

## TARTAN DAY GREETINGS 2015

Tartan Day. It's a time to celebrate and appreciate the important role of our Scottish ancestors, immigrants, and their descendants who have made Canada and New Brunswick their home. It's a time to recognize the important contributions they have made and continue to make to our cultural and economic make up. It's also a time for us, as members of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association to proudly display our Scottish ancestry.

The celebration of Tartan Day is distinctively Canadian; it has evolved from an idea developed by Joan Watson of the Federation of Scottish Clans (now the Federation for Scottish Culture) in Nova Scotia and was proclaimed in Nova Scotia on April 6, 1987. April 6<sup>th</sup> was chosen because on this date in 1320 the Declaration of Arbroath (see image) was prepared as a formal declaration of Scottish independence at Arbroath Abbey.



New Brunswick proclaimed its first Tartan Day on April 6, 1993. Today all provinces of Canada celebrate Tartan Day. The Federal Government proclaimed Tartan Day on April 6, 2010 and also took the opportunity to proclaim the Maple Leaf Tartan as Canada's National Tartan.

Tartan Day is now celebrated in many countries including Scotland, England, New Zealand, Australia, United States, Argentina, and Cuba.

This year in New Brunswick Tartan Day will be celebrated by the raising of the Flag of St. Andrew, Scotland's patron Saint, in various New Brunswick communities; wearing of the tartan, Tartan Day teas and dinners, and family celebrations. The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association will be raising the flag of St. Andrew at the Provincial Legislature at 10:00am on April 6. It is also anticipated that New Brunswick's Tartan Day proclamation of 1993 will be re-read in the Legislature sometime.

So let's be proud of our Scottish heritage and culture on Tartan Day and celebrate the contributions made by our ancestors to New Brunswick's diversity.

Have a Great Tartan Day!

Mel Fitton, President  
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association