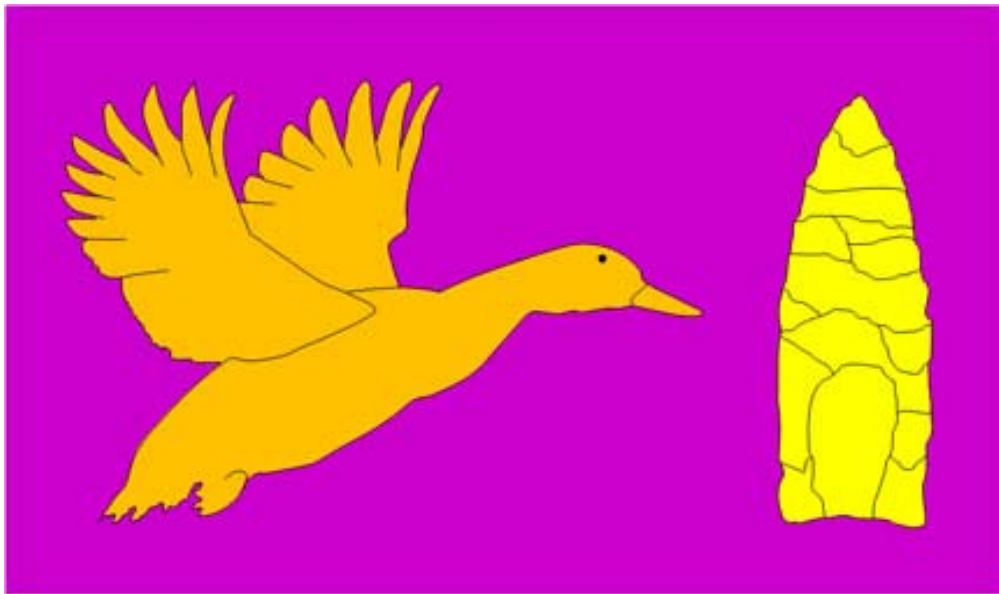


A FLAG FOR NORTH AMERICA

WILLIAM E. DOOLITTLE

Many of us who live in North America, and travel frequently throughout the region, find it disconcerting to deal with international borders, customs and immigration officials. We find ourselves equally at home in Canada, México, and the United States, and are comfortable communicating in English, French, and Spanish. We celebrate the richness of the region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but recognize that our people share more similarities than differences, and that the similarities are innately human qualities. We are not particularly fond of politics, or policies that separate rather than unite us.

It is doubtful that one country rather than three will be a reality any time soon. However, given recent events and circumstances, such as ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the formation of the European Union, there is need for flag under which all North Americans call rally, not as nationals of one country, but as residents of the greater region. I propose the following.



This flag is distinctive, simple, and emblematic. The color scheme is unique. Rather than combining green, blue, and red, the colors used in the flags of México, the United States, and Canada, the colors of the proposed flag are yellow,

orange, and purple—the other three colors of the color wheel and prism-refracted light. Purple is the color of royalty, and the purple field symbolizes the rejection of monarchies, and the notion that every person is noble in her or his own right. The duck symbolizes the beauty and fragility of the region's natural environment. It is a clean and peaceful bird, neither scavenger nor predator. On the wing, it also represents unrestricted individual freedom. A migratory animal, the duck's range extends from the arctic to the tropics, thereby representing the entire region. The stone spear point used for hunting is a tribute to the region's early human inhabitants. It represents the land's abundant resources, symbolizes the ingenuity and skill of people to manufacture useful products that are traded widely to the advantage of all, and reminds us that everyone here is either an immigrant or the descendent of an immigrant. It points upward, the cartographic representation of North. Yellow and orange are warm and happy colors, indicative of the region's people. A bit of black trim is used in place of the white common to the flags of the region's three current countries.

11 July 2008