



Canadian Slang & English Words

Canadian English words, expressions, and terms

A-B

- **ABM, bank machine:** a common term for an (ATM) automated teller machine. Short for automated bank machine.
- **Bachelor pad:** bachelor apartment ("They have a bachelor for rent").
- **Beaver** - impolite term for the female genitals
- **BC Bud:** Marijuana (or Pot) grown in BC, often in Grow Ops (hidden hydroponic growing operations) scattered throughout the province in both urban and rural areas. BC Bud has a reputation of being very strong. Rumor has it that BC Bud is the largest cash crop in the province and contributes significantly to the economy.
- **Biffy** - bathroom
- **Boonies** - a location that is a great distance from any metro center, both physically and culturally (see "hick") synonym for "toolies"

C-D

- **Can** - bathroom (also “the John” and “biffy”)
- **Canadian** - a beer (brand name : Molson Canadian)
- **Canuck**: A slang term for "Canadian" in the U.S. and Canada. Adopted as the name of the National Hockey League team in Vancouver. Similar to Americans being referred to as “Yankees”
- **Caper**: A person originally born on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Typically used to identify someone who has left the island in search of employment.
- **Central Canada**: What Ontarians and Quebecers like to call their provinces. A misnomer, as Manitoba is more central (geographically speaking) than Ontario and Quebec.
- **Chesterfield**: a sofa or couch. The more international terms *sofa* and *couch* are also used.
- **Chinook**: a warm, dry wind experienced along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and Canada. Most common in winter and spring, a chinook wind can result in a rise in temperature of 20 C° (36 F°) in a quarter of an hour. A Chinook in BC is also one of the five main varieties of salmon.
- **Click**- a kilometer
- **Cop** - slang for a police officer, derived from “Constable on Patrol”
- **Cougar** - mature woman who dresses in a sexy manner to seduce younger men
- **Cowtown or Cow town**: A nickname for Calgary, Alberta. Refers to its roots as a hub of ranching, livestock trade and the Calgary Stampede or rodeo culture.
- **Crowbar Hotel** - Jail (see Queen’s Hotel)

- **Diss** - to verbally show disrespect
- **Double-double**: a cup of coffee from Tim Horton's coffee shop with two creams and two sugars - Triple-triple are three creams/sugars.
- **Down south**: refers to the United States.

■ E-F

- **Eaves troughs**: grooves or channels that attach to the underside of the roof of a house to collect rainwater. Known to most Americans and to Britons as gutters.
- **Edmonchuk**: A name for Edmonton, Alberta, referring to the large Ukrainian population.
- **Eh**: a spoken interjection to ascertain the comprehension, continued interest, agreement, etc., of the person or persons addressed ("That was a good game last night, eh?"). May also be used instead of "huh?" or "what?" meaning "please repeat or say again." Frequently mis-represented by Americans as *A*, or *hey*. May have its origins from the French *hein*, which is pronounced in a very similar fashion.

- **Emo** - short for emotional, someone who is extremely and inappropriately emotional. A subculture that often dresses in dark clothes, and resembles goth
- **Farmer Tan**: tan of the lower left arm, obtained by driving with the window open wearing a short-sleeve shirt. Also any tan or sunburn of both arms from mid-biceps and lower.
- **Fire hall**: where firemen live and wait for a call. Fire station, firehouse
- **Flat**: An Atlantic Canadian term used to refer to a box containing 24 bottles or cans of beer. (see also, 2-4)
- **(The) Force**: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- **Forty pounder (*forty ounce*)** — a 40 oz. bottle of alcohol (see 40).
- **Frog**: Derogatory term used to describe French Canadians

