Canadian Resources and Repositories

1. Government resources
   National - Library and Archives Canada - note that website redesign is in progress and URLs may change
   Genealogy and Family History homepage is found at http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/introduction.aspx
   Portal to resources/holdings on LAC website and introduction/links to genealogical resources
   Not all records indexed, but complete holdings of census and ship records, among others
   Provincial – Vital records indexes, online ordering, depending on province
2. FamilySearch.org - free – coverage varies – see Family Search Wiki for collection details
3. Ancestry.com (subscription required) - Canada has its own edition (Ancestry.ca); also part of Ancestry.com World Explorer Plus membership, Ancestry Library and Ancestry FHL editions
4. Databases and Archives – Jewish and general
5. Public and university libraries, historical newspapers, historical and genealogy societies, local histories

Immigration

FamilySearch.org - Canada Passenger Lists, 1881-1922 – indexed by passenger name – includes images
Ancestry.com – Canadian Ship Records Holdings and Border Crossings

1. Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935
   See Ancestry database description for complete holdings – ports and dates
   NOTE THAT THERE IS A COVERAGE GAP FOR QUEBEC PORTS BETWEEN JULY 1908 AND MAY 1919
2. Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919-1924

LAC - Canadian Ship Records – Passenger Lists, 1865-1922 - The lists are organized by port and date of arrival. This database provides access to passenger lists for the following ports: Québec (1865-1921), Halifax (1881-1922), Saint John (1900-1922), North Sydney (1906-1922), Vancouver (1905-1922), Victoria (1905-1922), New York (1906-1922), Eastern American coast (1905-1922)
   Search passenger lists by ship name, date of arrival, shipping line:

Naturalization

- Records between 1854-1917 - only a card index survives, with minimal information
- LAC website has digitized copies of the Canadian Naturalization Index (1915-1951), including information on how to obtain the actual records:
- LAC has searchable database of Citizenship Registration Records for the Montreal Circuit Court (1851-1945), with digitized copies of records:
**Census** - By law, census records remain private for 92 years.

**Library and Archives Canada**
- LAC holds copies of census enumerations held every 10 years, beginning in 1851, through 1911 and enumerations of the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta) which were taken in 1906 and 1916; 1921 census is found on Ancestry.ca.
- Census enumerations may be searched individually (census by census) by name. Introductory pages for each census also describe record field details:  
  [http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx)

**FamilySearch.org** - Canadian census records are indexed and transcribed but only has images for 1842 and prior. There is no index for 1911.

**Ancestry.com** - Holds fully indexed census records, 1851-1921 and 1906 and 1916
- Ancestry also has blank forms for selected years:  

**Census Substitute**

Jewish Colonization Association individual farm settler reports from Western Canada and Quebec (1906-1951) - Available on Canadian Jewish Heritage Network genealogy search page:  

**1940 National Registration Records**

See [http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/SitePages/022-911.007-e.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/SitePages/022-911.007-e.aspx) for information on how to order these records from Statistics Canada. Note that records will not exist for Canadians who served in the armed forces in World War II. They are not subject to census privacy restrictions.

**City Directories**

Montreal – 1842-1999:
- *Annuaire Lovell de Montréal et sa banlieue* [Lovell Directories of Montreal and its Suburbs]  
  Available at [http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html](http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html) or access through Steve Morse’s one-step website [http://www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)
- After finding correct page click “Affichage plein écran” to display the full screen view

Toronto – 1900-1922
- Toronto city directories 1900-1922 available on Toronto Public Library’s website, with earlier directories from 1833 available through the Internet Archive – see list:  

Western Canada:
- University of Alberta’s Peel’s Prairie Provinces collection includes a series of digitized Henderson’s city directories: [http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/henderson.html](http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/henderson.html)  
  Edmonton, Alberta 1908-1953; Calgary, Alberta 1910-1953; Lethbridge, Alberta – covers 18 years between 1914 and 1953 – not every year; Winnipeg, Manitoba – coverage is spotty; Brandon, Manitoba 1906-1955 every other year; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – multiple collections, 1910-1919, 1920-1925, 1961-1979 and others
If unable to find digitized city directories for a specific city via internet search, check public library websites for city directory holdings and submit lookup request via web, email or phone.


