What is Québécois Literature?
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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
1600s  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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1608  Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec
1609  Marc Lescarbot, *L'Histoire de la Nouvelle France* includes poems (‘Les Muses de la Nouvelle France’)
1610  Exploration of Hudson Bay by Henry Hudson
1613  Champlain publishes his *Voyages* in France
1615  Franciscans and Récollets arrive in New France
1620  Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts
1625  First Jesuit missionaries arrive in Canada
1627  Compagnie des Cent Associés set up to colonize Canada
1629  British regain control of Quebec (until 1632)
1632  Gabriel Sagard, *Le grand voyage du pays des Hurons*
1632–73  Annual publication of the Jesuit *Relations*
1634  Founding of Trois-Rivières
1635  Founding of the Collège des Jésuites, Quebec
1637  First reservation established at Sillery, south of Quebec
1639  Marie de l'Incarnation founds the first Ursuline college in Quebec to educate young girls
1642  Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve founds Ville-Marie (later Montreal) on site of former Iroquois village of Hochelaga
1654–67  British occupy Acadie
1658  Marguerite Bourgeoys opens school for girls in Montreal
1659  Pierre-Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart de Groseilliers explore lakes Superior and Michigan
1660  Adam Dollard des Ormeaux, with colonial militia and Indian allies, defeated in siege of Long Sault
1660s  *Coureurs de bois* begin to operate as unlicensed middlemen between the indigenous hunters and colonial traders
1663  Foundation of the Séminaire de Québec by Bishop Laval
1663–73  Under royal sponsorship, 768 *filles du roi* are shipped from France over an eleven-year period to help populate the colony
1670  Hudson’s Bay Company set up by London-based traders; French re-occupy Acadie
1671  General alliance with Indians in the Pays d’en Haut
1673  Marquette and Jolliet explore the Mississippi River, reaching the mouth of the Arkansas River
Chronology

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
What is Québécois Literature?

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
1821 Founding of McGill University (Montreal); merging of Hudson’s Bay Company and North-West Company
1826 Launch of La Minerve in Montreal, a paper which supported Papineau’s Patriot Party
1830 Michel Bibaud, Épîtres, satires, chansons, épigrammes et autres pièces de vers. First volume of poetry to be published by a francophone Canadian in Quebec
1834 Presentation of the 92 Resolutions by the Patriot Party to the House of Assembly of Lower Canada
1836 First Acadian elected to Nova Scotia legislature
1837 Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, fils, L’Influence d’un livre
1837–38 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
1839 Lord Durham submits his Report which recommends the assimilation of the French-Canadian population, described as a people with no history and no literature
1841 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’
1842 Launch of the Journal de Québec; Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, ‘Un Canadien errant’
1844 Foundation of the Institut Canadien; opening of the Crémazie brothers’ bookshop in Quebec
1845–52 François-Xavier Garneau, Histoire du Canada depuis sa découverte
1846 First Acadian elected to New Brunswick legislature; Patrice Lacombe, La Terre paternelle; Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau, Charles Guérin
1847 Henry W. Longfellow, Evangeline, a Tale of Acadie
1848–50 Publication of four volumes of James Huston’s Répertoire national ou Recueil de littérature canadienne
1852 Foundation of Université Laval in Quebec; Susanna Moodie, Roughing it in the Bush
1854 Abolition of the seigneurial system
1855 First edition of the Almanach du peuple, still in print today
### What is Québécois Literature?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Enfranchisement Act requires abandonment of Indian status for right to vote</td>
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<td>1859</td>
<td>Edmé Rameau de Saint-Père (French historian), <em>La France aux colonies: études sur le développement de la race française hors de l’Europe</em></td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>Beginning of the ‘mouvement littéraire de 1860’</td>
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<td>1862</td>
<td>Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, <em>Jean Rivard, le défricheur canadien</em></td>
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<td>1863</td>
<td>Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, père, <em>Les Anciens Canadiens</em></td>
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<td>1865</td>
<td>French translation of Longfellow’s <em>Evangeline</em> by Pamphile Lemay</td>
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<td>1866</td>
<td>Napoléon Bourassa, <em>Jacques et Marie</em></td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>British North America Act (redesignated in 1982 the Constitution Act 1867) unites Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the Dominion of Canada; <em>Le Moniteur acadien</em> first published at Shédiac, New Brunswick</td>
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<td>1868</td>
<td>Arthur Buies founds <em>La Lanterne</em></td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>Members of the Institut canadien de Montréal are excommunicated</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>Manitoba and Northwest Territories join the Confederation; first Riel Rebellion</td>
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<td>1871</td>
<td>Population of Quebec reaches 1 million; British Columbia joins the Confederation</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>Prince Edward Island joins the Confederation</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td>Riots in Caraquet, New Brunswick, in response to the 1871 Common Schools Act which threatens the future of denominational schooling</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>1878–1936</td>
<td><em>Almanach Rolland</em></td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>Closure of the library of the Institut canadien de Montréal</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>First Acadian national convention at Memramcook; 15 August chosen as Acadian national holiday; Laure Conan, <em>Angéline de Montbrun</em></td>
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Chronology

