



CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION

# Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom

# 30 YEARS ON



Government of Canada  
High Commission of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada  
Haut-commissariat du Canada

Canada



# Introduction

⇒ *The Canadian High Commission in London is pleased to be part of this large and wide-ranging academic program. On behalf of the Government of Canada, we would like to thank all who are engaged in Canadian Studies in the UK, an area of endeavour that has become a key element in Canada's public diplomacy and an integral part of the bilateral relationship between Canada and the UK.*

*The success of the Canadian Studies Program is due to the tireless energy, enthusiasm and expertise of many individuals and institutions. All have contributed greatly to the changing academic and public perspectives on Canadian society since the 1970s. It is with appreciation of the friendship for Canada of many academics in the UK that we celebrate the achievements of 30 years of Canadian Studies in the UK and look forward confidently to the future. ⇒*

**Mel Cappe**

High Commissioner for Canada

**CANADIAN STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM** have grown substantially since they were formally established in the 1970s. There is now a lively and vigorous body of Canadianists at universities throughout the UK, with 12 Centres, Programs and Regional Groups of Canadian Studies and over 300 British academics engaged in teaching and research on a wide range of Canadian subjects.

The figures show that more than 220 courses on Canada are taught to some 5,500 undergraduates and 600 graduate students at over 90 institutions of higher education. A further 450 graduates of Canadian universities are employed in faculty positions, with some 50 holding full professorships. It has been estimated that if all the Canadian Studies courses in the UK were combined, they would be the equivalent of a small university in their own right. Many Canadianists have a comprehensive understanding of Canada and address current and future opinion-formers and decision-makers with considerable authority, through their teaching, research, conferences, seminars and public lectures.

Canada is viewed by many British academics as a model of tolerance and diversity, as well as an innovative, forward-looking, solutions-based society in a variety of public policy areas. As a result, Canada is increasingly looked to as a leader on many issues that face both countries today, a perception often leading to collaborative research, comparative studies and dialogue with Canadian counterparts.



For example, Canada's engagement on such issues as human rights, language rights, minority rights, environmental protection, and provincial and federal responsibilities, and the reflection of these concerns in cultural attitudes and the various communities making up Canadian society, provide key references for many other nations, not least among them the United Kingdom, which is itself a country of diverse components that now also confronts the federal pressures of devolution and a united Europe.

International experience is an important part of a student's preparation for entry into the global workplace. Through the "University of Canada" in Britain, the academic partnership between our two countries makes a significant contribution to this and to the relationship between Canada and the UK.



## *Academic Relations Unit*



**THE ACADEMIC RELATIONS UNIT** of the Canadian High Commission in London administers the Government of Canada's program of support for Canadian Studies in British universities. This support consists principally of funding for activities at the Canadian Studies Centres, Programs and Regional Groups, and for the British Association for Canadian Studies and its specialist groups, together with awards to enable individual academics to undertake research in Canada or to develop courses of teaching about Canada. Assistance is also available for conferences, seminars and other activities, as are matching grants for the acquisition and development of library resources.

In partnership with the Foundation for Canadian Studies, the Government of Canada also funds the Sustained Studies in Contemporary Canadian Issues Program, which supports substantial research projects that also contribute to the long-term development of Canadian Studies at the institutions concerned.

The Academic Relations Unit organises Canada House Lectures, which reach a wide audience of academics, policymakers and practitioners, and it publishes a variety of printed and electronic materials, which are distributed to key audiences in the academic and educational fields throughout Britain. The Unit also maintains a database of Canadianists in the UK (along with their teaching and publications), organises occasional conferences and seminars, and helps Canadian Studies speakers with travel costs within the UK.

