What is Québécois Literature?

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Published by Liverpool University Press

Chapman, Rosemary.
What is Québécois Literature? Reflections on the Literary History of Francophone Writing in Canada.
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As discussed in Chapter 1, the chronologies which appear in literary histories are as much the product of selection, prioritization and bias as is the narrative in the main body of the text. The chronology below is presented in recognition of this fact. My own preferences, given the approach adopted in this book, have led me to include some events and publications which may not be found in all literary histories of francophone literature in Canada, but as in all chronologies, my selection owes a great deal to those compiled by other authors. The desire to contextualize the diverse spheres of literary historical activity has led me to include a range of types of text and cultural event. In a few instances I include references to films mentioned in connection with specific developments in cultural or literary history, even though cinema is otherwise not discussed in the book. Some items belong to the sphere of popular culture, not a field which I have had space to address in any detail in this book, but one whose boundary with ‘literature’ is fluid; indeed, the dissemination of literary texts to a wider, popular readership through the periodical press and through almanacs in francophone Canada is a history waiting to be told in full. Similarly, although I have not had space to discuss in any detail the literary history of literature for children and adolescents beyond that presented in the classroom, I have included here a few key titles and developments, reflecting as they do the emergence of a new area of literary production and consumption. The particular focus of the chapters which follow will explain some of the inclusions and exclusions, but the chronology does not simply summarize the material discussed in those chapters; rather it aims to contextualize the various activities and forms of literary histories within a framework which has been formed by a history of colonization and of settlement by a francophone population that has always been in contact with other communities, whether as colonizers of the
indigenous population of Canada, as the colonized subjects of British colonial rule, as a majority francophone population in Quebec living with other cultural and linguistic minorities, or as members of minority francophone communities throughout Canada, whose relative strength and degree of cultural freedom have fluctuated over the years.

**11000 BC**  Earliest records of Bluefish Cave people in Yukon

**9000**  Earliest records of aboriginal habitation in Ontario

**3000**  Presence of aboriginal population in the Maritimes

**AD 300**  Village settlements established on Prairies

**875**  Irish monks land on Magdalen Islands

**1000**  Viking settlement at l’Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland

**1390**  Iroquois Confederacy formed

**1497**  John Cabot explores coast of Newfoundland and Cape Breton

**1500s**  Norman, Breton and Basque fishermen establish cod fisheries in waters off Newfoundland

**1517**  Beginning of the Protestant Reformation in Europe

**1534**  First voyage of Jacques Cartier to Canada; establishment of the Jesuit order in Paris

**1535**  Founding of the Ursuline order in Italy

**1556**  First map of New France published

**1569**  Mercator’s map of the world

**1576-78**  Martin Frobisher’s expeditions to discover the Northwest Passage

**1583**  Newfoundland becomes England’s first overseas colony

**1599**  Publication of *Ratio Atque Institutio Studiorum Societatis Jesu*, the Jesuit curriculum which was later used in the *collèges classiques* in Quebec

