

PUCKS, PADDLES AND POUTINE



Cover by
Bill Dickson

Written by
Pat Hancock, Marg Meikle, Kara Woodburn,
Erin O'Connor, Stella Partheniou Grasso, Howard
Hershkowitz, Dodie and Audrey McKim

Illustrations by
Bill Dickson, Tina Holdcroft,
Dimitri Kostic and Dom Pelletier

SCHOLASTIC CANADA LTD.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Pucks, paddles and poutine / cover by Bill Dickson ; written by Pat Hancock, Marg Meikle, Kara Woodburn, Erin O'Connor, Stella Partheniou Grasso, Howard Hershkowitz, Dodie McKim and Audrey McKim ; illustrations by Bill Dickson, Tina Holdcroft, Dimitri Kostic and Dom Pelletier.

Names: Hancock, Pat, 1946- author.

Identifiers: Canadiana 20260169994 | ISBN 9781039718401 (softcover)

Subjects: LCSH: Canada—Juvenile humor. | LCSH: Canada—Miscellanea—Juvenile literature.

| CSH: Canadian wit and humor (English)—Juvenile literature.

| LCSH: Canadian wit and humor—Juvenile literature.

| LCSH: Wit and humor, Juvenile. | LCGFT: Humor.

| LCGFT: Trivia and miscellanea.

Classification: LCC PN6231.C19 H36 2026 | DDC jC818/.602—dc23

www.scholastic.ca

© 2026 Scholastic Canada Ltd.

Please see full credits page 346.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, downloaded, decompiled, reverse engineered, or used to train any artificial intelligence technologies, or stored in or introduced into any information storage and retrieval system, in any form or by any means, whether electronic or mechanical, now known or hereafter invented, without the express written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Canada Ltd., 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2, Canada, or email permissions@scholastic.ca. In the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, a licence must be obtained from Access Copyright (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), www.accesscopyright.ca or 1-800-893-5777.



**ONLY IN
CANADA**

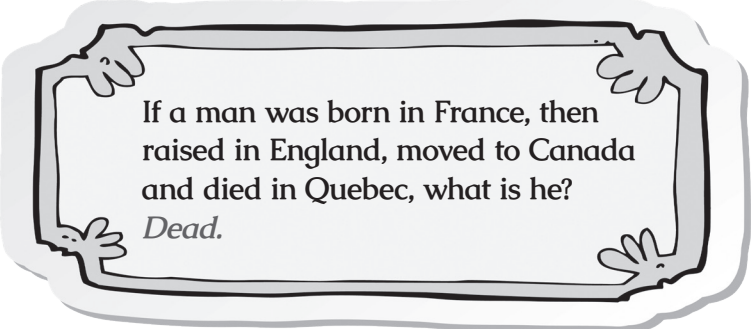
SAY WHAT?

Canada has two official languages, English and French. Our provinces and territories, however, are all over the map. Quebec has one official language: French. New Brunswick is the only province with two official languages: English and French. The other provinces have not made any languages official, nor has Yukon Territory, but the territory of Nunavut has four official languages: English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

And the Northwest Territories? Beneath the snowflake inspired crown atop the mace, or ceremonial rod, that symbolizes the government's authority are the words "One land, many voices" — showing how committed the government is to respect all the languages used by its people. So the Northwest Territories has 11 official languages: English, French, Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tłı̨chǫ.

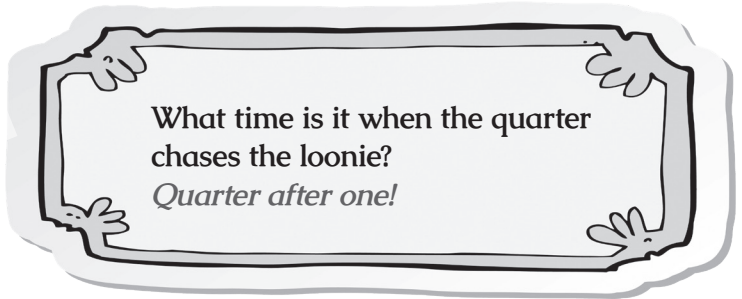
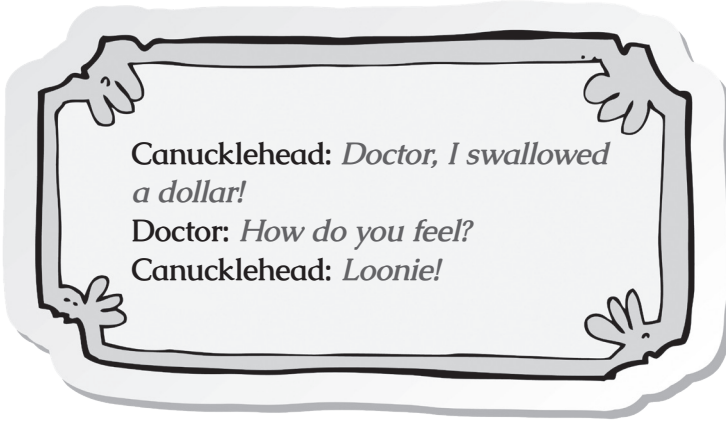
Dead!