**[www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/united\\_kingdom/menu-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/united_kingdom/menu-en.asp)**

# Foundation for Canadian Studies

⇒ *I have been closely associated with Canada for over 35 years, and I can truly say that the Canadian Studies Program in the UK is one of the most effective elements of the unique relationship between Britain and Canada. The quality of scholarship in Britain on many aspects of Canada is of the highest order, and the Foundation for Canadian Studies is proud to have been supporting it for over 30 years.*

*Business people now recognise the importance of academic teaching and research that generates greater understanding of Canada, and the benefits of the many exchanges of faculty and students that take place between Canadian and British universities. These and many other collaborative ventures further strengthen the ties between both countries as they search for solutions to the many issues facing society today.*

*The Foundation for Canadian Studies is totally committed to support the future development of teaching and research about Canada in the UK. ⇒*

**John Bridgeman CBE**

Vice-Chairman, Foundation for Canadian Studies  
in the United Kingdom

**THE FOUNDATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES** in the United Kingdom is a charitable body that provides private sector support for Canadian Studies in Britain, complementing and enhancing Government of Canada funding.

With major funding from Standard Life, the Foundation supports a director, a secretary and activities at the Centre of Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. The Foundation also supports lectureships in Canadian Studies at the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham, with assistance from George Weston Ltd for outreach activities. In addition, it provides travel and other grants to the Universities of Leeds, Cambridge and London, and offers small grants for speakers and support for publications on Canada in the UK.

The High Commission and Foundation together initiated the Partnership for Knowledge process, organising a forum at Canada House in 1999 aimed at encouraging partnerships between universities and industry in Canada and Britain. This forum was followed by a second forum in 2001 at the University of Alberta. The process continues through the Canada/UK University Partnerships Program. As well, grants are offered to British postgraduate students toward the costs of a study visit to Canada, and the Foundation offers the Edward Boyle scholarships for doctoral studies in relation to Canada.

The Board of the Foundation is chaired by the Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and consists of senior British and Canadian businesspersons, bankers, academics and the bureau chief of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

[www.canadian-studies-uk.org](http://www.canadian-studies-uk.org)

# British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS)

⇒ *I am honoured to be part of this 30th anniversary of Canadian Studies in the UK. Since the inaugural meeting of the British Association for Canadian Studies in 1975, Canadian Studies in the UK have come a long way, with a large and growing diversity of topics, Centres, Programs, specialist groups and people. The contributions of Canadianists in the UK are considerable and have an impact not only in the UK and Canada but also around the world.*

*BACS maintains a high profile in coordinating Canadian Studies in the UK. We have managed to keep long-serving members, as well as attract “new blood” – a combination that augurs well for the future. There is little doubt that, with the continued and enthusiastic support of the Canadian High Commission, the Foundation for Canadian Studies and Foreign Affairs Canada, Canadian Studies will continue to flourish in the UK. ⇒*

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## **Dr Itesh Sachdev**

**Director, Centre for Canadian Studies  
Birkbeck College, University of London  
President, British Association  
for Canadian Studies**

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES** is one of the largest and most influential of the worldwide network of Canadian Studies associations, and is a founding member of the International Council for Canadian Studies. Established in 1975 by British and Canadian academics to foster a community of Canadianists in the UK and to encourage teaching and research in Canada, the BACS today has over 300 individual members and 125 institutional members.

The BACS holds an interdisciplinary annual conference, which draws participants and speakers from around the world, including postgraduates, with high-level plenary speakers from Canada. It publishes a respected refereed journal, the *British Journal of Canadian Studies*, which includes contributions from scholars in Europe and other countries, and a newsletter to keep members informed of activities and developments.

The BACS has published *Canadian Studies in the UK: A Directory of Canadianists, Courses and Research*, which provides a detailed inventory of Canadian Studies in Britain, and *Canadian Studies in the UK and Ireland: A Guide to Resources*, which identifies the main libraries and resource centres for Canadian Studies. In 2004, the BACS launched a new one-stop internet gateway to resources for Canadian Studies called *Access Canada*, which is featured later in this brochure.

