



BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, 1760-1867: PRIMARY SOURCES

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The documents indicated below fall primarily into the following main categories:

DEBATES: Sometimes referred to as Hansard, Debates provide a verbatim account of what is said in Parliament or a provincial legislative body. When the quality of the rhetoric is high, Debates can supply pungent quotes for a research paper.

JOURNALS: The Journals summarize the proceedings of a legislative body in chronological order. They are useful when searching for a quick overview of the events that transpired in the legislature. One can readily find out, for example, if a bill passed or not, without having to sift through all the verbiage found in the Debates.

SESSIONAL PAPERS: These are also known as either Parliamentary Papers, Supplements or Appendices to the Journals. In this set are bound together reports tabled in a legislative body. These can include Annual Reports of departments, reports of committees, statistical information such as the returns of the Census, reports of business institutions, royal commissions, etc. Sessional papers are an inestimable source of economic, political and social documentation.

STATUTES: These are the written laws approved by legislatures, parliaments or houses of assembly. They may also be referred to as legislation or acts.

BRITISH SOURCES

Parliamentary Debates (under various titles)	1101-	GovInfo GB1 X1 D...
Journals of the House of Commons	1509-	GovInfo GB1 X2 J5
House of Commons Parliamentary Papers of the 18th Century	1715-1800	GovInfo GB1 XP P10
Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers: Canada ---. Index	1801-1900	GovInfo GB1 XP P25BD GovInfo REF FC163 I75 1974
House of Commons Parliamentary Papers (complete set) --- Index		

	1841-1856	GovInfo CA1 X1 D18
Parliamentary Debates (as reported by newspapers)	1846-1873	GovInfo AV Micro Film 359
Parliamentary Debates on the Subject of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces ---. Index	1841-1866	GovInfo CA1 X1 D20 GovInfo CA1 X1 D20
Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Canada (+ Appendices)	1841-1866	GovInfo CA1 X2 J52

---. General Index		GovInfo CA1 X2 J53
Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada: an Index to Journal Appendices and Sessional Papers	1841-1866	GovInfo CA1 X2 J54
Provincial Statutes of Canada	1841-1866	GovInfo CA1 YX21 S20

LOWER CANADA SOURCES

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES, DIRECTORIES

Dictionnaire des parlementaires du québec, 1792-1992	GovInfo REF JL253 D54 1993
Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, 1758-1983: a Biographical Directory	GovInfo REF JL227 L44 1984
Legislators and Legislatures of Ontario: a Reference Guide, 1792-1984	GovInfo REF JL273 F67 1984

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES: available from <http://www.library.mcgill.ca/govdocs/GovCDList.htm>

[E-Stat](#) (Censuses of Canada 1665-1871)

[Early Canadiana Online: Early Official Publications](#), pre-1901 (McGill only)

[Index to the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers on CD-ROM](#), 1801- (Gt. Britain) (McGill only)