Lester Pearson: The Politician and Public Servant Who Gave Canada Its New Flag



Lester Bowles Pearson, PC, OM, CC (April 23, 1897 – December 27, 1972) was a Canadian politician, diplomat, and academic who served as the 14th

prime minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968. He is best known for his role in the creation of the Canadian flag, which was adopted in 1965.



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Pearson was born in Newtonbrook, Ontario, to Edwin Arthur Pearson, a Methodist minister, and Annie Sarah Bowles. He was educated at the University of Toronto and Oxford University. After graduating from Oxford, Pearson worked as a history professor at the University of Toronto. He entered politics in 1948, when he was elected to the House of Commons as a member of the Liberal Party.

Pearson served in various ministerial roles in the government of Louis St. Laurent. In 1957, he was appointed Minister of External Affairs. As Minister of External Affairs, Pearson played a key role in the development of Canada's foreign policy. He was a strong supporter of the United Nations, and he played a major role in the creation of the peacekeeping force.

In 1963, Pearson was elected leader of the Liberal Party. He led the party to victory in the 1963 federal election, and became Prime Minister of Canada. As Prime Minister, Pearson oversaw the adoption of the new

Canadian flag. He also played a key role in the negotiation of the Canada-US Automotive Agreement, which created a free trade zone between the two countries.

Pearson retired from politics in 1968. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1972 for his work in promoting international peace and cooperation.

Legacy

Pearson is considered one of the most important figures in Canadian history. He is remembered for his role in the creation of the Canadian flag, his work in developing Canada's foreign policy, and his commitment to international peace and cooperation.

The Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa, Ontario, is named in his honor. The building is home to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.

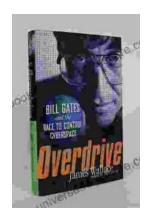
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