



General Rules for Determining Canadian Copyright

Type of Material	First Copyright Holder	Term of Copyright
Pamphlets	Author, or employer if done in course of employment	Life of author + 50 years
Newspaper articles or clippings; Periodical articles	Publisher of the newspaper or periodical if the writer was an employee; Author if a freelance writer (unless there is an agreement transferring copyright to the publisher)	Life of author + 50 years
Entire newspapers	Publisher	Life of author (likely the editor) + 50 years Note: Although not based in law, some organizations have applied a 90-year rule to newspapers, so that newspapers more than 90 years old are considered to be in the public domain.
School yearbooks	The yearbook itself: The school Items in the yearbook (e.g., photos, text, artwork): Most likely the author (but depends on the media type)	Life of author (likely the editor) + 50 years Most likely life of author + 50 years (but depends on the media type)
Publications of the federal or provincial governments	Crown	First publication + 50 years
Unpublished records of an organization, e.g., letters, memos, reports, etc.	Organization if the author was one of its employees; otherwise the copyright holder is the author of each work	Life of author + 50 years Note: There is a complicated series of term rules for unpublished works whose authors died before 1999. Consult further sources.
Unpublished federal or provincial government records in all media types	Crown	First publication + 50 years
Unpublished personal manuscripts, e.g., letters, diaries, memoirs	Author	Life of author + 50 years Note: There is a complicated series of term rules for unpublished works whose authors died before 1999. Consult further sources.
Scrapbooks; other multi-media works or compilations Note: There are two "layers" of copyright in multi-media works or compilations	The scrapbook itself: Author (whoever selected and arranged the contents) Items in the scrapbook: Depends on the media type	Life of author + 50 years Items in the scrapbook: Depends on the media type



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Dissertations, theses, essays	Authors	Life of author + 50 years
Maps and plans (published or unpublished)	Employer if the author was one of its employees; otherwise copyright holder is the author	Life of author + 50 years
Photographs (including postcards)	Author OR Employer if made in the course of employment	Life of author + 50 years
Films or videos	Author Note: The Act does not specify who the "author" of a film or video is. Generally, the author is the person responsible for the intellectual or artistic content of a work; in the case of moving image materials it may be the director. OR Employer if made in the course of employment	Life of author + 50 years Note: There is a complicated series of term rules for unpublished works whose authors died before 1999, and other special rules for films or videos that do not have "original "character." Consult further sources.
Sound recordings, i.e., any recording of sounds fixed in any material form (e.g., audiotapes, vinyl disks, CDs)	Maker	50 years after the sounds were first recorded
Oral Histories	Maker (most likely the interviewer unless there is an agreement to the contrary)	50 years after the interview was first recorded