For many of its activities, the British Association for Canadian Studies works through specialist subject groups that organise conferences and seminars throughout the year. The seminars attract specialists who are often outside the typical field of Canadian Studies, providing opportunities to reach new

audiences. Currently, there are seven groups: Aboriginal studies, architecture, business and economic studies, legal studies, literature, library and resources, and le Groupe de recherches et d'études sur le Canada francophone. For many years, a Canada in Schools group produced materials for use in secondary schools, but that group is now in abeyance. BACS members are welcome to suggest and organise new groups.

[www.canadian-studies.net](http://www.canadian-studies.net)

## *International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)*

⇒ *As the first British President of the International Council for Canadian Studies, I take particular pride in the valuable role played by British Canadianists in not only helping to develop and promote the study of Canada, but also in bringing about greater intercultural awareness between Canada and the rest of the world. The quality of their work, as well as their enthusiasm and commitment, has earned the respect of Canadianists everywhere. It is a privilege and a reassurance to have their support as I take on my responsibilities.* ⇒

### **Christopher Rolfe**

Director, Centre for Quebec Studies  
University of Leicester  
President, International Council  
for Canadian Studies

**THE ICCS IS AN OTTAWA-BASED UMBRELLA ORGANISATION** embracing 21 Canadian Studies associations and five associate members worldwide. It represents some 7,000 scholars in more than 30 countries, including the UK. The ICCS administers several grant programs on behalf of Foreign Affairs Canada. It also offers its own programs including scholarships, internships, awards, seminars, a publication series and a publishing fund. Details are available on the ICCS website.

[www.iccs-ciec.ca](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca)



# Canadian Studies Centres and Programs

⇒ *Edinburgh is a wonderful place for Canadian Studies. The cultural connections between Scotland and Canada bring a special dimension to the Centre's activities. Our popular undergraduate courses enable students to think about the politics of identity in multicultural societies, and our research seminars provide graduates with a lively interdisciplinary environment in which to develop new ideas.* ⇒

**Dr Annis May Timpson**  
Director, Centre of Canadian Studies  
University of Edinburgh

**ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM**, Centres, Programs, groups and individuals involved in Canadian Studies are raising Canada's academic and public profile through their teaching and research. The designation of a Centre of Canadian Studies applies when a university has a formal commitment to maintaining and developing its Canadian teaching, research and resources. A Program of Canadian Studies is generally smaller and less formalised. Regional Groups provide a mechanism for individual academics located in different universities in a geographical area to work together in pursuit of their Canadian interests. Each has evolved according to the particular interests of the academics and universities themselves. Many have extensive student and faculty exchange programs with Canadian universities. Current activities are described in the following paragraphs.

Founded in 1974, the Centre of Canadian Studies at the **University of Edinburgh** was the first such centre in the UK. In 1996, the Centre's work was recognised through the award of the first chair in Canadian Studies at a British university. The new Director of Canadian Studies is Dr Annis May Timpson, a political scientist and long-standing Canadianist. Students enrolled in the Centre's Canadian Studies 1 course learn about the emergence of Canada as a multicultural state and explore questions of cultural and political identity in contemporary Canada. However, courses with some Canadian content can be found across the University – in politics, sociology, history, geography, education, law, literature, anthropology and Scottish Studies. The Centre has an annual Public Lecture sponsored by



Standard Life (through the Foundation for Canadian Studies), as well as an annual conference. The May 2005 conference is entitled “First Nations, First Thoughts”.

The **University of Leeds’** Centre for Canadian Studies was established in 1979. Its extensive teaching and research interests include Canadian literature, geography, environmental studies, Aboriginal peoples, Quebec studies, the Canadian North, environmental issues, business and trade, multiculturalism, health care, history, law, social policy and sociology. About 50 undergraduates from each country participate annually in the student exchange program. Recent highlights at Leeds University have included the appointment of Rachel Killick as Professor of Quebec Studies and 19th-Century French Studies, and the delivery of the prestigious Ravenscroft Lecture by two Yukon storytellers.

