

# A LIGHTHOUSE RESEARCHER'S GUIDE TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SESSIONAL PAPERS

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## Introduction

There is a wealth of information about lighthouses waiting at the nearest university library. The Sessional Papers published by the Canadian government provide a rich source for the Golden Age of lighthouses in Canada. From 1868 to 1935 the federal Department of Marine published Annual Reports listing changes and improvements to individual lighthouses. Details of keepers and their salaries were often included. Early years included everything down to supplies, roads and new plumbing. Later years listed only major changes such as new foghorns or light apparatus. In any case, a few hours spent with the sessional papers can provide a wonderful understanding of the major changes to a lighthouse and sometimes even some fascinating personal glimpses like a lightkeeper's lament that a faulty door keeps letting in blowing snow.

The disadvantage of the sessional papers are their size. There are hundreds of thick volumes, sometimes a dozen for a single year, with an indexing system that changes year to year.

NSLPS has developed this finding aid to take you to the lighthouse listings in seconds.

## Where to Find them:

Subscribers to "Early Canadiana Online" can search the Sessional Papers electronically:

<http://www.canadiana.org>

Hard copy bound volumes of Canadian Sessional papers are found at these Universities:

Dalhousie University Killam Library has 1868 to 1935, Phone: 494-3611

Acadian University Library has 1868 to 1930, Phone: 585 1170

Saint Francis Xavier Library has 1868 to 1919, Phone: 863-2228

Université Sainte-Anne Library, Phone 769-2930

University College of Cape Breton has 1868 to 1917, Phone: 563-1675

## Year by year Finding Aid

1868 - 1869 No reports of Nova Scotia Lights

1870 - Vol. 4, No. 11,

p. 145 Report of NS Lighthouse Agency: Summary of NS Lights & Keepers

p. 178 List of keepers and salaries

1871 - Vol. 3, No. 5

p.8-10 New Lights  
p.19-35 Light inspection, including p. 24 Report of NS Agency  
p. 36-45 Lighthouse accounts

1872 - Vol. 4, No. 5  
p. 30 Report of NS Agency

1873 - Vol. 6, No. 8  
p. 58 Report of NS Agency  
p. 65 List of Keepers

1874 - Vol. 3, No. 4  
p. xx Nova Scotia summary in National Report  
p. 65 Report of NS Agency

1875 - Vol. 4, No. 5  
p. xvi Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 92 Report of Nova Scotia Agency  
p. 95 Detailed Description of all buildings

1876 - Vol. 4, No. 5  
p. xxiii Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 129 Report of Nova Scotia Agency  
p. 257 Supplement List of Lights for 1876

1877 - Vol. 4, No. 5  
p. xx Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 153 Report of Nova Scotia Agency  
p. 377 Supplement No. 1 List of Lights for 1877

1878 - Vol. 1, No. 1  
p. xx Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 159 Report of Nova Scotia Agency: A Detailed Report on Each Light & keeper  
p. 382 Supplement No. 1 List of Lights for 1878

1879 - Vol. 3, No. 3  
p. xxi Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 141 Report of Nova Scotia Agency

1880 - Vol. 6, No. 9  
p. xxi Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 66 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts

1881 - Vol. 6, No. 11  
p. xx Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 65 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts

1882 - Vol. 4, No. 7

- p. xxi Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
- p. 71 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1883 - Vol. 5, No. 7
  - p. xix Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 70 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
- 1884 - Vol. 5, No. 7
  - p. xix Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 70 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1885 - Vol.6, No. 9
  - p. xviii Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 51 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1886 - Vol. 9, No. 11
  - p. vii Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 57 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1887 - Vol. 15, No. 15
  - p. xviii Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 51 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1888 - Vol. 7, No. 5
  - p. xvii Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 56 Nova Scotia Maintenance Accounts
  
- 1889 - Vol. 8
  - p. 7 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 20 Changes in keepers
  
- 1890 - Vol. 12, No. 16
  - p. 10 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  
- 1891 - Vol. 7, No. 7
  - p. 13 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  
- 1892 - Vol. 8, No. 10
  - p. 20 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 47 Changes in keepers
  
- 1893 - Vol. 7, No. 10
  - p. 14 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
  - p. 35-36 Changes in keepers
  
- 1894 - Vol. 9, No. 11 (Detailed index begins)
  - p. xvi Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report