For nearly 80 years, starting in 1685, playing cards were as good as gold in Canada. During that time, they were used like money in New France — France's colony in North America back then. When real money was in short supply, the governor would have some playing cards cut into quarters and assign each part a value equal to a certain number of French coins. To make them official, the cards were marked with the treasurer's wax seal and signed by the governor and his intendant or business manager. When supply ships finally arrived from France with money from the king or from the sale of furs sent back to Europe the year before, people could cash in their card money for the real thing.



If a man was born in France, then raised in England, moved to Canada and died in Quebec, what is he?

Dead.



Teacher: *Why did the voyageurs cross the country in canoes?*

Student: *Because they didn't want to wait 150 years for a train.*





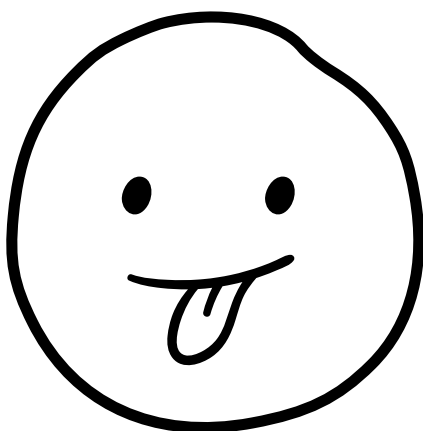
Look

Charles Connell, a lumberman born in Carleton County, New Brunswick, in 1810, was a popular politician in that province both before and after Confederation. A strong believer in responsible government, he worked hard on behalf of his constituents right up until his death in 1873. But in 1860 he made a foolish choice.

In 1859 New Brunswick's lieutenant-governor appointed him postmaster general and asked him to organize the design and production of new 1-, 5-, 10- and 12½-cent stamps. The new stamps were supposed to go on sale on May 1, 1860. But when the lieutenant-governor was sent a set for approval in late April, he was stunned. The 5-cent stamp was unacceptable. He had expected to see a portrait of Queen Victoria on it, but that picture had been replaced with one of a man he knew well — none other than Charles Connell himself!

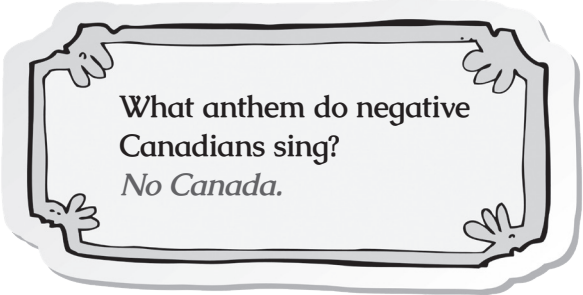
at Me!

Connell was ordered not to release the stamp on May 1st and to get replacements printed as quickly as possible. He did as he was told, and then quickly resigned as postmaster general. He personally bought all 500,000 copies of the rejected stamps and burned almost all of them, saving just a few sheets as souvenirs for his daughters and a close friend. Voters eventually forgave and forgot, electing him as a member of Canada's new Parliament in 1867.

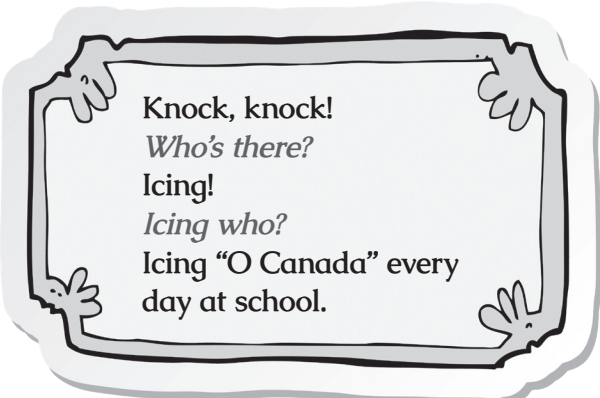




What did the patriotic snail sing?
Slow Canada.



What anthem do negative
Canadians sing?
No Canada.



Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Icing!
Icing who?
Icing "O Canada" every
day at school.

RIDDLE RIDDLE

1. When is a train like water?
2. When are men and women of the RCMP like oranges?
3. What is the strongest bird in Canada?
4. When is our weather like a king?
5. What Canadian cup has no handles?
6. Every child in Canada spends much time making it, yet no one can see it. What is it?
7. How do you know Peace River is rich?
8. Why do people swim in Lake Ontario?



1. when it runs; 2. when they're in quarters; 3. the crane; 4. when it rains (reigns); 5. the buttercup; 6. noise; 7. it has two banks; 8. because they can't walk on it

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Canada is so wide that it's divided into six time zones: Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern, Atlantic and Newfoundland. So there's a 4-hour time difference between places in British Columbia and Newfoundland. As well, each spring Canada switches to Daylight Saving Time, which is one hour later than standard time. Since 2007 the switch happens on the second Sunday of March — and the country returns to using standard time on the first weekend of November.

So if you know about the time zones and Daylight Saving Time, you shouldn't have any trouble figuring out what time it is, right? Not so fast.

Saskatchewan doesn't switch to Daylight Saving Time in the spring. Except for Denare Beach, and Creighton, Saskatchewan, which do switch because folks there want to run on the same time as Flin Flon, Manitoba. Lloydminster, which is right on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, switches too.