

INVENTORY DESCRIPTION

Quebec. Executive Council.

Petitions for Land Grants and Leases : 1637-1842 ;
(predominant 1764-1841).

RG 1, L 3 L

**QUEBEC and LOWER CANADA: Land Petitions and related Records,
1637-1842**

Volumes 1-210 21.23 m Index

Petitions for land grants submitted to the Land Committee of the Executive Council in Quebec and Lower Canada, 1764-1841, together with related and supporting documentation, 1637-1842, accumulated in the Executive Council Office form a series unified by the focus on the land granting process. The series includes returns or lists and schedules prepared by the Surveyor General when reporting to the Land Committee; correspondence, reports and supporting documents relating to the administration of the Jesuit Estates; draft and duplicate minutes and reports of the Land Committee, and regulations of the land granting office, 1760-1840.

Supporting documents with petitions may include correspondence regarding a dispute over land title, warrants for and reports of surveys, draft letters patent for title deeds or leases, and copies of the Minutes of Council recording the decision on a claim or petition. Documents relating to a particular petition or the title to a particular plot of land may not be filed together; in cases of disputed title, documents may be filed under the name of either claimant.

Petitions from "Canada East" submitted to the Executive Council of the Province of Canada after the union in 1841 are found in RG 1, L 3, and are identified in the card index for that series. Other related records are found in the Orders-in-Council (RG 1, E 3), with the Draft Minutes (RG 1, E 2) and with the Minute Books of the Land Committee (RG 1, L 1).

Access to the original Land Petitions has been restricted for conservation purposes. The complete series has been microfilmed. Researchers must use the microfilm. Absolutely no photocopying from the originals is permitted. For illustration or exhibition purposes, photographic copies from the originals can be provided, at the standard charge for such reproductions. Reader-printer copies from the microfilm can be obtained at a nominal charge. Copies can be certified where such is necessary for legal purposes. The Shelf List which follows this Inventory Entry must be used to identify the microfilm reel numbers, which were not included in the references provided on the index cards.

When consulting the series through interlibrary loan of the microfilm, researchers may request photocopies through the borrowing institution. Where that institution has the necessary equipment, no further authorization is required from the Public Archives before photocopies of individual petitions or files are produced. Requests for certified copies, photographs from the originals, or copies of complete reels must be referred to the Public Archives of Canada.

Kennedy/Kuhnle Pre-Confederation 2/86

French titles:
Comité foncier du Canada
exécution

RG 1, L 3 L

The arrangement of the records no longer reflects the original order of the documents. The office records in volumes 1-28 retain much of their original order and to a large extent may be matched to the old description of the series (see the note on Finding Aid 619, below). The petitions and related records in volumes 29-209 were reorganized into an alphabetic sequence by name of petitioner or group leader in the early 1960s. Access requires the consultation of the nominal index.

The Shelf List which follows this Inventory Entry provides an overview of the arrangement for both the office records and the petitions, as well as a correlation between the volume and page numbers of the documents and the microfilm reels on which they appear.

The Lower Canada Land Index provides the chief finding aid for the series, in the form of a nominal card index serving the petitions. It provides only limited access to the office records (volumes 1-28). Researchers should note that card index entries are not specific to the page on which a name appears, but rather identify the first and last page of the file within which the name may appear one or more times. Petitioners and claimants are identified in the index but surveyors and other officials whose names appear on supporting documents are not. Unlike the Upper Canada Land Index, the Lower Canada Land Index does not include references to the Land Committee's Minute Books in RG 1, L 1.

The Lower Canada Land Index was microfilmed in 1981 and is available on reels H-1155 to H-1172. A copy of the Shelf List prefaces the reels, to facilitate identification of the microfilm reels on which the petitions will appear.

Finding Aid 619 provides a listing of the records in their original arrangement, which was essentially geographic, according to the townships or seignories within which the lands were found, then chronologically by date of petition or claim. Within Finding Aid 619, there is a list for each township; those lists are presented in alphabetic order by the name of the township. Within each list, the names of petitioners or claimants appear in alphabetic order, followed by the date of the request or claim. Records of surveys are generally to be found with the petition(s) of the first settler. Finding Aid 619 can be used in conjunction with the nominal card index to trace settlers within a specific township.

Finding Aid 876 is a copy of the List of Lands Granted by the Crown ... in Quebec, 1763-1890, for which the records are held by the Service de l'enregistrement des documents de l'État at Quebec City. The published list is in two parts, arranged alphabetically by township and by name of grantee. It also may be used in conjunction with the Lower Canada Land Index to trace the petitions of an individual for land.