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’email; 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 the 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)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<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 Reader’s Digest</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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<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-draveur</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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<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Office national du film du Canada created</td>
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<td>1939–44</td>
<td>Liberal government of Adélard Godbout</td>
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<td>1939–45</td>
<td>Second World War; War Measures Act in force</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Sinclair Ross, <em>As for Me and My House</em></td>
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<td>1941–48</td>
<td>Éditions de l’Arbre</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>Publication of first volume of <em>Chansons d’Acadie</em></td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>Loi de l’instruction obligatoire (Quebec), age 6–14; Département de l’Instruction publique runs first competition for best Christmas story for children</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>Duplessis returned to power; Alain Grandbois, <em>Les Îles de la nuit, Héarts</em>, Catholic comic strip magazine for children, until 1965; Académie canadienne-française established, now called the Académie des lettres du Québec</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Canadian citizenship replaces British citizenship; Robert Charbonneau, <em>La France et nous</em>; launch in Canada of <em>Sélection</em>, French language edition of <em>Reader’s Digest</em></td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>Newfoundland joins the Confederation; asbestos miners’ strike</td>
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<td>1949–51</td>
<td>Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (Massey Commission)</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Gérard Pelletier found <em>Cité libre</em></td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>French-language television in Montreal</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>National Library of Canada/Bibliothèque nationale du Canada established in Ottawa, becoming in 2004 Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Radio-Canada sets up first French-language radio service (CBAF) for the Maritimes in Moncton</td>
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<td>1956–94</td>
<td><em>Almanach Éclair / Almanach moderne</em></td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>Jack Kerouac, <em>On the Road</em></td>
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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

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

1969 Official Languages Act/La Loi des langues officielles; Federal Government White Paper proposes the elimination of Indian as a distinct legal status; New Brunswick officially becomes a bilingual province (enacted in 1977); establishment of collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel in Quebec; three films (L'Acadie, l'Acadie, by Pierre Perrault, Éloge du chiac by Michel Brault, and Acadie libre by Léonard Forest) voice protest and demands of Acadians; occupation of Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay, by ‘Indians of All Nations’

1970 ‘October Crisis’ (Front de libération du Québec bombings, kidnappings, and murder of a Quebec minister; War Measures Act); Anne Hébert, Kamouraska; Gabrielle Roy, La Rivière sans repos; Michèle Lalonde, Speak White; Gaston Miron, L'Homme rapaillé; Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario established in Sudbury, Ontario

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 Dessaules; 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

1972 Margaret Atwood, Survival: a Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature; founding of Éditions d'Acadie; Antonine Maillet, Rabelais et les traditions populaires en Acadie

1973 Michel Tremblay, Hosanna; Rudy Wiebe, The Temptations of Big Bear; Maria Campbell, Halfbreed; founding in Ontario of publishing house Prise de parole; Guy Arsenault, Acadie Rock; Melvin Gallant, Ti-Jean; Canadian Multiculturalism Directorate established

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 acadienne du Canada), to promote the development and global expansion of Canadian francophonie.  
1976 René Lévesque (Parti Québécois) wins power in Quebec; Louky Bersianik, *L’Eugéllionne*  
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  
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*
What is Québécois Literature?

1983

1984

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*

1992

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 Québécois 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