

Canada at 150: a new historical dictionary for a maturing nation

In 1967, on the occasion of the Canadian Centennial, the first historical dictionary of Canadian English, the *Dictionary of Canadianisms* (DCHP-1), was published. Historical dictionaries trace meaning of words back in time, so DCHP-1 gave then temporal and linguistic depth to a budding Canadian identity (see www.dchp.ca/dchp1).

This March 17th, 2017 – now coinciding with Canada's 150 anniversary – a revised and updated new edition will be released at www.dchp.ca/dchp2. This new edition (DCHP-2) is the result of the work of a team of UBC linguists of English over 11 years and explains, for 1239 meanings for the first time, why a given meaning is Canadian (in 1103 cases) and why not (in 136 cases). Words such as *garburator*, *parkade* and *eh* are explained in accessible language based on precise data, such as newly discovered and less-widely known Canadianisms, e.g. *idiot string*, *take up a test* etc. or *to table* (legislation) etc. In addition to the 10,974 entries taken over from DC-1, DC-2 offers information on some 12,000 Canadian words, meanings and expressions, past to present.

Begun by American lexicographer, Charles J. Lovell, DCHP-1 was published as a joint effort by a Canadian team and with the help of Gage Publishing, Toronto (today Nelson Education Ltd.). Lovell's death on 17 March 1960 gives us a launch date to celebrate this American pioneer and visionary of Canadian English.

DCHP-2 enters new grounds for dictionaries. In a foreword, professor John Considine assesses that DCHP-2 points "away from the accumulation of specialized words and towards the ordinary lived experience of Canadians". With that DCHP-2 is likely to become a linguistic resource not just for specialists, but for the Canadian public at large. After all, the overall goal of DCHP-1's chief editor, Walter S. Avis, was a historical dictionary "both rewarding and entertaining".

Happy 150th, Canada! We present DCHP-2 to you!

Prior to March 17th, 2017, read or browse:

- a 2-page summary: <https://www.academia.edu/27953425/>
- a 20-page paper: <https://www.academia.edu/20618274/>
- the dictionary's introduction (40 pages): <https://www.academia.edu/31148609/1>
- about Newfoundland's special role: <https://www.academia.edu/16544684/>
- on the methodology underlying the frequency charts: <https://www.academia.edu/21904323/>

We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, The University of British Columbia (especially Department of English & the Faculty of Arts), University of Vienna (especially the Philological-historical Faculty), Strathy Language Unit, Queen's University Archives, Nelson Education Ltd., Canada Summer Jobs, Dictionary Society of North America, Canadian Embassy in Vienna, Austria.