**1600**  Pierre Chauvin founds first fur-trading post in North America at Tadoussac

**1608**  Rivalry over fur trade between French, English and Dutch

**1604**  Establishment of the first French permanent settlement in North America at Saint Croix Island

**1605**  Pierre Du Gua de Monts founds Port Royal

**1606**  Marc Lescarbot, ‘Théâtre de Neptune’, the first dramatic work composed and performed on Canadian soil.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1608</td>
<td>Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec</td>
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<td>1609</td>
<td>Marc Lescarbot, <em>L’Histoire de la Nouvelle France</em> includes poems (‘Les Muses de la Nouvelle France’), exploration of Hudson Bay by Henry Hudson, Champlain publishes his <em>Voyages</em> in France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1610</td>
<td>Franciscans and Récollets arrive in New France</td>
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<td>1613</td>
<td>Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts</td>
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<td>1615</td>
<td>First Jesuit missionaries arrive in Canada</td>
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<td>1620</td>
<td>Compagnie des Cent Associés set up to colonize Canada, British regain control of Quebec (until 1632)</td>
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<td>1625</td>
<td>Gabriel Sagard, <em>Le grand voyage du pays des Hurons</em></td>
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<td>1627</td>
<td>Annual publication of the Jesuit Relations</td>
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<td>1629</td>
<td>Founding of Trois-Rivières</td>
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<td>1632</td>
<td>Founding of the Collège des Jésuites, Quebec</td>
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<td>1634</td>
<td>First reservation established at Sillery, south of Quebec</td>
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<td>1635</td>
<td>Marie de l’Incarnation founds the first Ursuline college in Quebec to educate young girls</td>
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<td>1636</td>
<td>Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve founds Ville-Marie (later Montreal) on site of former Iroquois village of Hochelaga</td>
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<td>1637</td>
<td>British occupy Acadie</td>
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<td>1638</td>
<td>Marguerite Bourgeoys opens school for girls in Montreal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1639</td>
<td>Pierre-Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart de Groseilliers explore lakes Superior and Michigan</td>
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<td>1640</td>
<td>Adam Dollard des Ormeaux, with colonial militia and Indian allies, defeated in siege of Long Sault</td>
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<td>1641</td>
<td><em>Coureurs de bois</em> begin to operate as unlicensed middlemen between the indigenous hunters and colonial traders</td>
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<td>1642</td>
<td>Foundation of the Séminaire de Québec by Bishop Laval</td>
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<td>1643</td>
<td>Under royal sponsorship, 768 <em>filles du roi</em> are shipped from France over an eleven-year period to help populate the colony</td>
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<td>1644</td>
<td>Hudson’s Bay Company set up by London-based traders; French re-occupy Acadie</td>
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<td>1645</td>
<td>General alliance with Indians in the Pays d’en Haut</td>
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<td>1646</td>
<td>Marquette and Jolliet explore the Mississippi River, reaching the mouth of the Arkansas River</td>
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1682  Expedition of Cavelier de La Salle to the mouth of the Mississippi; French claim possession of Mississippi Valley, naming the territory Louisiana

1685  Failure of Cavalier de La Salle’s expedition by sea to Louisiana

1694  Governor Frontenac bans performance of Molière’s Tartuffe in Quebec after pressure from the Catholic Church

1694–97  Expedition of Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville to Hudson Bay and Newfoundland

1701  Great Peace of Montreal between French and 38 Indian Nations; Antoine Laumet Lamothe Cadillac founds Detroit

1703  Nouveaux voyages [...] dans l’Amérique septentrionale by Louis-Armand de Lahontan

1710  After a century of territorial dispute, Acadie passes definitively to British rule

1713  Treaty of Utrecht. French cede Hudson Bay, Newfoundland and Acadie, but retain Îles Royale and Saint-Jean (until 1763)

1724  Promulgation of Code noir in Louisiana (code concerning slavery)

1731–43  La Verendrye brothers’ exploration of the Prairies

1755–63  Deportation of about three-quarters of the Acadian population

1756  Beginning of Seven Years War in Europe

1759  Fall of Quebec; deaths of Montcalm and Wolfe

1760  Montreal surrenders

1763  Treaty of Paris by which France cedes all territory east of the Mississippi, and all Canadian territory, apart from the islands of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

1764  William Brown and Thomas Gilmore set up the first printing press in Quebec; publication of La Gazette de Québec

1765  Publication of the first textbook in Canada, Catéchisme du diocèse de Sens; Acadian immigration in southern Louisiana begins

1767  Jean-Baptiste de La Brosse, Jesuit missionary in Tadoussac, publishes a catechism and an alphabet book in Innu, Alphabet ou abécédaire Montagnais