G

- **Garburator**: a garbage disposal unit located beneath the drain of a kitchen sink.
- **Gastown**: the old part of Vancouver and the original colloquial name of the settlement
- **Ghost car** - a police car that is undercover
- **Gino**: used to describe someone of Italian descent.
- **Giv'n'r**: used to describe any act carried out with extreme exuberance or to its fullest potential. "We were just Giv'n'r last night." Often used to describe heavy alcohol drinking and partying. Short for "giving her (hell). Variation "Give 'er" used on east coast ('I'm gonna just give 'er in tonight's game' or 'We really gave 'er last night at the game.')
- **Goal Suck**: In ice hockey, somebody who stays around the opposing teams goalie and does not play defence. (see "Cherry Picker")
- **Golden Arches** - McDonalds restaurants
- **Gonch, Ginch** (From Ukrainian gatky/gatsi): refers to men's brief-style underwear, particularly those that are threadbare. Used in British Columbia and Alberta. Also - tightie whities
- **Gorby**: A derogative term for a tourist or one who is severely ignorant to Canadian culture and believes in stereotypes (such as year-round snow)
- **Gouge-and-Screw Tax**: Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- **Grit**: a member of the Liberal Party of Canada.
- **GTA**: frequently used acronym for the Greater Toronto Area
- **G'way**: expression to denote disbelief. Translated to "Go away!"

H-J

- **Habs:** Historical Quebec: Habitants - Nick name of the Montreal Canadiens NHL team.
- **Had the biscuit:** Dead, broken, spent, "My old car has had the biscuit".
- **Half-sack:** A six pack of beer.
- **Hammered** - very drunk
- **The Hat:** Medicine Hat, Alberta
- **HBC:** The Hudson's Bay Company (founded 1670).
- **Head'r:** Used as a verb, to leave. eg. I guess I'd better head'r. Also to fall head first "He took a head'r down the stairs"
- **Heifer** - an insulting term referring to a fat ugly woman
- **Hick** - a resident of the boonies
- **Hog Town** or **Hogtown:** Nickname for Toronto.
- **Hollywood North:** a reference to film production in Canada, used to describe Toronto and Vancouver as two major sites of Canadian film production.
- **Homo milk:** homogenized milk, particularly with a fat content greater than 2%, usually 3.25%. Referred to in the U.S. as whole milk.
- **Hoodie:** A hooded sweatshirt.
- **Hosed:** Drunk or broken or not working. "I dropper my laptop, now its hosed"
- **Housecoat:** robe one wears around the house.
- **Huck:** to throw something
- **Humidex:** measurement used by meteorologists to reflect the combined effect of heat and humidity.
- **Hydro:** Commonly as a synonym for electrical service. Many Canadian provincial electric companies generate power from hydroelectricity, and incorporate the term "Hydro" in their names: eg BC Hydro "How long did you work for Hydro?"; "The hydro bill is due on the fifteenth."; "I didn't pay my hydro bill so they shut off my lights."
- **Icky-Bicky** - ICBC - Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
- **Inside Passage:** a "marine highway" linking BC's south coast with the Central Coast and North Coast/Prince Rupert via a chain of channels. The route is "inside" because it is sheltered by the coastal archipelago. (Islands)
- **The Interior:** used (without further description) by residents of British Columbia to describe essentially the entire province outside of Greater Vancouver, the Islands and the North Coast. Often seen in compound forms, Central Interior and Southern Interior especially (which almost mean the same thing, but not quite).
- **The Island:** Vancouver Island, in common British Columbia usage; other islands are referred to directly by name, except in context.
- **The Islands:** in BC, the Gulf Islands.
- **Islander:** A person from Prince Edward Island
- **Java** - coffee
- **Jesus Murphey:** a common exclamation, sometimes **Jesus H. Murphy**.
- **Jib:** methamphetamine or crystal meths (West/Central Canada).
- **Johnny on the Spot** - a portable toilet

