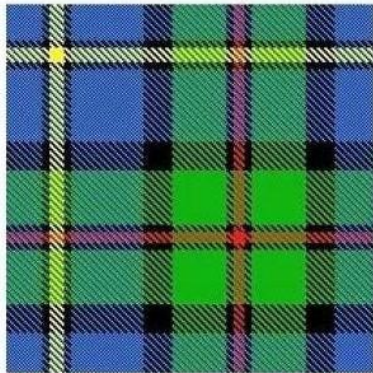


## TARTAN DAY – APRIL 6

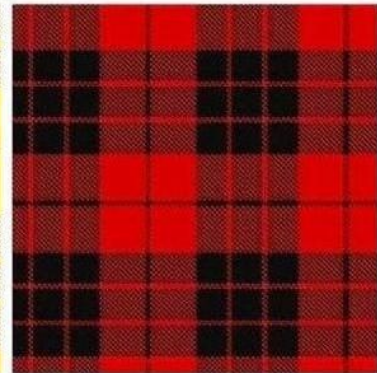
### **Three Most Worn MacLeod Tartans** **(of at least 33 "MacLeod/McLeod/ M'Kleod" tartans - 30 registered with "The Scottish Register of Tartans")**



**MacLeod/Harris (#1583)**



**Lewis (#1272)**



**Raasay (#1172)**



**MacLeod Canada ( #11191)**

April 6, is officially recognized as Tartan Day in Canada, the USA and Argentina (it is July 1 in Australia and New Zealand). Along with Robbie Burns Day (January 25), it is a day on which the Scottish Diaspora remembers and celebrates its heritage.

There are about 6 million Scots in Scotland, and between 28 and 40 million of Scots descent around the world. About 5 million (or 15%) of Canadians claim Scottish ancestry.

April 6 commemorates the signing of The Declaration of Arbroath, the declaration of Scottish independence, made on April 6, 1320 (following Robert the Bruce's victory at Bannockburn, near Stirling, on June 24, 1314 – remember the closing battle in Braveheart). (In Australia and New Zealand, July 1 is celebrated as the anniversary of the repeal, on July 1, 1782, of the 1747 Act of Proscription (British), that banned the wearing of tartan.)

**Ian C. MacLeod – 2017 -Tartan Day**

That Declaration of Arbroath said, among other things:

“for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.”

– pretty inspiring stuff!

The first Tartan Day was a “one off” event in New York State and City on July 1, 1982, to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the repeal of that Act of Proscription. The current April 6 recognition originated in various Canadian cities and Provinces in the 1980s

On October 21, 2010, Tartan Day was formally recognized by the Government of Canada.

In the US, on April 4, 2008, President George Bush signed a Presidential Proclamation making April 6th National Tartan Day. Before that, US Senate Resolution 155, passed on March 20, 1998, referred to the predominance of Scots among the Founding Fathers and claimed that the American Declaration of Independence was "modeled on" the Declaration of Arbroath.

President Woodrow Wilson (28th President, 1913-1921) said of the Scots, "Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood."

The Maple Leaf Tartan was approved as an official symbol of Canada on March 9, 2011.

And of course, there is the book by Dr. Arthur Herman (Professor of History at Georgetown University): “How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The true story of how western Europe's poorest nation created our world & everything in it”, November 2001, Crown Publishing Group, NY.

There are perhaps 9,000 tartans registered with “The Scottish Register of Tartans”. There are at least 33 (30 registered) with the MacLeod name, but the three most commonly worn are the MacLeod of MacLeod/Harris (green/blue), MacLeod of Lewis (yellow/black) and MacLeod of Raasay (red/black). A sample of those three, of the Clan MacLeod Canada and composite Canadian Maple Leaf tartans are at the top of this document.

So, on April 6, we wear our tartans and we remember our proud and storied heritage (and maybe even hoist a wee dram – of the single malt variety, of course!).