the Edmonton Police Department in 1912.



120 The Honourable Norman L. Kwong of Calgary was installed as Alberta's 16th Lieutenant Governor on January 20, 2005, becoming the first person of Chinese heritage to hold the position in Alberta. He was also the first Chinese-Canadian to play in the Canadian Football League, adding to his many accomplishments.