1770  De la Brosse publishes a catechism in Abenaki
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- **1774**: The Quebec Act recognizes French civil law and Roman Catholic religious freedom
- **1776**: Fleury Mesplet establishes the first printing press in Montreal; American Declaration of Independence
- **1777**: Fleury Mesplet publishes the first French-Canadian almanac, *Almanach encyclopédique, ou Chronologie des faits les plus remarquables de l’histoire universelle, depuis Jesus-Christ; avec des anecdotes curieuses, utiles & intéressantes*
- **1783**: Arrival in Canada of Loyalists; establishment of North West Company by Montreal fur traders
- **1789**: Beginning of French Revolution
- **1791**: Constitutional Act; separation of Lower and Upper Canada (modern-day Quebec and Ontario), each with its own Assembly
- **1791–1804**: Haitian Revolution following a slave revolt in Saint-Domingue (Haiti)
- **1800**: Treaty of San Ildefonso – Spain secretly cedes western Louisiana to France
- **1803**: The Louisiana Purchase – Napoleon sells Louisiana to the USA for c. $15 million. The territory covers part or all of 15 modern-day states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming
- **1804**: Napoleon Bonaparte becomes Emperor; adoption of legal provisions of Napoleonic Code in France and Quebec; Haiti declares independence
- **1806**: Launch in Quebec of French-language newspaper, *Le Canadien*
- **1812**: Establishment of the Red River Colony on the banks of the Assiniboine and Red rivers by the Earl of Selkirk
- **1812–14**: War of 1812 between USA and Britain results in conflicts on Canadian soil
- **1813**: Founding of the *Acadian Recorder* in Halifax
- **1818**: Founding of Dalhousie University (Halifax); arrival of Catholic priests in the Red River Colony and establishment of the Collège de Saint-Boniface
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<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Founding of McGill University (Montreal); merging of Hudson’s Bay Company and North-West Company</td>
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<td>1826</td>
<td>Launch of <em>La Minerve</em> in Montreal, a paper which supported Papineau’s Patriot Party</td>
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<td>1830</td>
<td>Michel Bibaud, <em>Épîtres, satires, chansons, épigrammes et autres pièces de vers</em>. First volume of poetry to be published by a francophone Canadian in Quebec</td>
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<td>1834</td>
<td>Presentation of the 92 Resolutions by the Patriot Party to the House of Assembly of Lower Canada</td>
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<td>1836</td>
<td>First Acadian elected to Nova Scotia legislature</td>
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<td>1837</td>
<td>Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, fils, <em>L’Influence d’un livre</em></td>
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<td>1837–38</td>
<td>Armed rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada against ruling elites resulting in violent suppression, imprisonment and hanging of 12 rebels, deportation of a further 58</td>
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<td>1839</td>
<td>Lord Durham submits his Report which recommends the assimilation of the French-Canadian population, described as a people with no history and no literature</td>
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<td>1841</td>
<td>Constitutional Act enforced, uniting Upper and Lower Canada as the Province of Canada, with English as the official language; Indians now considered wards, not allies, and their territories now regarded as ‘reserves’</td>
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<td>1842</td>
<td>Launch of the <em>Journal de Québec</em>; Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, ‘Un Canadien errant’</td>
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<td>1844</td>
<td>Foundation of the Institut Canadien; opening of the Crémazie brothers’ bookshop in Quebec</td>
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<td>1845–52</td>
<td>François-Xavier Garneau, <em>Histoire du Canada depuis sa découverte</em></td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>First Acadian elected to New Brunswick legislature; Patrice Lacombe, <em>La Terre paternelle</em>; Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau, <em>Charles Guérin</em></td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>Henry W. Longfellow, <em>Evangeline, a Tale of Acadie</em></td>
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<td>1848–50</td>
<td>Publication of four volumes of James Huston’s <em>Répertoire national ou Recueil de littérature canadienne</em></td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>Foundation of Université Laval in Quebec; Susanna Moodie, <em>Roughing it in the Bush</em></td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>Abolition of the seigneurial system</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>First edition of the <em>Almanach du peuple</em>, still in print today</td>
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1857  Enfranchisement Act requires abandonment of Indian status for right to vote

1859  Edmé Rameau de Saint-Père (French historian), *La France aux colonies: études sur le développement de la race française hors de l'Europe*

1860  Beginning of the ‘mouvement littéraire de 1860’

1862  Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, *Jean Rivard, le défricheur canadien*

1863  Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, père, *Les Anciens Canadiens*

1865  French translation of Longfellow’s *Evangeline* by Pamphile Lemay

1866  Napoléon Bourassa, *Jacques et Marie*

1867  British North America Act (redesignated in 1982 the Constitution Act 1867) unites Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the Dominion of Canada; *Le Moniteur acadien* first published at Shédiac, New Brunswick

1868  Arthur Buies founds *La Lanterne*

1869  Members of the Institut canadien de Montréal are excommunicated

1870  Manitoba and Northwest Territories join the Confederation; first Riel Rebellion

1871  Population of Quebec reaches 1 million; British Columbia joins the Confederation

1873  Prince Edward Island joins the Confederation

1875  Riots in Caraquet, New Brunswick, in response to the 1871 Common Schools Act which threatens the future of denominational schooling

