Copyright Term and Canada’s Public Domain

When copyright in a work expires XX years after the year of the author’s death ("death + XX years" in the chart below), it becomes part of the public domain on January 1st.

*Please note: this information is not intended as legal advice.*

This version last revised 2017 12 05
Prepared by the Copyright Office at the University of Alberta.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution CC BY licence.
It is adapted from Kaplan-Myrth's version "Canadian Copyright Term Flowchart" here.
Copyright Term and Canada’s Public Domain

When copyright in a work expires XX years after the year of the author's death ("death + XX years" in the chart below), it becomes part of the public domain on January 1st.

Photograph?
- Created before Jan 1, 1949?
  - Yes: Public Domain
  - No: Created before Nov 7, 2012
    - Yes: Corporate creator?
      - Yes: Created before Jan 1, 1962
        - Yes: Public Domain
        - No: Public Domain at death of creator (natural person) + 50 years
      - No: Public Domain at death + 50 years
    - No: Additional non-crown creator?
      - Yes: Public Domain at publication + 50 years
      - No: Published?
        - Yes: Public Domain
        - No: Not in Public Domain

Sound Recording?
- Fixed before Jan 1, 1965?
  - Yes: Published before fixation + 50 years?
    - Yes: Public Domain at publication + 50 years
    - No: Published before fixation + 50 years?
      - Yes: Public Domain
      - No: Additional non-crown creator?
        - Yes: Public Domain
        - No: Published?
          - Yes: Public Domain
          - No: Not in Public Domain

*Please note: this information is not intended as legal advice.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution CC BY licence. It is adapted from Kaplan-Myrth’s version “Canadian Copyright Term Flowchart” here.