**Vital Records**

- **British Columbia** - British Columbia Archives genealogy databases link to digitized images of more than 700,000 scanned and indexed documents: Birth (1854-1903), Marriage (1872-1937), Death registrations (1872-1992) - [http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch)
  
  BC vital records are also indexed and found on FamilySearch - British Columbia Birth Registrations, 1854-1903, British Columbia Marriage Registrations, 1859-1932, British Columbia Death Registrations, 1872-1986

- **Manitoba** - Genealogy searches – indexes: Births (more than 100 years ago), Marriages (more than 80 years ago), Deaths (more than 70 years ago) - [http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php](http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php)

- **Saskatchewan** - Vital Statistics Genealogy Index – work in progress
  
  Searches: [http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx](http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx)  
  Orders – select “Genealogical Photocopy” – [http://www.ehealthsask.ca/vitalstats/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ehealthsask.ca/vitalstats/Pages/default.aspx)

- **Quebec** - Strict privacy laws – records after 1899 sealed for genealogical access
  

  Ancestry.com has selected collections, including Ontario Marriages, 1801-1928 and the Drouin Collection covering Quebec vital and church records through 1941

- **FamilySearch** has a large collection of vital records (BMD and probate)– browse the FamilySearch Wiki – use keywords “[Province] Online Genealogy Records” for details by province

**Burials, Obituaries and Probate**

- JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)
- Jewishdata.com – subscription site, but free access as member benefit for some JGSs
- Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada indexes obituaries through contemporary times
- Canadian Jewish Heritage Network has Yiddish obituaries from the *Keneder Adler* (1908-1932) and St. John, New Brunswick burials and obituaries
- FamilySearch – Saskatchewan, Probate Estate Files, 1887-1931 and British Columbia Wills, 1861-1981

**Military Records**

- Library and Archives Canada holds various records: Searchable database of First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), Casualty records – World War I and II, War diaries

  Obtaining records for service after 1919 (including WWII service) - use application form – Unless you are an immediate family member, must provide proof of death at least 20 years – headstone photo is acceptable; "Genealogy package" provides copies of selected military service documents: [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/022/f2/022-909.007-e.pdf](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/022/f2/022-909.007-e.pdf)

- Canadian Jewish Heritage Network - Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces

©2014 Marion Werle 3 rev. 5/28/2014
Archival Collections

Library and Archives Canada Photo Collections - http://thediscoverblog.com/2012/01/17/how-to-find-photographs-online/

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada - http://www.jhcwc.org/index.php
Publications and exhibits of interest to those with ancestors in Western Canada
Archives includes database of over 14,000 news stories and over 29,000 articles; photos, oral history tapes, family trees, etc.
Archival search is free – there is a charge for copies and translations of Yiddish articles

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network - http://www.cjhn.ca/en

JewishGen Canada Database - http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Canada/
Front-ends multiple collections, both JewishGen (JGFF, JOWBR, Memorial Plaques Database, Jewish General Hospital Database) and external (Canadian Jewish Heritage Network)

Other Sources

Local genealogy societies – general and Jewish
Publications of local historical societies – general and Jewish
Our Roots – Canadian local histories online – keyword search for “Jews” - http://www.ourroots.ca/
List of all Google newspapers, including Canadian: http://news.google.com/newspapers
JewishGen InfoFile on Canada

Keeping Current
Subscribe to blogs/newsletters of genealogical interest to stay up to date on changes.
- Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter - http://blog.eogn.com/
- Library and Archives Canada - http://thediscoverblog.com/
- JewishGen - http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/

Periodically review list of new records on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch
Do periodic searches on towns/city directories and review provincial websites for vital records updates

For further reading:
- Abella, Irving, A Coat of Many Colours; Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada (Toronto: Key Porter Books, c1999)
- Gutkin, Harry, Journey Into Our Heritage; the Story of the Jewish People in the Canadian West (Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, c1980)