1876  Department of Public Education/Département de l'instruction publique gives l'abbé Henri-Raymond Casgrain the role of selecting works to be published in a series to be used as book prizes, purchased by the government and distributed by the school inspectors; branch of Université Laval opened in Montreal

1878–1936  *Almanach Rolland*

1880  Closure of the library of the Institut canadien de Montréal

1881  First Acadian national convention at Memramcook; 15 August chosen as Acadian national holiday; Laure Conan, *Angéline de Montbrun*
1882  Octave Crémazie, Œuvres complètes
1884  *La Presse* launched; Eaton’s catalogue, first Canadian mail-order catalogue; second Acadian national convention at Miscouche, Prince Edward Island, at which an Acadian flag, national anthem and motto were adopted
1885  Métis Rebellion led by Louis Riel; defeat of the Métis at Battle of Batoche; execution of Riel for high treason; completion of Canadian Pacific Railroad; federal Franchise Act extends right to vote to status Indians
1887  First issue of Acadian weekly newspaper *L’Évangeline* in Digby, Nova Scotia, publication transferring to New Brunswick 1905–82; Louis Fréchette, *Légende d’un peuple*
1889  Launch of *Le Samedi* (weekly magazine)
1890  Manitoba bans use of French language in judicial and administrative contexts and ceases funding of Catholic schools
1894–1906  Dreyfus Affair
1895  Foundation of École littéraire de Montréal; Jean-Paul Tardivel, *Pour la patrie*
1896  The Laurier-Greenway compromise (Manitoba) allows some teaching in languages other than English to continue under certain circumstances
1898  Yukon enters the Confederation as a separate territory; gold rush along upper Yukon River; Liberal federal government removes Indians’ right to vote
1901  Commonwealth of Australia (federating Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, with the Northern Territory transferred to the country in 1911)
1903  Municipal library opens in Montreal
1904  Louis Dantin publishes *Émile Nelligan et son œuvre*; Camille Roy lecture ‘La nationalisation de la littérature canadienne’
1905  Alberta and Saskatchewan join the Confederation
1906  Camille Roy teaches first course on Canadian literature; first cinema opens in Montreal; first radio broadcast in USA
1907  First issue of *La Revue populaire* (monthly magazine); foundation of Théâtre populaire de Québec; Camille Roy, *Tableau de l’histoire de la littérature canadienne-française*; Dominion of New Zealand
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1908  Congrégation de Notre-Dame (Montreal) opens first école d'enseignement supérieur for girls, preparing women for university; L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

1910  Foundation of daily *Le Devoir*; beginning of colonization of Abitibi; P. T. Legaré distributes the first French-language mail-order catalogue in Canada; foundation of the Association canadienne-française d'éducation d'Ontario (becomes in 1969 l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario and in 2006 l'Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario); Union of South Africa

1911  Marie Gérin-Lajoie first woman to graduate in Quebec; Paul Morin, *Le Paon d'émail*; first congress for francophone teachers in New Brunswick

1912  Librairie Beauchemin launches ‘Bibliothèque canadienne’ intended primarily as book prizes; in Ontario, Regulation 17 reduces teaching in French to first two grades of primary school (repealed in 1927)

1913  French-language newspaper, *Le Droit*, launched in Ottawa

1914  Louis Hémon, *Maria Chapdelaine* first published as serialized in *le Temps*, Paris

1914–18  First World War; under the War Measures Act in Canada controls are imposed on the publishing sector

1916  The Thornton Act bans teaching in French in Manitoba; foundation of l'Association d'Éducation des Franco-Canadiens du Manitoba

1916–37  *Almanach de la langue française*

1917  Conscription crisis; federal government grants women the vote; October Revolution in Russia

1917–42  *Almanach de l'Action sociale catholique*

1918  Review Nigog; Albert Laberge, *La Scouine*; Bibliothèque de l’Action française (nationalist French-language publishing house) founded by the Ligue des droits du français

