

**British Subjects, Commonwealth Citizens, Citizens of the Republic of Ireland and Canadian Citizens.**—The Citizenship Act states that a Canadian citizen is a British subject. Before the passage of the Act, he could not, officially, describe himself as a Canadian citizen because the official designation for a Commonwealth citizen was *British Subject*. Now, he may officially call himself a *Canadian*. The authority for this procedure is found in Sect. 3 of the Act, which reads:—

“Where a person is required to state or declare his national status, any person who is a Canadian citizen under this Act shall state or declare himself to be a Canadian citizen and his statement or declaration to that effect shall be a good and sufficient compliance with such requirement.”

Non-Canadian British subjects continue to have the right to vote in federal, provincial and municipal elections, but they are not Canadian citizens until they have lived five years in Canada. Those who had that residence (Canadian domicile) on Jan. 1, 1947, are Canadian citizens, and those who attain it after that date must apply for certificates of citizenship before being granted the status of Canadian citizens. Citizens of the Republic of Ireland, who are not British subjects, have the same rights, in Canada, as a British subject.

**Canadian Citizens other than Natural-Born.**—Under the Act, persons naturalized in Canada before Jan. 1, 1947, and British subjects who had Canadian domicile at the commencement of the Act are Canadian citizens. The Act also defines the status as Canadian citizens of women and children, other than natural-born, and the manner in which they would have acquired Canadian citizenship.

**Reinstatement of Persons of Canadian Origin Naturalized Outside of Canada.**—By the amendment of July 20, 1950, the Minister may, in his discretion, grant a certificate of citizenship to a person who was a natural-born Canadian, or who was a British subject of Canadian origin, and who lost such status by naturalization outside of Canada or for any reason other than marriage. The qualifications include continuous residence in Canada for a period of one year immediately preceding the date of the application as well as certain other requirements.

**Status and Procedure of Non-Canadians to Canadian Citizenship.**—Any person who is not a Canadian citizen or is not otherwise a British subject may file his application for citizenship with the court of the county or district in which he resides if he has met the following requirements:—

- (1) He must have acquired Canadian domicile as defined in the Immigration Act, which states in part, “Canadian domicile is required for the purposes of this Act by a person having his place of domicile for at least five years in Canada after having been landed in Canada”. There are three important exceptions to the requirements of Canadian domicile [Sect. 10 (1) (c) of the Canadian Citizenship Act]: (a) under certain circumstances, a person who has served outside of Canada in the Canadian Armed Forces; (b) the wife of a Canadian citizen, provided she has been legally admitted to Canada for permanent residence; and (c) a person who had a place of domicile in Canada for 20 years immediately before the first of January 1947 and was not under an order of deportation on that date.
- (2) He must have lived in Canada for at least a year *immediately* before the date of his application.
- (3) He must be of good character.
- (4) He must have an adequate knowledge of the English or French language. There is one exception to this requirement: a person who has lived in Canada for 20 years or more is *not* required to have a knowledge of either language.
- (5) He must have an adequate knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship.
- (6) He must intend to make his permanent home in Canada.
- (7) He must be at least 21 years old or the spouse of and reside in Canada with a Canadian citizen.