Government Information Service
McGill University Libraries

GUIDE TO LOCATING SPEECHES MADE BY CANADIAN PRIME MINISTERS

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide has been prepared to assist you in locating speeches made by Canadian prime ministers. The most relevant sources are located near the beginning of this guide, while more selective sources (including sources for other government individuals' speeches) are located near the end of the guide.

1. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Library and Archives Canada (http://www.collectionscanada.com) offers a section of their website called *Speeches* (http://www.collectionscanada.ca/primeministers/h4-4000-e.html).

Here is a description of what this section of the website contains:

> The website's "Speeches" section incorporates a revised version of prime ministers' speeches from the *Canada Speaks* site. In selecting speeches, the goal was to include at least two significant speeches for each prime minister, delivered during his or her tenure in office. As well, the site contains several speeches delivered before or after a term of office. Both of Canada's official languages -- English and French -- are represented in the items chosen. Please note that where a speech was available in only one language, an *unofficial* translation made specifically for the site has been provided for your convenience. You can identify translations by consulting the "Source" information at the bottom of each speech.

Note that these speeches are organized by subject. To view speeches available for a particular prime ministers, click on 'Profiles' in the left-hand menu, and then click on the name of the prime minister. All available speeches will then be listed under 'Speeches'.

2. *CANADIAN SPEECHES* (PRINT AND ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION)

McGill subscribes to a resource called *Canadian speeches*, which is available in both print and electronic format. Newer volumes however, are only available in electronic format.

To find this resource, go to the Library Catalogue (http://aleph.mcgill.ca/F/). Search for "Canadian speeches" in Journal Title begins with… in the Basic search of the Catalogue. The paper copies of the

journal are available for regular loan in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, and can be found at the call number FC1 C38.

To access the *Canadian speeches* electronic resource, click on the Find It button besides the record for *Canadian speeches* in the Library Catalogue. *Canadian speeches* is available from various providers so check the dates available to make sure that the dates that you need are included.

When you leave the date fields blank and click GO, you will access a list of all available issues of the publication. To search within these issues in the ProQuest CBCA Complete, click on 'Search within Publication' on the tabs at the top. Then enter either prime minister's name, or the subject of their speech. From Expanded Academic ASAP, enter the prime minister's name or keyword in the Quick Search box, and select the option 'within this publicationn'.

3. BY AUTHOR IN THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

You can start looking for speeches in the Library Catalogue (http://aleph.mcgill.ca/F/).

From the Basic search, select Author begins with… (last name first).

Then enter the name of prime minister you are looking for (e.g. 'Borden, Robert Laird').

This will give you a listing of everything in McGill's holdings by that particular author.

4. BOOKS AND USING KEYWORDS IN THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Books such as *Great Canadian Speeches* (available for regular loan in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library at call number PN4055 C3 G74 2004) are other useful resources for locating speeches. This particular book has a section called 'Speech Sources' in the back. These bibliographies can be useful in locating other sources related to the speech you are looking for.

The following volumes also contain speeches by both Canadian prime ministers, and other government officials. You can find them in the Library Catalogue by doing a title search using 'Canadian foreign policy'. Their call numbers are in brackets and can be found in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Canadian foreign policy, 1945-1954: selected speeches and documents (F5045 M23)
Canadian foreign policy, 1945-2000 : major documents and speeches (FC 602 C359 2000)
Canadian foreign policy 1955-1965 : selected speeches and documents (F5091 C326)
Canadian foreign policy 1966-1976 : selected speeches and documents (FC 602 C36)
Canadian foreign policy, 1977-1992 : selected speeches and documents (FC 602 C362 1994)

Try searching the Library Catalogue (http://aleph.mcgill.ca/F/) using the 'Words anywhere' option with keywords like "Canadian" and "speeches" to get more results about famous Canadian speeches.

5. HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES

If the speech was made in the House of Commons, then the full text will be available in the House of Commons Debates. The print copies of the debates can be found in Government Information at the

call number CA1 X1 D21. Note that speeches made by any Minister of Parliament (MP) can also be found in the debates.

Find the index for the session you are looking (note that it is easier to go by session than by year, since sessions do not follow the calendar year). The indexes can found immediately after the House of Commons Debates, call number CA1 X1 D22.

Once you have located the session you need, either look up the surname of the prime minister in the index, or the subject of their speech. The numbers beside the entries under the name or subject are the page number in the equivalent session of the House of Commons Debates (CA1 X1 D21). Simply look up those page numbers in the equivalent session of the debates.

For very recent debates, you can find them online at
http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber_House_Debates.asp?Language=E.

6. CANADAHISTORY.COM

While mostly just duplications of the speeches available from Library and Archives Canada, Canada: the History of a People (http://www.canadahistory.com) does have some speeches that Library and Archives Canada do not.

The speeches are broken up by time period as follows:

- 1875-1920 (http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/documents/speeches_1875_-_1920.htm) – Includes Mackenzie, MacDonald, Abbott, Laurier and Borden
- 1921-1950 (http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/documents/speeches_1921-_1950.htm) – Includes Meighen, Bennett, King and St-Laurent.
- 1951-1979 (http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/documents/speeches_1951-1979.htm) – Includes Diefenbaker, Pearson, Trudeau and Clark.
- 1980-2000 (http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/documents/speeches_1980_-_2000.htm) – Includes Trudeau, Turner, Mulroney, Campbell and Chrétien.

7. EMPIRE CLUB ADDRESSES

Many Canadian prime ministers have made speeches before the Empire Club. You can search the full text of all speeches up to 1998-1999 on their website
(http://www.empireclubfoundation.com/search.asp).

8. CBC ARCHIVES

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provides an archive of radio and video clips, some of which are of or about Canadian prime ministers.

You can browse the *Politics and Economy* (http://archives.cbc.ca/IDT-1-73/politics_economy/) section of the site for the prime minister you are looking for, and use the search box in the top left corner to search for what you want.

9. UNITED NATIONS SPEECHES

The *Permanent Missions to the United Nations* website (http://www.un.int) provides a listing of speeches made by Canadian representatives to the United Nations and to UN organizations.

The listing of speeches can be found at http://www.un.int/canada/english.html.

While the people making these speeches are rarely prime ministers, it does include some speeches made by prime ministers. It is, however, an excellent resource for finding speeches made to the United Nations by Canadians.

10. RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Recent statements by the prime minister of Canada can be found on the PM's website (http://pm.gc.ca). After clicking on English or French, you can scroll down to the bottom of the page to see recent statements made by the prime minister.

To see all of the recent statements, click on 'All News' at the bottom of page. Then, using the dropdown menu that appears at the top of the screen, you can select 'Speeches', which will lead you specifically to recent speeches made by the prime minister.

The Internet Archive (http://www.archive.org/) is building an archive of internet websites and has been capturing the website of the Prime Minister since 1996 (see: http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://pm.gc.ca/). It is therefore possible to trace back a few speeches, including those made by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Paul Martin and Stephen Harper.

11. SPEECHES BY LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES / PARTY PLATFORMS

The websites of individual Canadian political parties often list speeches made by party leaders, or by prominent members within the party. Elections Canada (http://www.elections.ca/home.asp?textonly=false) lists all the registered political parties in Canada. Go to the site then hover your mouse over 'Political Parties, Candidates and Others'. Then click on 'Political Parties'.

Many of these individual party sites will also contain links to the party's platform.

Canadian political party platforms before 1968 can also be found in *Canadian party platforms, 1867-1968* by Carrigan D. Owen. It is available in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library at call number JL 195 C3, and also at the Nahum Gelber Law Library under the same call number.