1919  Launch of *La Revue moderne*, which becomes *Châtelaine* in 1960

1920  Amendment of Indian Act to call for compulsory enfranchisement of Indians

1921  *L'Oiseau bleu*, monthly illustrated children’s magazine, published by la Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste (until 1940)
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Inauguration of the Prix David in Quebec; Dupuis Frères launch a mail-order catalogue (in French); first edition of the <em>Reader's Digest</em></td>
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<td>1923</td>
<td>Founding of the Société des poètes canadiens-français (Montreal)</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>Marie-Claire Daveluy wins the Prix David for <em>Les Aventures de Perrine et Charlot</em>; Lionel Groulx, <em>Notre maître, le passé</em></td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>Second collège classique for girls opened at Jésus-Marie de Sillery convent, Quebec; Le Cercle Molière, theatre company, founded in Saint-Boniface, Manitoba. <em>L’Abeille</em>, monthly illustrated children’s magazine (until 1947), published by the Frères de l’instruction chrétienne, Laprairie; La Loi Choquette decrees that half of the funding for school prizes be spent on French-Canadian texts</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>Indian Act forbids First Nations people from forming political organizations to represent their interests</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>Oblate priests launch <em>La Survivance</em> in Edmonton, which becomes <em>Le Franco-albertain</em> in 1967 and <em>Le Franco</em> in 1979</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>Alfred DesRochers, <em>À l’ombre de l’Orford</em>; Wall Street Crash, prelude to the Great Depression</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>Statute of Westminster (legislative independence of Canada, with certain exemptions for alteration of the British North America Act)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Sœurs de Sainte-Anne open the Collège Marie-Anne to offer cours classique for girls</td>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>Claude-Henri Grignon, <em>Un homme et son péché</em></td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>Jean-Charles Harvey, <em>Les demi-civilisés</em>, banned by the Catholic Church; La Relève founded</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>Maurice Duplessis founds Parti de l’union nationale, and is prime minister of Quebec until 1939, and from 1944 to 1959; creation of the Governor General Awards for literature (in English, including work in translation); Société des écrivains canadiens created in Montreal</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>Foundation of Éditions Fides; Saint-Denys Garneau, <em>Regards et Jeux dans l’espace</em>; Félix-Antoine Savard, <em>Menaud, maître-draweur</em></td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Ringuet, <em>Trente arpents</em>; Léo Desrosiers, <em>Les Engagés du Grand Portage</em></td>
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1939  Office national du film du Canada created
1939–44  Liberal government of Adélaïd Godbout
1939–45  Second World War; War Measures Act in force
1940  After the defeat of France, La Loi du séquestre national allows Canadian publishers to publish works currently out of print in France; women gain provincial vote in Quebec
1941  Sinclair Ross, As for Me and My House
1941–48  Éditions de l’Arbre
1942  Publication of first volume of Chansons d’Acadie
1943  Loi de l’instruction obligatoire (Quebec), age 6–14; Département de l’Instruction publique runs first competition for best Christmas story for children
1944  Duplessis returned to power; Alain Grandbois, Les Îles de la nuit; Héraut, Catholic comic strip magazine for children, until 1965; Académie canadienne-française established, now called the Académie des lettres du Québec
1945  Gabrielle Roy, Bonheur d’occasion; Germaine Guèvremont, Le Survenant; Hugh MacLennan, Two Solitudes
1947  Canadian citizenship replaces British citizenship; Robert Charbonneau, La France et nous; launch in Canada of Sélection, French language edition of Reader’s Digest
1948  Paul-Émile Borduas, Refus global; Roger Lemelin, Les Plouffe; Gratien Gélinas, Ti-coq; adoption of the fleurdelisé flag in Quebec
1949  Newfoundland joins the Confederation; asbestos miners’ strike
1949–51  Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (Massey Commission)
1950  Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Gérard Pelletier found Cité libre
1952  French-language television in Montreal
1953  National Library of Canada/Bibliothèque nationale du Canada established in Ottawa, becoming in 2004 Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada
1954  Radio-Canada sets up first French-language radio service (CBAF) for the Maritimes in Moncton
1956–94  Almanach Éclair / Almanach moderne
1957  Jack Kerouac, On the Road
1958  Yves Thériault, *Agaguk*; French-language television broadcast (CBAFT) launched in Moncton

1959  Death of Duplessis; review *Liberté* founded; Governor General Awards opened to works published in French

1960  Jean Lesage prime minister in Quebec; establishment of Parent Commission on education; Jean-Paul Desbiens, *Les Insolences du frère Untel*, a scathing critique of French-language education in Quebec, sells 100,000 copies in four months

