

International Coats of Arms

Chains of Office

Regalia steeped in tradition



For over a thousand years, originating with the Dukes of Normandy, civic authorities have borne an official seal incorporating the arms of the authority. This seal was originally worn on a gold chain around the neck of the chief official. This “decoration” has evolved into the modern Chain of Office. The practice of wearing a Chain of Office has become steeped in historic tradition, and is one which is followed not only by elected officials, but by the executives of civic organizations as well.

At International Coats of Arms we can custom design new Chains of Office or refurbish existing chains. We also offer a standard chain of office that incorporates some of the most popular elements of the many chains that we have made over our 30 years.

A chain of office is composed of elements joined with pieces of chain from which hangs a medallion. Chains of office are almost always sewn onto a velvet collar, which is not only decorative, but makes the chain much more comfortable to wear, and protects the wearer’s clothes from damage. Chains and attachments are available in gold, silver, pewter and copper. Although every item is to a large degree a custom item, a standard chain of office is composed of:

The Suspended Municipal Medallion

The large (generally about 7cm) medallion that hangs from the bottom of the chain. This medallion displays the municipal coat of arms, a town crest or a logo. It can be full colour or in metal. This item can be custom designed by us, or we can use your existing artwork.

A Velvet Collar

The chain itself is sewn onto a 2” wide velvet collar. The standard size is an oval measuring 19.5” front to back and 16” from side to side. The collar is available in five deep shades of velvet.

A Medallion Pouch

A velvet pouch matching the collar with a drawstring closure protects the large medallion from any scratching when the chain is not being worn.

Provincial and Federal Armorial

Generally incorporated into the chain are the provincial coat of arms at the centre front, and the federal coat of arms at the centre back.

Attachments and Name Bars

Various attachments can connect the lengths of chain. Name bars can be engraved with the names of office holders. We also offer a selection of standard and custom decorative attachments. Most popular among them are maple leaves, provincial flowers, fir trees, buckles, and flatbacks, which can encompass local emblems or motto engravings.

A Carrying Case

The case makes it convenient to transport the chain of office in a well-protected and easy to carry manner. It holds the collar, medallion pouch and has a few extra pockets for other ceremonial items.

International Coats of Arms



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Typical Chain of Office Layout and Standard Attachments *



“Standard” Chain of Office

A Canadian Coat of Arms

B Name bars (maximum of 24)

C Custom municipal or provincial emblem or logo

D The suspended medallion: features your armorial design or logo

E The Provincial Coat of Arms

F Standard or custom attachments

The Chain of Office is available in Gold, Silver and Pewter. Colour is available on medallions.



* Custom layouts available on request.

Chain of Office Attachments



The three finishes we offer are silver, pewter and gold.



Flat Back

A flat back is quite often the base on which designs, including provincial flowers, municipal crests, coats of arms are displayed. The flat back can also be engraved with names of municipalites, towns or councillors.

Custom Pieces

Our most popular attachments include maple leaves, pine trees, anchors and buckles.

However, we can also accomodate nearly any custom piece that you require for your chain of office. Provincial or territorial coats of arms are also commonly applied to chains.

Images related to your community's particular geography or industry will form a distinctive chain of office that will be cherished for years to come.



Buckles

Buckles are classic elements in most chains of office. They can be left plain or another attachment such as a provincial or municipal coat of arms can be applied onto the buckle.



Name Bars

The names of mayors or reeves and their date of office can be engraved on our name bars.



Provincial Pieces

Provincial flowers are a very popular attachment. As the provincial flower (or other symbols) are available in full colour, they can really add some 'life' to a chain of office.

Provincial or territorial coats of arms are also commonly applied to chains.



** Please note that these objects are not actual size*

Medallions

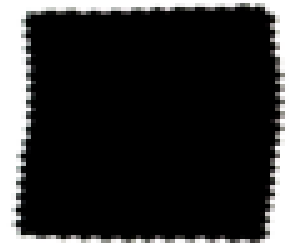
Velvet Colour Choices



Burgundy



Black



*Hunter
Green*



*Ruby
Red*



Delivery time for chains of office is approximately eight to twelve weeks. However, rush service is available, should you require it.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding artwork and design options; we are happy to provide whatever assistance necessary to arrive at an appropriate design.

Please note that the colours shown are only approximations. Our printer can not exactly duplicate the actual colours of the materials.

Colour swatches available upon request.