The **University of Birmingham’s** Centre of Canadian Studies, founded in 1981, was recently enhanced by the appointment of a second Canadianist lectureship in the Department of American and Canadian Studies, bringing to four the total number of staff teaching Canadian material. The Centre has teaching and research interests in Canadian literature, film studies, foreign policy, cultural identities, drama and theatre, Canadian-American relations, security and intelligence, policing and international marketing.

Canadian literature lies at the heart of the **University of Nottingham’s** Centre of Canadian Studies, which was established in 1989. Students can learn about gender and sexuality in Canadian writing, 20th-century Canadian women writers and French-Canadian classics.



Courses with Canadian content are also available on Canada's Aboriginal peoples, Canadian cultural studies, French-Canadian culture and society and environmental history. In addition, there are research interests in Canadian law and film studies. Both the University of Nottingham and the University of Birmingham have received significant sponsorship from George Weston Ltd for the development of their Canadian Studies activities.

Established in 1985, the Centre of Canadian Studies at **Queen's University Belfast** offers courses on the Canadian economy and society, community economic development, economic history, the geography of finance, regional geography, urban ethnicity and Canadian fiction. The annual Eaton Lecture, endowed by the Eaton Foundation, is given by a high-profile Canadian speaker. A recent speaker was Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, who also spoke at a conference on Women and the Law organised as part of the Belfast Festival.

The Centre for Quebec Studies at **Leicester University** was formally designated in 1998, though it had a long history of teaching and research about Quebec culture, society and language before then. The Centre holds an annual conference, together with seminars, films, musical events and exhibitions. The Centre is supported by the Quebec government through the Délégation-générale in London.

At **London University**, there are three different activities, with a fourth in prospect. **Birkbeck College** was formally designated as a Centre for Canadian Studies in 1988 and has a program of teaching focused on Aboriginal communities, multiculturalism, language, fiction and history. Its annual conferences have recently featured Canadian film, equality, language and literature, and communities, cultures and

⇒ *The best way to understand Canada and its land, culture and politics is to live and work there for a while. The High Commission and the Foundation for Canadian Studies have made this possible for hundreds of academics and postgraduate students – it's a real inspiration to read the reports of their study visits and to know that long-term relationships are being formed. Donors to the Foundation can see that their generosity has real returns.* ⇒

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**Dr Ann Robinson**

Member of the Board

Foundation for Canadian Studies in the  
United Kingdom

citizenship. The **Institute of Commonwealth Studies** has a program of research seminars on Canadian topics and holds an annual conference; in 2004, the conference focused on Canada and the Second World War in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The **London Conference for Canadian Studies (LCCS)** (established in 1982) is a regional grouping that embraces universities in London and the southeast of England. Its 2004 conference was held at Christ Church University College in Canterbury on the theme of the North Atlantic Triangle since the 1930s. The LCCS also publishes the online London Journal of Canadian Studies, the first e-journal in Canadian Studies in the world, which can be found at [www.bbk.ac.uk/lc/LCCS/LJCS/](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lc/LCCS/LJCS/). Finally, the **Institute for the Study of the Americas** has appointed a new lecturer in Canadian Studies, which significantly adds to London's Canadian Studies activities.

The Program of Canadian Studies at the **University of Hull** was established in 1992. Over the past decade, the Canadian interests have included federalism, Canadian literature and contemporary Canadian politics. There are linkages with the University of Waterloo and the University of Guelph.

A new Cambridge Canadian Studies Initiative, based in the Scott Polar Research Institute, is being developed at the **University of Cambridge** in collaboration with scholars in other parts of the University. This initiative represents a welcome resumption of interest in Canada at Cambridge, succeeding the Samuel Reichmann Fellowship in Canadian Studies, which was funded by Paul Reichmann from 1989 to 1999.



The **Canadian Studies in Wales Group** was formed in 1982 to link the five colleges of the University of Wales and other institutions of higher education in Wales for conferences and research seminars on Canadian topics. The Group holds a biennial conference, and they have produced a number of publications on the Welsh in Canada, the Canadian Constitution, labour history and Canada-UK-US history.