1961  Éditions des Aboiteaux founded in Moncton; foundation of National Indian Council, which splits in 1968, to be replaced by the National Indian Brotherhood and the Native Council of Canada

1963  Report of Bouchard Commission on all aspects of publishing in Quebec; review *Parti pris* (until 1968); Université de Moncton opened in New Brunswick

1963–69  Royal Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism


1965  Present Canadian flag adopted; Marie-Claire Blais, *Une saison dans la vie d’Emmanuel*; Hubert Aquin, *Prochain épisode*; special issue of *Parti pris*, ‘Pour une littérature québécoise’

1966  Abolition of *l’Index clérical*; Réjean Ducharme, *L’Avalée des avalés*; Leonard Cohen, *Beautiful Losers*

1967  Expo 67 in Montreal; Charles de Gaulle declares ‘Vive le Québec libre’ from balcony of Hôtel de ville, Montreal; delegates at the États généraux du Canada français vote in favour of the right to self-determination of the Quebec people; Bibliothèque nationale du Québec established, joining with Archives nationales du Québec in 2006 to form Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ); Jacques Godbout, *Salut Galarneau*; Bill 59 reinstates the principle of bilingual education in Manitoba

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1968 Pierre Trudeau becomes prime minister; formation of le Parti Québécois (PQ) under leadership of René Lévesque; Roch Carrier, *La Guerre, yes sir!*, Pierre Vallières, *Nègres blancs d’Amérique*; Michel Tremblay, *Les Belles Sœurs*; opening of francophone École normale in Moncton; creation of the Centre d’études acadiennes at Université de Moncton


1971 Foundation of Communication-Jeunesse under leadership of Paule Daveluy to promote the reading of children’s and youth literature in Quebec and francophone Canada; Fadette, *Journal d’Henriette Dessaulx*; Antonine Maillet, *La Sagouine*; foundation of le Parti Acadien; founding of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (Inuit Brotherhood) to enable Inuit communities to speak with a united voice on issues concerning the North and the protection of Inuit culture


1974 Bill 22 establishes French as the official language for administration and at work in Quebec; Victor-Lévy Beaulieu,
Chronology

Manuel de la petite littérature du Québec; founding in Saint-Boniface, Manitoba of Les Éditions du Blé; creation of Acadian regional production office of National Film Board; Herménégilde Chiasson, *Mourir à Scoudouc*

1975
Foundation of the Fédération des francophones hors Québec (from 1991, FCFA, La Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada), to promote the development and global expansion of Canadian francophonie.

1976
René Lévesque (Parti Québécois) wins power in Quebec; Louky Bersianik, *L' Eugélionne*

1977
Loi 101, Charte de la langue française making French the official language of Quebec – the Bill has subsequently seen a number of challenges and modifications; France Théoret, *Bloody Mary*; first international conference to be devoted to Acadia; official opening of the Village historique acadien in Caraquet, New Brunswick

1978
*Lurelu* founded under the patronage of Communication-Jeunesse; foundation of La courte échelle (publisher of children’s literature); Denise Boucher, *Les Fées ont soif*; Michel Tremblay, *La grosse femme d’à côté est enceinte*; first volume of *Dictionnaire des œuvres littéraires du Québec* appears; creation of Association des écrivains acadiens

1979
An Antane Kapesh, *Qu’as-tu fait de mon pays?* (translated from Montagnais); Antonine Maillet, *Pélagie-la-Charrette* wins Prix Goncourt; Prix France-Acadie established; creation of Éditions des Plaines in Saint-Boniface; Quebec curriculum encourages use of children’s literature in school

1980
Referendum on Quebec sovereignty is defeated; ‘O Canada’ becomes official Canadian national anthem; establishment of Éditions Perce-Neige in New Brunswick

1981

1982
Constitutional Act transfers final legal powers to Canada. Quebec refuses to sign the agreement; founding of the Assembly of First Nations; Métis Nation is recognized in the Constitution as one of the three distinct aboriginal peoples of Canada; Anne Hébert, *Les Fous de Bassan*; Nicole Brossard, *Picture Theory*; Marco Micone, *Gens du silence*
40 What is Québécois Literature?

