



THIS IS CANADA

ROAD TRIP License plates across the country

Found on every vehicle across the country, license plates highlight the uniqueness of various regions. While every province and territory require license plates to be displayed, each has its own design, rules and history.

The **Yukon** first required vehicles to have a registered license plate in 1914. From 1917 to 1923, homemade plates were issued that had black numbers on a white background with YT written on the right side. In 1924, the first official license plate was issued. Changing over the years, the plate now features a gold miner with black and red type.

The **Northwest Territories** first required vehicles to register and display license plates in 1941. To celebrate the centennial of the territory in 1970, the Northwest Territories introduced a polar bear-shaped plate to replace the traditional rectangular design. The unique design stuck and is still displayed on cars today and seen as a trademark of the northern territory. Both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut use all-numeric plates.

Founded in 1999 after being split from the Northwest Territories, **Nunavut** adopted the NWT's polar bear-shaped license plate that was used in Nunavut until 2012. A contest to create a new design attracted 200 entries and was won by resident Ron Froese. His design included a polar bear, an inuksuk, three sets of Northern Lights to represent the three regions of Nunavut, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk and 25 stars to represent the communities of the territory, depicted on a rectangular shape.

Back in 1910, residents of **British Columbia** displayed their own license plates created with metal numbers and letters on a strip of wood or leather. In 1913 the Province began to issue registered plates made of porcelain enameled metal. A Winter Olympics plate was created to mark the 2010 games. Drivers can purchase one of three plates that depict nature scenes, the sales of which are invested in provincial parks. As of June 2018, the program had raised \$2.3 million.

In 1912 and 1913, **Alberta** plates were made from porcelain enameled iron and in

1914 and 1915 they were made from a thin sheet metal with a silkscreened number. The slogan on the modern plate is "Wild Rose Country", a tribute to the provincial flower. Calgary Flames and Edmonton Oilers specialty plates are available to hockey fans and proceeds fund local charities.

License plates in **Saskatchewan** were first required in 1912 and began as a black and white design with the year vertically on the right side and 'Sask' vertically on the left with the plate number in the middle. The plates are now detailed with a wheat graphic. Saskatchewan is one of three provinces that doesn't use a renewal sticker. Drivers can choose from a selection of specialty plates that include Saskatchewan Rough Riders and Saskatchewan SPCA.

One of the three provinces that requires vehicles to display both a front and rear license plate, **Manitoba** first began requiring license plates in 1911. The plate is designed with a frame of green trees, a bison in the right corner and both English and French type in the top and bottom of the plate.



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