## Research and Awards

### RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND AWARDS FUNDED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANADA

promote academic work that often produces far-reaching results. Through these programs, academics are able to undertake progressive and leading-edge research that generates interest, debate and growth in their areas of study.

- ✦ **Faculty Research Program:** supports individual research on a chosen topic, leading to the publication of an article in a learned journal or equivalent.
- ✦ **Institutional Research Program:** supports team research leading to the publication of a monograph, book or series of articles.
- ✦ **Faculty Enrichment Program:** provides support for academics visiting Canada to prepare for a new course teaching on Canada or a comparative course involving Canada.
- ✦ **Sustained Studies in Contemporary Canadian Issues Program:** is a two-year team research program in the UK that encourages collaboration between Canadian and British scholars and contributes to the development of Canadian Studies at their respective institutions. Research topics are established each year by the Canadian High Commission.
- ✦ **Canadian Studies Development Program:** supports and encourages the development of Canadian Studies within designated Centres, Programs, Regional Groups and other institutions of higher education, as well as through the British Association for Canadian Studies and its specialist groups.
- ✦ **Program for Institutional Research Linkages:** facilitates international collaboration within the academic community through seminars and research linkages while fostering the development of permanent exchange networks.

For detailed information, visit the Government of Canada programs section of the ICCS website at [www.iccs-ciec.ca](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca), or contact the Academic Relations Unit of the Canadian High Commission.

# History of Canadian Studies



**IT WAS THE VISION OF FORMER CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER JAKE WARREN** that led to the creation of the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the UK in 1974. The first Centre of Canadian Studies was founded at the University of Edinburgh in 1974. A year later, British and Canadian academics formed the British Association for Canadian Studies and held their inaugural meeting at the University of Leeds, and in 1977 the Canadian High Commission established the Academic Relations Unit.

In the years that followed, teaching about Canada in British higher education expanded to more universities and more subjects. Cohesion replaced fragmentation as new centres were established, and as smaller programs and regional groups developed. The first personal chairs in the field of Canadian studies were awarded in 1996 to Ged Martin (Professor of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh) and Coral Howells (Professor of English and Canadian Literature, University of Reading). In 2002, Rachel Killick was appointed Professor of Quebec Studies and 19th-Century French Studies at the University of Leeds.

In 1999, the Foundation for Canadian Studies and the Academic Relations Unit, along with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the British Council in Canada and other partners, launched the Partnership for Knowledge initiative to encourage partnerships between British and Canadian universities in association with the private sector, governments and non-governmental organisations. Through two major forums, it established a formal base that encourages and enhances Canada-UK collaborations.



Today, new challenges are being met to strengthen and further expand Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom. Efforts to promote growth and consolidation and to tap into the potential for comparative research on Canada by UK scholars, along with recruitment, partnerships and fund-raising activities, are all part of the way forward. Electronic communications are now central in reaching out and forging links, offering opportunities to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices as well as to pool information and resources.





## *Access Canada: The UK gateway to information on Canada*

**ACCESS CANADA IS A NEW, ONE-STOP INTERNET PORTAL TO INFORMATION RESOURCES ON CANADA.** Designed to be readily and freely usable by anyone and everyone with an interest in Canada, Access Canada is a gateway to gateways, providing a central location from which to launch information searches about Aboriginal peoples, archives, Canadian Studies, education, genealogy, film, history, industry, law, migration, newspapers, political parties, science and technology, students, tourism, women's studies and much more.

The gateway was created by the Library and Resources Group of the British Association for Canadian Studies with support from the Foundation for Canadian Studies and the Government of Canada.

**[www.canadian-studies.net/accesscanada](http://www.canadian-studies.net/accesscanada)**





***For more information about the Government of Canada's Academic Relations program in the UK, contact:***

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