

Editors' Association of Canada
Comments on Canadian Content
in
The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition

Abbreviations for some standard Canadian references cited in comments below (full references appear at the end of this list):

CanOx	Canadian Oxford Dictionary
Gage	Gage Canadian Dictionary
Nelson	ITP Nelson Canadian Dictionary
CEncyc	The Canadian Encyclopedia
CP	The Canadian Press Stylebook/Caps and Spelling
CanStyle	The Canadian Style, revised edition
ECE2	Editing Canadian English, 2nd edition
Globe	Globe and Mail Style Book
OxGuide	[Oxford] Guide to Canadian Usage

5.202, *billion* (p. 203)

— **“In Great Britain, Canada, and Germany, a *billion* is a thousand times more than [1,000,000,000]”**

Canadian usage follows American, not British. Therefore, Canada should not be included in this group. (References: CanOx, Gage, Nelson, CP, CanStyle, ECE2, OxGuide.)

8.25, *Civil titles*

— **“the governor-general of Canada”**

In Canada, the official style is without the hyphen. That usage is consistent with 7.90, p. 305, which says compounds with “general” are always open. (References: Governor General’s Web site, CanOx, Gage, Nelson, CEncyc, CP, ECE2, CanStyle, OxGuide.)

— **“the prime minister ... (not normally used as a title preceding the name)”**

We can find no evidence to support this statement. (References: CP, CanStyle, ECE2, Globe, and OxGuide treat political titles preceding the name as normal.)

— **“the premier ... the Right Honourable”**

“Right Honourable” is incorrect for premiers; they are “Honourable.”
(References: federal Department of Canadian Heritage, *Ceremonial and Canadian Symbols Promotion*, Titles, http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/pe/titre_e.cfm, 2004/01/28 [cited January 28, 2004], CP, CanStyle, ECE2, OxGuide.)

— **“the member of Parliament ... Jane Doe, member of Parliament, or more commonly Jane Doe MP (not used as a title preceding the name)”**

As for “the prime minister” above, we can find no evidence supporting this statement.

8.26, Titles of sovereigns and other rulers

— **“Queen Elizabeth ... (in a British or Canadian context, the Queen)”**

The capitalization of “Queen” standing alone in reference to Queen Elizabeth is conventional throughout the Commonwealth, not only in Britain and Canada.
(References: Web site of the Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org/ [cited February 4, 2004], CP, OxGuide.)

8.35, Terms of respect

— **“the Right Honourable Joseph-Jacques Jean Chrétien (Canadian governor-general, prime minister, premier, etc.)”**

(1) Despite the caveat in the lead-in that the examples “are intended merely to illustrate capitalization,” Chicago users take the examples very seriously. The use of Chrétien’s rarely seen full name may suggest to non-Canadians that this is its usual form. Only “Jean” is used in all but the most arcane contexts. (2) No hyphen in governor general, as above. (3) A premier is not Right Honourable, as above.

8.41, Ethnic..., Capitalization

— **“Inuits”**

As in 8.35, the heading is Capitalization but the examples should be accurate in all respects. In Canadian usage, “Inuit” is the plural of “Inuk”; “Inuits” is considered incorrect. (References: CanOx, Gage, Nelson, CEncyc, CP, CanStyle, ECE2, Globe, OxGuide.)

— **“Canadians often speak of *First Nations* or *First Peoples*”**

True, but the terms are not parallel. Only “First Peoples” refers to *all* Aboriginal or Native peoples in Canada. First Nations are one of three categories of Canadian Aboriginal peoples; the others are Inuit and Metis (or Métis). (References: federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, CanOx, Nelson, CP, ECE2, OxGuide.)

8.55, Political Divisions, Capitalization

— **“the province of Ontario (in Canadian usage, the Province of Ontario)”**

Canadian usage, like American usage, ordinarily follows 8.56, capitalizing the legal entity only. When Ontario as a place is meant, “province of Ontario” is correct. (References: CP, CanStyle, Globe.)