K-M

- **Kokanee:** British Columbian name for a species of land-locked salmon (accent on first syllable). Also the name of a popular beer made in the Kootenay district, also known as "Blue Cocaine."
- **Kraft Dinner:** Kraft macaroni and cheese. Sometimes called "KD".
- **Language Police:** A Quebec provincial government body titled the Office québécois de la langue française who under Bill 101, the controversial language law passed in the 1970s, were charged with ensuring that Quebec businesses predominantly feature the French language on signs, menus etc.
- **Left Coast:** term used to refer to British Columbia; the phrase is often applied in the United States to California; both are a reference to their geographical locations, (on the left side of a map of North America) and to the more liberal, or left-wing, attitudes of those regions in comparison to the rest of the country.
- **Liquor Store:** A *government operated* liquor store, as privately owned liquor stores are uncommon or illegal in Eastern Canada, depending on provincial liquor laws. A private liquor store is generally referred to as a *Cold Beer & Wine Store*
- **Loonie:** Canadian one dollar coin. Derived from the use of the loon on the reverse. See "toonie"
- **Lord Stanley or Lord Stanley's Mug:** slang reference to the Stanley Cup, awarded annually to the champion team of the National Hockey League.
- **Lotus Land:** British Columbia, especially the Lower Mainland around Vancouver, due to flowering plants in winter
- **Lower Mainland;** the Greater Vancouver-Fraser valley area of BC
- **Lumber jacket:** A thick flannel jacket either red and black or green and black favoured by blue collar workers and fans of heavy metal/grunge music.
- **Maritimer;** Used to describe residents of the Maritime provinces on Canada's east coast. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island make up the Maritimes.
- **Member;** Used by the RCMP to refer to fellow Mounties in place of the usual "officer" or "constable" (or equivalent) in other police forces.
- **Mickey:** a small (13 oz.) bottle of liquor, shaped to fit in a pocket, much like a hip flask. Also fits conveniently alongside the calf of a cowboy boot or rubber boot.
- **Molson Muscle** - beer belly (man's fat stomach that hangs over their belt) named after a popular brand of beer, Molson Canadian.
- **Monster house:** In Vancouver, a newly-built and very large, post-modern residence taking up nearly all of a city lot, often overshadowing neighbouring houses.
- **Mountie:** a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- **Mother Corp:** The CBC. (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

N-R

- **Nanaimo bar:** a dessert named for the town of Nanaimo, British Columbia and made of egg custard with a Graham-cracker-based bottom and a thin layer of chocolate on top; however, this term is now common in the United States and elsewhere, thanks to Starbucks.
- **Newfie, Newf:** A colloquial, often derisive term used to describe one who is from Newfoundland and Labrador. Historically used with light humour, but derogatory if used by someone not from Newfoundland.
- **the Oilpatch, or the Patch:** the local term of the oil industry of Alberta, especially the part involved directly with drilling.
- **Oil Town:** Nickname for Edmonton due to the oil refining that is done in the region.
- **Out East:** A summary term used in Western Canada (BC specifically) to classify anyone born and raised east of Manitoba.
- **Out West:** Term used to describe the general direction towards anywhere in Western Canada west of the Manitoba/Ontario border.
- **Parkade:** a parking garage, especially in the West.
- **Peasant Vision, Country Cable:** The basic three broadcast TV channels that can be picked up almost anywhere (Global, CBC, CTV).
- **The Peg and Peg City:** Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- **Pencil crayon:** coloured pencil.
- **Pissed** - very drunk
- **Pogie:** Atlantic Canadian term for social assistance or welfare.
- **Pop:** common name for soft drinks, or any non-alcoholic carbonated beverage.
- **Poutine:** a dish of french fries (or chips) topped with cheese curds and covered with hot gravy
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- **Puck Bunny:** ("Puck Slut" or "Puck Rat") In disparaging terms, A young girl who pursues hockey players in hopes of a sexual encounter. More correctly is "Puck Fuck," but rarely used in polite company.
- **Puck:** A hockey player
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- **Quack** - a doctor with very poor skills, possibly knowingly deceiving his patients
- **Queen City:** Regina, Saskatchewan.
- **Queen's Hotel:** local or county jail
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- **Rad:** Short for radiator in a car or home heating, but pronounced like the first syllable of 'radical'.
- **Randy:** Excited, turned on, horny
- **Regular:** used to denote a coffee with one cream, one sugar ("I'll have two double doubles and a regular"). Also the lowest grade of gasoline.
- **Rez** : Short for dormitory residences in University or College.
- **Riding the Pine** - sports term, when a player is not allowed to play by the coach