1983 Régine Robin, La Québécoite; Penny Petrone, ed., First People, First Voices; foundation of the transcultural review Vice Versa; foundation of the Métis National Council; Marguerite Maillot, Histoire de la littérature acadienne. De rêve en rêve; Beatrice Culleton, In Search of April Raintree

1984 Jacques Poulin, Volkswagen Blues; Gabrielle Roy, La Détresse et l’Enchantement; Éditions Louis Riel established in Regina, becoming Éditions de la Nouvelle Plume in 1996

1985 Robert Bourassa succeeds René Lévesque as prime minister in Quebec; Dany Laferrière, Comment faire l’amour avec un nègre sans se fatiguer; Robert Lepage, La Trilogie des dragons

1986 Tomson Highway, The Rez Sisters

1987 Meech Lake Accord (recognizes Quebec as a distinct society within Canada); Nicole Brossard, Le Désert mauve; Governor General’s awards include categories for children’s literature (text and illustration)

1988 Anne Hébert, Le premier jardin; Margaret Atwood, Cat’s Eye; Multiculturalism Act

1989 Marco Micone, ‘Speak What?; Mordecai Richler, Solomon Gursky Was Here; fall of the Berlin Wall

1990 Rejection of the Meech Lake Accord; Rohinton Mistry, Such a Long Journey; Oka Crisis; Gulf War

1991 Suzanne Jacob, L’Obéissance; first volume of La Vie littéraire au Québec; Raymond Plante, Le dernier des raisins


1993 Carol Shields, The Stone Diaries; North American Free Trade Agreement ratified (Canada, USA and Mexico)

1994 Robert Lepage, Les sept branches de la rivière Ota; Italo-Canadian author Fulvio Caccia wins a Governor General award for Aknos, a volume of poetry written in French; First World Acadian Congress held in New Brunswick; creation of Éditions du Phare ouest, BC
1995 Referendum on sovereignty rejects independence by a margin of 1%; Ying Chen, *L’Ingratitude*

1996 Percentage of immigrants in Quebec is 9%, a percentage which has varied little since the mid-nineteenth century; Bernard Assiniwi, *La Saga des Béothuks*; Bouton d’or Acadie (publishing house, Moncton)


1998 Introduction of l’Épreuve uniforme de français in Quebec; Lise Bissonnette becomes director of the Grande Bibliothèque du Québec; Gaétan Soucy, *La petite fille qui aimait trop les allumettes*; Daniel Poliquin, *L’Homme de paille*; France Daigle, *Pas pire*

1999 Claude Beausoleil, *Exilé*; Émile Ollivier, *Mille eaux*; territory of Nunavut established in north-west; aboriginal TV channel established

2001 Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; Nelly Arcan, *Putain*; Éditions de la Francophonie (Moncton); terrorist attacks in New York and Washington; *Atanarjuak (The Fast Runner)*, by Zacharias Kunuk wins Cannes Caméra d’Or; the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada representing over 55,000 Inuit is renamed the Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK),

2002 Carol Shields, *Unless*; Rohinton Mistry, *Family Matters*; war in Afghanistan

2003 Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*; Royal Proclamation recognizes the harm done to the Acadian people under the *Grand Dérangement*; Canada does not join the US-led coalition against Iraq

2004 Maurizio Gatti, ed., *Littérature amérindienne du Québec. Écrits de langue française*

2005 Opening of the Grande Bibliothèque in Montreal; creation of the Ministère de l’Éducation du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), with responsibility for education in Quebec; Nicolas Dickner, *Nikolski*; same-sex marriages are legalized in Canada

2006 Stephen Harper (Conservative) defeats Liberals; Parliament agrees that the Québécois should be considered a ‘nation’ within Canada; Évelyne de la Chenelière, *Désordre public*
What is Québecois Literature?

2007–11 ‘What is Stephen Harper Reading?’, a fortnightly series of reading recommendations to the prime minister from Yann Martel

2008 Marie-Claire Blais, *Naissance de Rebecca à l’ère des tourments*; Canadian government apologizes for earlier policy of forcing aboriginal children to attend residential schools, with the aim of assimilation

2009 Suzanne Lebeau, *Le Bruit des os qui craquent*


2012 *Dictionnaire des œuvres littéraires de l’Acadie des maritimes XXe siècle* (DOLAM); (September) under the leadership of Pauline Marois le Parti Québécois forms a minority government in Quebec