IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR CANADA – FRENCH REGION

This region covers the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Original Church Records (Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials– both Catholic and Protestant) **Census Records**	**Compiled Church Records** (Marriage Repertoires, published parish records, PRDH Database, Tanguay's Dictionary, Jette's Dictionary) **Marriage Indexes** (Loiselle, Drouin) **Notarial Records and Indexes** **U.S. Records**: • **Border Crossing Records** (Canada to U.S.) • **U.S. Naturalization Records** • **U.S. Census Records** • **U.S. Vital Records**	**Land and Property Records** **Border Crossing Records** (U.S. to Canada) **Loyalist Records** **County Histories**

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO CANADA – FRENCH

- Know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client's research problem. To learn about resources for this region check out the following:

    - *Cyndi's List* see categories for Canada and each province in the region.

    - *Facebook* genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific titles

    - *FamilySearch* Family History Library Wiki article "Canada Genealogy." The map at the bottom of the page allows quick access to each province in the region.

    - Your favorite search engine.

- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, federal/national). Many of which are available online. The following websites are helpful:
  - *Bibliothèque et Archives Canada*
  - *La Société généalogique canadienne-française*
  - *BAnQ*
  - *FrancoGéne*
  - *AMICUS*
  - *French-Canadian Resources*
  - *Research Guides for New France*
  - *Parish Records – French-Canadian*
  - *PRDH-IGD*
  - *BMS2000 Group*
  - *Early Canadiana Online*
  - *Canada Immigration and Citizenship Genealogy Guide*
  - *FamilySearch Canada Record Collections*
  - *Ancestry.com Canada Record Collections*
  - *Ancestry.com Drouin Collection*
  - *Facebook Canada Genealogy Research Community*
  - *Facebook French-Canadian Heritage Society*
  - *FamilySearch Wiki Canada Genealogy*
  - *Canada Online Genealogy Records*
  - *Our Roots – Canada's Local Histories Online*
  - *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*
  - *Directory of Selected Genealogical Resources - Archives Canada*
  - *CanadaGen Web*
  - *Canadian Genealogy & History Links*
  - *Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry*
  - *American-French Genealogical Society*
  - *American-Canadian Genealogical Society*
  - *Quebec Family History Society*

See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki, "Canada Online Genealogy Records" for more suggestions. (However, some links on this list may not apply to this region.) Links to province specific lists are found at the bottom of the page.

- Applicants for accreditation in the CANADA – FRENCH region, must demonstrate their language ability as part of the exam by accurately transcribing documents of genealogical significance into English. Refer to the [Paleography Language Ability Table](#) to determine your language ability. Most materials used in FRENCH CANADIAN research are written in French. Because of CANADA's history you are likely to find Roman Catholic Church records (written in Latin and French) in Quebec, in parts of Nova Scotia, and in New Brunswick, Ontario, and Manitoba where there was heavy French settlement.[1] For more information regarding language of this region see *FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki* articles. To locate them use the terms (name of province) Language and Languages in the search field. A helpful source for learning languages is ICAPGen's ["Paleography Classes and Sample Documents."](#)

- Remember that the spelling of surnames was not standardized in parish or civil records. Many FRENCH-CANADIANS used dit or dite names/nicknames in addition to a surname or as a substitute for a surname.[2] For help in using the dit/dite names, refer to the podcast published by [Maple Stars and Stripes – Your French-Canadian Genealogy Podcast](#). Another resource is the chart of [Surnames French-Canadian: Variants, Dit, Anglicization, etc.](#) by the American-French Genealogical Society.

- Be familiar with the changes that may occur from record to record regarding CANADIAN names. *For example: In this region women retained their maiden name. In all parts of CANADA, children usually used the surname of the father.*

- Have an understanding that the term "Loyalists" refers to American colonists who remained loyal to the British Crown. Many of them served under the British during the American Revolution (1775-1783). Loyalists settled in what are now the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario. The [Archives](#) in each of these provinces will have records relating to Loyalists. [Library and Archives](#)

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[1] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Canada_Language_and_Languages
[2] http://habitantheritage.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Surnames_and_dit_or_dite_Names.38190323.pdf

[Canada](#) holds a variety of sources relating to the United Empire Loyalists who settled in Canada after the American Revolution (1775-1783).

- Be familiar with the dates of commencement of vital registration in each province of the region. A useful section of Links to Wiki pages for each Province for information with dates of commencement of registration and accompanying notes may be found [HERE.](#)

- Don't assume relationships. Exhaust research efforts to make connections. For example, consider using the [CANADA Record Selection Table](#) for further research suggestions to locate other records and evidence that might aid your research and help form conclusions.

- Consider downloading the printed FamilySearch Library [Research Outline](#) for each province in the region. Even though this Research Guide was taken out of print in 2009, some researchers still use the outlines as they contain valuable information about genealogy and records that are applicable to today's research.

- Be familiar with key repositories used for CANADA - FRENCH genealogical research. Refer to *[FamilySearch](#)* [Family History Research Wiki](#) articles, which can be accessed by searching "[name of province] Archives and Libraries."

- Prominent reference works for the CANADA FRENCH REGION such as *French-Canadian Sources, A Guide for Genealogists,* by Patricia Keeney Geyh et all, Ancestry, 2002. More suggestions are discussed in *[FamilySearch](#)* [Family History Research Wiki](#) articles and can be accessed by searching "[name of province] for Further Reading."

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.

- Be familiar and understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws.

- Look beyond the records that are online or on microfilm as some records might only be available on-site. Check private collections and contact courthouses, churches, and other repositories.

- Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.

- Source each event in each person's life. Capture the information about each source to facilitate proper citation when writing the report.

- Keep a research log of all records searched, including any searches for which nothing was found.

- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions.

- Verify generational links.

- Substitute records might be used when there is a lack of records or record loss. An event might be recorded in multiple ways. For example, a marriage might be recorded civilly, by the church, or in a newspaper. Each should be checked. Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes.

This is an overview of some resources, record types, and strategies that may be covered on the ICAPGen regional exams. Although not a complete list, it is offered as a guide to build upon in your preparation for testing and to maintain your professional-level skills.