AUDIO | New Canada 150 typeface supports English, French, indigenous languages

Raymond Larabie absorbed typographical knowledge from Canadian Tire logo, Shoppers Drug Mart

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Canada 150 typeface supports the country's two official language and indigenous languages. (Government of Canada)

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 Aboriginal languages in Canada can and should be made official, expert says Ottawa native Raymond Larabie was living half a world away in Japan when the federal government asked him to design a unified font that could support English, French and indigenous languages in time for Canada's 150th birthday.

His task was to build on an English and French font he released last year.

The result was the Canada 150 typeface.

"If you picture the Monopoly font, how it's got kind of pointy bits on the M and the N, it's that kind of idea," he told Alan Neal on CBC Radio's *All In A Day.* "It wasn't designed to be terribly exciting. It's meant to be kind of in the background and quiet."

The Canada 150 typeface includes all Latin characters and accents, as well as common Cyrillic characters and syllabic and diacritical elements that are part of indigenous languages.

The typeface can be used by any individual or group that first **goes** through the federal government's application process.

Fonts for sandwiches

Larabie was born in Ottawa but grew up in cottage country along the Madawaska River. He now lives in Nagoya, Japan where his company **Typodermic Fonts Inc.** is based.

Although "it doesn't make sense" that he designed a typeface for Canada while living abroad, Larabie did say his years in Canada set him on the right track.

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"I had already absorbed so much typographical knowledge from Canada from looking at the Canadian Tire logo and Shoppers Drug Mart. All those years, it just kind of soaked in," he said.

Listen to the full interview below.

His company website offers some fonts for free — but it does accept sandwiches as a donation.

"The sandwich situation is dire in Japan," he said. "I hate to bad-mouth this country but they have some troubles with sandwiches. They just don't get it."

View the entire typeface here:

CANADA 150 REG.

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Canadian typeface designer Raymond Larabie created Canada 150. (Government of Canada)



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Kent cooks Christmas

12:07

Food reviewer Kent Van Dyk cooks Christmas leftovers in the studio, and while CBC hosts taste the delicious fare live-to-air



Our Ottawa - December 19, 2015

44.10

The stories and people that our city is talking about - every week on CBC's Our Ottawa with Adrian Harewood.



Shadi Al Khalil sponsored 8 Syrian families!

8:50

An Ottawa man has worked tirelessly to bring as many refugees here as possible. Except there is a hitch... he is having trouble getting his own mother here.



The "Natural History" angle of Star Wars

7:04

It's a stretch talking about "reality" in a Star Wars film, but Paul Sokoloff of The Canadian Museum of Nature makes those links between what's on the big screen and actual living things on earth.

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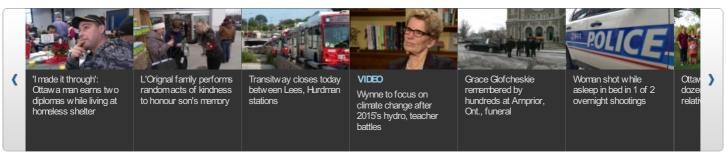
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