- 1895 - Vol. 8, No. 11  
p. 16 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
- 1896 - Vol. 8, No. 11  
p. 18 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
- 1897 - Vol. 8, No. 11  
p. 14 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report
- 1898 - Vol. 9, No. 11  
p. 38 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 169 List of keepers
- 1899 - Vol. 9, No. 10  
p. 43 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 144 List of keepers
- 1900 - Vol. 9, No. 13  
p. 55 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 153 List of keepers
- 1901 - Vol. 9, No. 21  
p. 47 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 128 List of keepers
- 1902 - Vol. 9, No. 21  
p. 58 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 148 List of keepers
- 1903 - Vol. 8, No. 2  
p. 74 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 65 List of keepers
- 1904 - Vol. 8, No. 21  
p. 59 Nova Scotia summary in Deputy Minister's Report  
p. 216 List of keepers
- 1905 - Vol. 9, No. 21  
p. 31 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights  
p. 160 List of keepers
- 1906 - Vol. 9, No. 21  
Changes p. 28 and Improvements p. 31 to Nova Scotia Lights  
p. 261 List of keepers
- 1907 - Vol. 9, No. 21  
p. 37 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 271 List of keepers

1908 - Vol. 10, No. 21

p. 27,28 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 143 List of keepers

1909 - Vol. 12, No. 21

p.51 Report of Commissioner of Lights

p. 64 - New and p. 66, Improvements, to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 177 List of keepers

1910 - Vol. 11, No. 21

p. 54 Engineers report on lighthouse construction

p. 70 Changes and Improvements

p. 158 List of keepers

1911 - Vol. 13, No. 21

p. 79 Engineers report on lighthouse construction

p. 91 New and Improvements to NS Lights

p. 254 List of keepers

1912 - Vol. 14, No. 21

p. 56 Engineers report on lighthouse construction

p. 68 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 235 List of keepers in Nova Scotia

1913 - Vol. 15, No. 21

p. 37-39 Special Report on Nova Scotia Lights

p. 42,43 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 59 List of keepers in Nova Scotia

1914 - Vol. 16, No. 21

p. 41 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 64 List of keepers in Nova Scotia

1915 - Vol. 16, No. 21

p. 39 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 57 List of keepers in Nova Scotia

1916 - Vol. 17, No. 21

p. 41 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

p. 68 List of keepers in Nova Scotia

1917 - Vol. 13, No. 21

p. 35 New keepers in Nova Scotia

p. 45 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights

1918 - Vol. 9, No. 21

- p. 26 New keepers
- p. 33 Changes and Improvements to Nova Scotia Lights
- p. 227 Summarized Report of the Halifax Agency for Nova Scotia lighthouses.

1919 - Vol. 8, No. 21

- p. 31 New lighthouses and improvements in Nova Scotia
- p. 94 Report of the Halifax Agency for Nova Scotia lighthouses

1920 - Vol. 7, No. 21

- p. 27 Changes & improvements to NS lights.
- p. 89 Report of the Halifax Agency for Nova Scotia lighthouses

1921 - Vol. 7, No. 21

- p. 31 New lighthouses in Nova Scotia
- p. 84,85 Report of the Halifax Agency for Nova Scotia lighthouses

1922 - Bay of Fundy lighthouses transferred to Saint John Agency in this year.

- Vol. 6, No. 21 (at end of vol.)
- p. 25 New lighthouses in Nova Scotia
- p. 83 Report of the Halifax Agency,
- p. 87 Report of the Saint John Agency

1923 - Vol. 5, No. 28

- p. 23 New lighthouses
- p. 86 Report of the Halifax Agency,
- p. 88 Report of the Saint John Agency

1924 - Vol. 6, No. 28

- p. 28-29 New and improved lighthouses
- p. 76 Report of the Halifax Agency,
- p. 79 Report of the Saint John Agency

1925 - Vol. 6

- p. 28 New and improved lighthouses,
- p.29 Improvements to existing lights
- p. 76 Report of the Halifax Agency,
- p. 82 Report of the Saint John Agency

1926 - Vol. 3

- p. 26 New lighthouses
- p. 76 Report of the Halifax Agency, p. 91 Report of the Saint John Agency

1927 - Vol. 4

- p. 21 New lighthouses
- p. 65 Report of the Halifax Agency, p. 82 Report of the Saint John Agency

1927-28 - Vol. 4

p. 20 New Aids to Navigation  
p. 67 Report of the Halifax Agency, p. 70 Report of the Saint John Agency

1928-29 - Vol. 4 (IV)

p. 20, 21 New lights and changes to existing lights  
p. 70 Report of the Halifax Agency, p. 93 Report of the Saint John Agency

1929-30 - Vol. 4 (IV)

p. 20 New lighthouses, p. 21 Changes  
p. 72 Report of the Halifax Agency, p. 85 Report of the Saint John Agency

**1931 - Dept of Marine Annual Report are published separately from the Sessional Papers**

p. 102-103 Halifax Agency  
p. 104 Saint John Agency

1932

p. 70 Halifax Agency  
p. 73 Saint John Agency

1933

p. 69 Halifax Agency  
p. 71-2 Saint John Agency

1934

p. 41 Halifax Agency  
p. 45-46 Saint John Agency

1935

p. 60 Halifax Agency  
p. 65 Saint John Agency

**1936 - Lighthouses transferred to Department of Transport. Detailed annual public reports end.**