BILL C-3 CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT

COMPLETE LINEAGE PROOF CHEAT SHEET

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Important Disclaimer

This guide is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or immigration advice. Immigration rules change frequently. Always verify current IRCC requirements at canada.ca and consult a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) or licensed immigration lawyer for advice specific to your situation.

BUILD YOUR DOCUMENTARY CHAIN (Generation by Generation)

You must connect YOURSELF → PARENT → GRANDPARENT → ... → CANADIAN ANCHOR ANCESTOR with official documents at every link. No gaps are allowed.

1. PRIMARY DOCUMENTS — Required for Each Generation

DOCUMENT TYPE	WHAT IT PROVES	WHERE TO GET IT
Long-form BIRTH CERTIFICATE *(for EVERY person in chain)*	Parent-child link. Must show BOTH parents' names, date & place of birth	LAC genealogy OR Provincial vital statistics
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Proves name link when female ancestor changed surname	LAC OR Church records for older marriages
ANCHOR ANCESTOR'S CANADIAN STATUS	Proves the anchor was genuinely Canadian — the legal foundation of your entire claim	Provincial birth certificate; OR naturalization records: IRCC, OR LAC OR CIT0058

2. SECONDARY DOCUMENTS — When Primary Records Don't Exist

DOCUMENT TYPE	WHEN TO USE IT	WHERE TO GET IT
Baptismal / Parish Register Records	For ancestors born before civil registration; Catholic parish records in Quebec date to 1621	Quebec (pre-1994): BAnQ certified reproductions ONLY (raw provincial certs not accepted)
Canadian Census Records	Supports presence in Canada and family relationships; useful when birth records are missing	Census
Military Service Records	Confirms Canadian military service; critical for War Bride and WWII-generation applications	LAC — search "Personnel Records" at bac-lac.gc.ca
Death Certificate of Ancestor	To prove why birth certificate is not provided and replaced by birth record	LAC OR equivalent foreign registry

3. COLLATERAL DOCUMENTS — Supporting / Strengthening Evidence

DOCUMENT TYPE	PURPOSE	WHERE TO GET IT
Court orders (adoption, name change, divorce)	Explains breaks in surnames or parent relationships in the chain	Court registry where order was issued
Old Canadian passports or IRCC travel documents	Can corroborate citizenship status of ancestor; especially useful for mid-20th-century claimants	Family records; or request from Passport Canada / IRCC ATIP
Sworn Affidavit / Statutory Declaration	Explains gaps in records or unusual circumstances; supplements missing links	A family member (Who can attest the family history) sworn before a notary or commissioner of oaths

4. HOW TO FIND & REQUEST RECORDS BY JURISDICTION

Canadian Records

JURISDICTION	WHAT TO REQUEST	WHERE TO REQUEST
ONTARIO	Long-form birth, marriage, death certificates	ServiceOntario: serviceontario.ca/birth-certificate
QUEBEC (post-1994)	Civil status document (acte de naissance, mariage, décès)	Directeur de l'état civil: etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca
QUEBEC (pre-1994)	Certified reproduction of parish register. ⚠️ *IRCC does NOT accept pre-1994 Quebec provincial certs BAnQ certified copies REQUIRED*	BAnQ banq.qc.ca In-person or mail request (expect long wait times in 2026)
NOVA SCOTIA	Long-form birth, marriage, death certificates	NS Vital Stats
New Brunswick		Service NB
British Columbia		GOV BC
Manitoba		GOV MB
Alberta		AB Registry Services
Saskatchewan		eHealth SK
Prince Edward Island		GOV PEI
Newfoundland and Labrador		GOV.NL

🇺🇸 United States Records

RECORD TYPE	DETAILS	HOW TO GET IT
State Birth / Marriage Certificates	Issued by state vital statistics offices — NO federal registry exists. Must request from the state where the event occurred.	VitalChek (national service): vitalchek.com | OR directly from state vital statistics. Allow 4–8 weeks.
US Census Records	1940 census and earlier are fully public. 1950 released 2022. Useful for proving birthplace and parentage.	ancestry.com, FamilySearch (free), or National Archives (archives.gov)
US Naturalization Records / Passport Records	If ancestor became a US citizen, naturalization records show original country of birth	National Archives (archives.gov) — NARA request or online via ancestry.com
Apostille on US Documents	Secretary of State of the issuing state provides Apostille. Recommended for older or obscure county-level records.	Each state's Secretary of State office, fees ~$5–$20 USD per document

🌍 Other Foreign Records (UK, France, Ireland, etc.)

COUNTRY	RECORD AUTHORITY	NOTES
United Kingdom	General Register Office (GRO) — gro.gov.uk	Apostille from FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office). Allow 6–10 weeks for older records.
France	Mairies (local registries) or Service Central d'État Civil (SCEC) SCEC	Apostille from Cour d'appel of the relevant département.
Ireland	General Register Office Ireland gov.ie	Apostille from Dept. of Foreign Affairs. IrishGenealogy.ie has many records free online.
Other Countries	National or local civil registry of the relevant country	Obtain Apostille from the competent authority in that country. FamilySearch.org has records for many nations free of charge.

5. GENEALOGY RESEARCH TOOLS & RESOURCES

RESOURCE	BEST FOR	LINK
Library and Archives Canada (LAC)	Naturalization records, immigration lists, census (1851–1926), military records	bac-lac.gc.ca
BAnQ (Quebec archives)	Quebec parish registers and civil records — essential for French-Canadian lineage	banq.qc.ca
FamilySearch.org	FREE — massive database of worldwide records including Canada, US, UK, Europe; census, birth, death, marriage	familysearch.org
Ancestry.com	Subscription; comprehensive US/Canadian/ UK records, passenger lists, census, military	ancestry.com
Drouin Collection (Quebec)	Digitized Quebec Catholic parish records 1621–1940s available via Ancestry and FamilySearch	Search via Ancestry or FamilySearch
VitalChek (US records)	Order US state birth/marriage/death certificates from most US states	vitalchek.com
GenealogyBank	Historical US newspapers; useful for obituaries, birth/marriage/death notices	genealogybank.com
IrishGenealogy.ie	FREE — Irish civil and church records online; birth, marriage, death from 1840s	irishgenealogy.ie
Cadastre / land records (Quebec)	Property ownership records — useful collateral evidence of presence or residence	appli.foncier.gouv.qc.ca

Disclaimer

⚠️ *DISCLAIMER: This cheat sheet is for general information only and is not legal advice. Bill C-3 eligibility is complex and depends on your specific family history. For multi-generational, adoption, 'Lost Canadian', or Substantial Connection cases, consult a licensed immigration lawyer or RCIC. Always verify information with official IRCC sources at canada.ca.*
Processing times as of April 2026: ~11 months | Application fee: $75 CAD | No deadline to

Still not sure if your application is complete? I'd love to help you figure it out. Book a consultation and we'll go through your case together, no guessing, just clear answers tailored to your situation. Book a Consultation