



## **Canada's Bill C-3: People with a Canadian Ancestor can apply for Proof of Canadian Citizenship by Descent**

**FACT SHEET – DRAFT** (as of 06 March 2026)

### **What Bill C-3 Does**

The new Canadian Bill C-3 greatly broadens who is considered a Canadian Citizen by Descent. With this new amendment to the Citizenship Act, Canada has declared that people who live outside Canada who have a direct Canadian ancestor, no matter how many generations back, almost certainly **are already** Canadian citizens. They can get a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship by applying and proving their lineage to a Canadian ancestor.

**As of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Nearly everyone who is a descendant of a Canadian citizen IS NOW a Canadian citizen by descent, no matter where you were born.**

- To prove that you are Canadian citizen, you must apply for a Citizenship Certificate (Proof of Citizenship) from the Canadian government.
- This is a legal process. The application must prove your lineage to a Canadian, and be supported by the same documents we use for genealogical proof including birth, death and marriage certificates, among others.

The Canadian government has already received tens of thousands of applications. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the body processing applications, has already approved many applications, even though regulations supporting the application process have not yet been written.

### **How to Apply**

There is much to learn about this process and some details are changing almost daily.

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### **How the Vermont Genealogy Library Can Help**

Library volunteers **can** help you with:

- research related to your Canadian ancestor and your lineage to that person;
- figuring out where you need to go to get the documents needed to prove your new Canadian Citizenship

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Website: [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) • Email: [mail@vtgenlib.org](mailto:mail@vtgenlib.org) • Facebook: [vermontgenealogylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/vermontgenealogylibrary)

- informing you about the services of our Research Team who conducts genealogical research for a reasonable fee.

It is important that you understand we are **not** experts on applying for proof of your Canadian Citizenship. As volunteers for this library, we **cannot**:

- provide legal advice on the application process;
- complete the certificate application for you;
- provide certified copies of documents needed for the application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). These documents must be obtained from relevant entities, usually government agencies. We **can** point you in the right direction.

## Official Canadian Government Resources

We recommend that you refer to the **official Government of Canada websites** such as those below:

### Bill C-3: an Act to amend the Citizenship Act (2025) comes into effect

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2025/12/bill-c-3-an-act-to-amend-the-citizenship-act-2025-comes-into-effect.html>

### Apply for a Canadian citizenship certificate: Who can apply

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-citizenship/proof-citizenship/eligibility.html>

### Application for a Citizenship Certificate (CIT 0001)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/cit0001.html>

There are many other links within the above sites and documents.

## Crowd Sourced and Social Media Resources

*Please remember that the following resources are crowd-sourced social media websites. These sites may contain inaccurate and outdated information.*

There is much information being shared online via this **Reddit** channel:

[-r/CanadianCitizenship FAQ: Navigable Doc - Google Docs](#)

You can also learn more about people's experiences with this process in **Facebook** groups such as [Canadian Citizenship by Descent \(Bill C-3\)](#) and you can search Facebook for other groups.

**Congratulations on your new Canadian Citizenship!**  
**Please let us know how we can help you with this process.**

*This information will be updated as new information becomes available.*