

For Canadian place names, the Geographical Names Board of Canada, an agency of Natural Resources Canada, develops standard policies for geographical naming in Canada. It maintains a searchable database on its website (geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.php).

Official versus accepted short names

Generally, the accepted short name (e.g., Cambodia) may be used in place of the official (e.g., Kingdom of Cambodia) name.

The official name *must* be used on all formal correspondence. Check with the desk officer if you are unsure of the official name.

Canadian place names

French place names generally retain their accents in English texts, but there are some exceptions. Quebec, when referring to the province, usually appears in English texts without an accent. Montreal and Quebec City are also usually written without accents, but Montréal and Québec are often used in addresses.

Place name tips and traps

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | not Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| Chornobyl | not Chernobyl |
| the Congo | not to be confused with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (new name of Zaire) |
| Côte d'Ivoire | not Ivory Coast |
| the Czech Republic | not Czech Republic |
| FRY | acronym for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The "former Yugoslavia" should be lowercased as it refers to the former country |
| FYROM | abbreviation for "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" |
| the Gambia | not Gambia |
| Gaza | not Gaza City |
| Montenegro | no longer Serbia and Montenegro |
| Serbia | no longer Serbia and Montenegro |
| Sudan | not the Sudan |
| Timor-Leste (capital: Dili) | not East Timor |
| Ukraine (capital: Kyiv) | not the Ukraine (capital: not Kiev) |