8.71, Organizations and parties

— **“the North American Free Trade Association; Nafta”**

The second A stands for Agreement. (References: NAFTA Secretariat Web site: http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/DefaultSite/legal/index_e.aspx?articleid=78, 2003-07-09 [cited January 28, 2004], CanOx, Gage, Nelson, CEncyc, CP.)

8.86, Acts..., Formal names

— **“Medicare”**

The uppercase term is American only. In Canada, medicare (lowercase), an important feature of Canadian society, is a generic term covering a range of government health-insurance plans. It is not a program name. (References: CanOx, Gage, CEncyc, CP, ECE2, Globe.)

15.30, Canadian provinces and territories

— **“NF Newfoundland”**

The name of this province has been “Newfoundland and Labrador” since 2001, and the postal abbreviation changed to NL in 2002. (References: provincial Web site, Canada Post, CanOx, CEncyc.)

— **“NT Northwest Territories or Nunavut”**

Nunavut got its own postal abbreviation, NU, in 2000. (References: Canada Post, ECE2.)

— **“YT Yukon Territories”**

Not plural. “Territory” is correct. (References: CanOx, Gage, Nelson, ECE2, CEncyc.)

17.327, Date form and abbreviations

— **“Canadians generally prefer the day-month-year form of dates (2 January 2002, and 02/01/02)”**

“Generally” suggests that the preference goes beyond public documents, which are the subject of the section. This usage, although perhaps gaining acceptance in Canada, is not common. (References: CP, ECE2, Globe, OxGuide.)

17.331, Statutes

As a point of interest, the word “the” is now part of the title for statutes of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and was for those of Newfoundland before 1990.

17.334, Citing legal cases

Several errors appear in the note examples and in the paragraph following them.

— “**10. *Manitoba Attorney General v. Lindsay* [2000] 5 W.W.R. 30 (2000), 145 Man. R. (2d) 187 (C.A.).**”

Parentheses are necessary around “Attorney General,” a comma is required before the square brackets, and “(2000)” should be omitted.

— “**11. *Arsenault-Cameron v. Prince Edward Island* [2000] 1 S.C.R. 3 at para. 26, 2000 SCC 1.**”

As in note 10, a comma is required before the square brackets.

— “**12. *Manitoba v. Health Sciences Centre* 141 Man. R. (2d) 161, 2000 MQB 6.**”

This note mistakenly conflates two different cases. The case in the second part of the note, at 2000 MQB 6, is actually *Phillips v. Harrison*. The segment “2000 MQB 6” is a “neutral” citation for *Phillips*, but no neutral citation exists for *Manitoba v. Health Sciences Centre*.

When the incorrect neutral citation is removed, what remains is a “traditional” citation. But it requires “(2000)” after “Centre” and a comma after “(2000).” The correct citation for that case, therefore, is:

Manitoba v. Health Sciences Centre (2000), 141 Man. R. (2d) 161.

If your aim was to give an example showing both a traditional citation and a parallel neutral citation, note 11 (with the comma added) does that already.

In note 12 and in the paragraph following, “MQB” is incorrect. The abbreviation is MBQB, for the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench (not Manitoba Queen’s Bench).

For Canadian conventions in neutral and traditional citations, see chapter 3 of the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation/Manuel canadien de la référence juridique*, 5th ed./5e éd. (Toronto: McGill Law Journal–Revue de droit de McGill/Carswell, 2002).

17.335, Unpublished Canadian government documents

— “**National Archives of Canada (NAC)**”

Until October 2, 2003, the official abbreviation was NA, not NAC (used three times in the paragraph). On that date, the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada were amalgamated into a single entity known as Library and Archives Canada (LAC) (see news release at <http://www.archives.ca/q11-200-e.html>). (References: Archives Web site http://www.archives.ca/08/08_e.html, 2003-11-26 [cited January 28, 2004], Treasury Board of Canada.)

— **“houses the unpublished records of the federal government”**

This is true as far as it goes, but the archives section of Library and Archives Canada, unlike national archives in Britain and the U.S., also houses historically significant private-sector documents. (Reference: mandate on Archives Web site, above.)

References

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