

RG 4, B 28

QUEBEC, LOWER CANADA, CANADA EAST: Applications for Licences, Bonds and Certificates 1763-1867

Volumes 1-138

c. 8.5 m

The Provincial Secretary and Registrar had particular responsibilities in the issuance of licences, including the preparation (engrossing) of the documents for the signature of the Governor and the registration of bonds posted by candidates for certain offices. The documents found in this series reflect those varied responsibilities and the changing manner in which the licensing function was documented over a century. Petitions, correspondence, reports and schedules related to licences were frequently included with bonds, certificates and other documents submitted by the applicants for licences or by the officials who examined an applicant's qualifications.

Related records are to be found, notably the entrybooks and registers kept by the Provincial Secretary in his capacity as Registrar (see RG 68). Correspondence relating to individual cases after 1841 is frequently found in RG 4, C 1. Applications from notaries and advocates form a separate series: RG 4, B 8. Records of licences to pilots are found in RG 42 (Marine) as well as in MG 8, A 18 (transcriptions of Trinity House records).

The arrangement of the records is by type of licence applied for (auctioneer, timber culler, tavernkeeper), and those sub-series are shelved in an alphabetic sequence as can be seen from the headings of the Shelf List which follows this inventory entry. In some cases, general correspondence on the licensing function is arranged in a separate sub-series (as for the marriage bonds, volumes 29-41A, and the marriage licence correspondence, volumes 42-46). Within each sub-series, the arrangement of bonds or applications is generally chronological, but the order within the year may be alphabetical by name of applicant or numerical. The number may reflect the date of receipt for an application or may relate to an annual schedule of licences issued. The distinction between Shop and Tavern licences is not clear and the sorting of those sub-series appears quite inconsistent; supporting documentation may be filed in one sub-series and the application in the other. Their order is alphabetic by applicant.

Three sub-series have been microfilmed: the marriage bonds (volumes 29-41A) and the fur trade licences (volumes 110-115) in 1981 and the medical licences (volumes 47-55) in 1986. The fur trade licences were reorganized in 1978, in preparation for filming, to restore the original numerical sequence of the documents. Severe deterioration necessitated some restoration treatment. Items with unusual postal markings or seals are now in the vault. Access to the original documents in the three sub-series which have been microfilmed has been limited for conservation purposes.

RESEARCHERS MUST USE THE MICROFILM ...2