- **Rink Rat**— Term used to describe people who work at a hockey rink and maintain the building/ice surface. Also used for hockey players who stay after practice for extra ice time
- **The Rock**: Newfoundland.
- **Rotten Ronnie's**: McDonald's restaurants.
- **Runners**: running shoes, sneakers, especially in Central Canada.

■ S

- **Sally Ann** - short expression meaning the Salvation Army church
- **Saskabush**: Saskatchewan, mild insult implying nothing exists there except bushes (no culture)
- **Sasquatch**: A creature similar to Bigfoot or Yeti.
- **Serviette**: a small square of cloth or paper used while eating, a napkin.
- **Skid**: a reference to people who appear down and out with raggedy clothing, sometimes homeless but not always. A teenager who has no ambition, usually doing drugs and is likely to end up on “skid row”
- **Skookum** - is a positive adjective which can mean "strong", can also mean "great", "big", and "excellent". eg He did a skookum job.
- **Slack off**: Term for low quality work; to work slowly and minimally.
- **Slew foot (feet)** - the act of kicking another person's feet so that he trips (sports)
- **Snowbirds**: a reference to people, often senior citizens, who leave Canada during the winter months to reside in southern states of the U.S. (particularly Florida & Arizona.) Also the name of the Canadian Air Force aerobatics team.
- **Spinny**: a girl or woman, who has a certain kind of talkative, dizzy, not-all-there kind of personality.
- **Spudhead**: a person from Prince Edward Island, in reference to the province's abundance of potato farming
- **Stagette**: the female equivalent of a stag party.
- **Steeltown**: Hamilton, Ontario, in reference to the city's main industry
- **Stinktown**: Sarnia, Ontario, in reference to the smell from the petroleum refineries.
- **Stubble Jumper**: Insulting term for someone from Saskatchewan, or from the prairies in general. Relates to the province's vast farmlands that when harvested, leave stubble.

T-Z

- **Tad** - a very small amount “I would like a tad of sugar in my coffee”
- **T-Bar**: refers to female underwear visible above the pants at the back. Presumably from T-bar ski lift, also known as a “whale tail”
- **"Take Off"**: expression meaning “leave” similar to “get lost”

- **Tim's, Timmy's:** Tim Hortons doughnut chain named after a famous Canadian hockey player from the 1950's
- **Timbit:** A round bite-sized treat made from what is left over of a doughnut after the hole is cut out from the middle. The term was coined by the Tim Hortons doughnut chain.
- **T. O.:** Toronto
- **Toboggan** - a simple sled and a traditional form of transportation. Now used primarily on snow to carry one or more people (usually children) down a hill for recreation.
- **Tramp stamp** - a tattoo on the lower back. Implies the woman is a tramp (slut)
- **Trash Talk** - (sports) insulting an opponent for the purpose of distraction
- **Twofer, Two-four:** a case of 24 beer (see 2-4).
- **Twonie or Toonie:** Canadian two dollar coin. Modelled after *loonie*.
- **Tuque:** a knitted winter hat, often with a pompon on the crown. Sometimes spelled "toque".

- **Washroom:** the general term for what is normally named *public toilet*. The word *bathroom* is also used; the term *toilet* is generally considered somewhat indelicate in Canada and is avoided.
- **Wheels:** A vehicle, usually a car. Tire is usually used when referring to the actual wheels "Where are your wheels parked?"
- **Winterpeg:** also "Windypeg" refers to the city of Winnipeg

- **Zed** - the last letter of the alphabet. Americans use the term "zee" to indicate the same letter.