

Religion in CO 42: Focus on Quebec (Lower Canada) 1760-1787

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The religious climate in Quebec during the early years of British control was characterized by turmoil in both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. Tensions between the two were apparent, with British discrimination against Catholics, and Catholic distrust of the new British government.

Much of this tension impacted the Catholic Jesuit missionaries who, as of 1773, were unable to recruit new members. With the decline of the Jesuits came an increase in Anglican missions, primarily through the efforts of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Much of the information in these select documents reflects the religious tensions at the time. However, there are some documents which discuss more administrative aspects of religion, such as clergy appointments, the resignation of the Catholic Bishop Jean-Olivier Briand, as well as correspondence with ministers and bishops.

This chart provides a breakdown of the kinds of religious documents found in CO 42. This chart was compiled from information calendared in the Canadian Public Archive's *Reports* for the years 1921 and 1890 (see column 4). These *Reports on Canadian Archives* can be found at HIL-GOV FN45 R426 1921 [and 1890].

UNB Reel	UNB/CO 42 Volume	LAC "Q" Volume	Calendar in Archives Report	Years Covered	Religious Contents
1	1	N/A	1921	1763-64	Prayer in Montreal (14 Jan. 1763, p.5); Jesuits interfering with trade (22 Aug. 1764, p.380)
	2 (part)			1764-65	Roman Catholic disabilities (10 Jun. 1765, p.120); Appointment of a Catholic Bishop (25 Mar. 1765, p.117)
2	2			1764-65	
	3			1765	
	4(part)			1765	
3	4			1765	
	5			1765-66	Jesuit and Recollet convents (3 Aug. 1765, p.106)
	6			1766-68	
	7 (part)			1767-71	Roman Catholics suggested to be part of a council (20 Sept. 1768, p.4)
4	7			1767-71	
	8	1770-78			
	9	1778			

	10			1779-81		
	11			1787		
	12 (part)			1787-1808		
5	12			1787-1808		
	13			1700-65		
	14			1766-1780		
6	15 (part)			1781-83	Desire to bring priests to Canada (12 December 1783, p.237)	
	15			1781-83		
	16			1784-85	French clergy wanted in Montreal (15 Apr. 1784, p.225); Papers for the Bishop (Anglican) of Quebec and enclosures for a clergyman (20 October 1785, p.302).	
7	17 (part)			1785	Address to the Roman Catholics of Quebec (9 Dec. 1784, p.2)	
	17			1785		
	18			1786	Jesuit estates (various enclosures, p.2); Letters to the Bishop of Quebec (18 Nov and 13 Dec 1786, pp.133-34); Lands requested by Quakers and information on choosing a Bishop for Nova Scotia (25 Dec 1786, pp. 138 & 144)	
8	19			1787	Jesuit estates (9 May 1785, p.2); Jesuit refusal to accept government orders (15 March, p.17); Joseph Brant requests ornaments for a church at Grand River (24 Apr. 1787, p.111)	
	20 (part)			1788	Memorial of Father Glapion (Jesuit Superior – 30 May 1787, p.83); Petition of Catholics to the King regarding their rights (Aug. 1783, p.330)	
	20			1788		
9	21			1789-92	Letter to the Bishop of Quebec regarding holidays (22 Apr. 1790, p.132)	
	22 (part)			1793-1821	Letter from the Bishop of Quebec (20 Jan 1799, p.105); Governor controlling Catholic appointments (13 Mar. 1798, p.221)	
	22			1793-1821		
10	23			1750	Expulsion of the Acadians	
	24			1890	1760-63	Problem with priests/Catholics/Jesuits(23 Oct. 1763, p.251, 258, 260, 262
	25 (part)			2	1764-65	
10	25	2		1764-65		

	26	3		1766	Jesuit work (12 Nov 1766, p. 416); Jesuit discontent (17 Nov. 1766, p.405);
	27	4		1766-67	Regarding Roman Catholic priests (30 Oct. 1767, p.320) Jesuits in Italy (14 Nov. 1767, p.298)
	28 (part)	5		1767-68	Condition of the Jesuits (14 Apr. 1768, p.590, 593)
11	28	5		1767-68	Religious matters
	29	6		1769	New Jesuits (17 Jul. 1769, p.70); Jesuit claims (2 Aug. 1769, p.109); Jesuits trying to continue their order (7 Aug. 1769, p.115); Petition of the Bishop of Quebec re: Jesuits (7 Aug. 1769, p.117); Reaction to Jesuit discontent (4 Nov. 1769, p.121)
	30 (part)	7		1769-70	
12	30	7		1769-70	
	31	8		1770-72	Question of church appointments (9 Dec. 1772, p.220, 223)
	32	9		1772-73	Cramahe's advice on religious matters (1 Dec. 1773, p.157)
	33	10		1774	
	34 (part)	11		1774-75	Unitas Fractum mission in Labrador (Moravian)
13	34	11		1774-75	
	35	12		1776	
	36	13		1776-77	Unitas Fractum mission in Labrador (Moravian)
	37 (part)	14		1777	
14	37	14		1777	
	38	15		1778	
	39 (part)	16		1778-79	
15	39	16		1778-79	
	40	17		1779-80	
	41 (part)	18		1780-81	
16	41	18		1780-81	
	42	19		1781-82	
	43	20		1782	
	44 (part)	21		1782-83	
17	44	21		1782-83	Question of obtaining priests for Savoy
	45	22		1783	Montreal desires French priests (pp.40, 48, 50)
	46	23		1783-84	French priests to Quebec (8 Apr. 1783, p.55)
	47 (part)	24		1784-85	Resignation of Roman Catholic Bishop (Briand) (25 Nov. 1784,
18	47	24		1784-85	

					pp.32, 34 – see also p. 27, 40; Seminary recommendations (1 Dec. 1784, p. 37); ecclesiastical concerns (19 Aug 1785, pp. 463 & 465); Sulpician priests
	48	25		1785	State of the clergy and Catholic Bishop's health (23 Jun. 1785, p.22); missionaries coming to Canada (19 Dec. 1785, p.167)
	49 (part)	26		1786	Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (7 May 1785, p.64 and 1 Feb. 1785, p.20); the state of the Church of England in Canada (4 Feb. 1785, p.22); state of Church of England clergy (1 Feb. 1786, p.59); Jesuits (10 Feb. 1786, pp.120-124); Jesuit lands/finances (6 Mar. 1786, p. 239);
19	49	26		1786	
	50	27		1786-87	
	51	28		1787	Bishop Inglis appointment; protestant clergy in Quebec