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Glossary Of Terms
Northwestern Ontario



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Glossary Of Northwestern Ontario Terms

This document contains a list of common words, terms, acronyms and slang that are used in Northwestern Ontario and Canada. Each word or term has a description to help explain its meaning.

The glossary appears in alphabetical order and is always changing. For the most up to date list, or if you have suggestions for future additions, please visit us at www.movetonwontario.ca

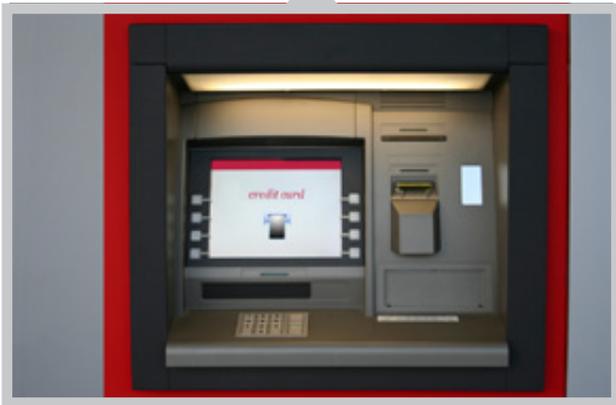


#

911: the Canadian emergency telephone number for police, fire or ambulance services.

Aa

ABM: an electronic banking machine that dispenses money and provides other banking services in a public place. Short for 'Automated Bank Machine'. Also known as a cash machine or automated teller machine (ATM).



Anishnawbe: an Aboriginal word which means first or original 'people'. The Ojibway people refer to themselves as Anishnawbe. It also has a variety of spellings including: Anishnab, Anishnabe and Anishinaabe.

Appetizer: a small meal or food dish that is usually eaten on its own or before a main course. Also known as a 'starter'.

Bb

Bachelor: a single man who has never been married.

Bachelor apartment: a small apartment for one person. In most bachelor apartments, the living room and bedroom are in the same area.

Band-Aid: a bandage for small cuts and wounds. Also known as a 'plaster' in other English-speaking countries.

Bangs: the hair that covers the forehead and typically sits above the eyes. Also known as a 'fringe'.

BiLevel: a type of house that has two levels - a lower level and an upper level. The main entrance is situated above the lower level but below the upper level. The lower level is built partly underground. It is also known as a 'Split-Level'.

Bonspiel: a curling tournament or competition that is played on an ice surface.



Booze: a slang word for alcohol.

Boreal: means 'northern' and is used to describe many natural elements in Northwestern Ontario, i.e. Boreal Forests and Boreal Winds.

Boreal Forests: the forest areas of the Northern Hemisphere that are dominated by evergreen trees such as spruce, fir, and pine.

Broil: to cook food from above at a high heat. Also known as to 'grill' in other English-speaking countries.

Brutal: used in casual conversation to describe something harsh, intense or unfair, e.g. “The winter was brutal.”

Bytown: the former name of the City of Ottawa before it became the capital of Canada.

Cc

Canuck: a slang term for a Canadian person.

CBC: an acronym for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is Canada’s national public television and radio service.

Cell: short for ‘cellular phone’ which is a small, wireless telephone. Also known as a ‘mobile phone’.

Chequing Account: a personal or business bank account used for day to day transactions. Also known as a ‘Current Account’.



Chesterfield: a traditional style of sofa or couch.

Chinook: a type of salmon fish. It can also refer to a type of warm, dry wind experienced in the Rocky Mountains of Canada.

Chips: a slang word to describe Potato Chips. These are a salty, snack foods made from potatoes and are known as ‘crisps’ in other English-speaking countries.

Concession road: parallel and straight roads that divide up a township. They are usually found in rural towns.

Click: a slang term to describe a ‘kilometre’ distance measurement, e.g. “The hospital is about 2 clicks from here” means “The hospital is about 2 kilometres from here.”

Condominium: often called a ‘condo’, this is a residential unit (apartment) that is contained within a multi-unit building. The condominium is independently owned like a house but the building’s facilities are shared with other building residents; i.e. gardens, common areas, parking etc. The owner typically pays additional monthly fees for the shared facilities and services.

CN: an acronym for Canadian National Railway Company. It is the largest rail network in Canada.

CP: an acronym for Canadian Pacific Railway.

CPP: an acronym for Canadian Pension Plan. All employed Canadians over the age of 18 must contribute a percentage of their earnings to the CPP. Upon retirement, the employee will be eligible to receive a national pension benefit.

CRA: an acronym for Canada Revenue Agency. It is the federal government agency that process and collects taxes. It also administers social benefits.

Credit: a financial term used to describe the loaning of money to an individual on the promise of repayment, i.e. a credit card. Common types of credit include instalment loans for large purchases such as a home or a car. A person with good credit has successfully borrowed and repaid on a loan.

Credit History: a record of an individual's debts or loans including mortgages and credit cards. It includes an individual's payment history and helps lenders decide whether or not to provide additional debt or loans.

Credit Limit: the maximum amount of debt an individual may borrow on a credit card or line of credit.

Credit Union: a financial institution that provides banking services but is owned cooperatively by its users.

Dd

Debit card: A bank card that can be used at electronic bank machines to withdraw or deposit money. It can also be used in most stores and restaurants to pay for purchases.

Diapers: a type of underwear used on babies. Known as 'nappies' in other English-speaking countries.

Dime: a slang term for a Canadian 10 cent coin.

Double-double: a cup of coffee with two creams and two sugars.

Duplex: a house that has two separate units (apartments) for two separate families. The units are typically one located above the other, with each having a separate entrance.

Ee

Eaves troughs: a trough that is attached to the roof of a house to collect rainwater and redirect it away from the building. Also known as 'gutters'.



Egg Plant: a purple vegetable known as Aubergine in other English-speaking countries.



Eh: a slang term used to pose a question or ask for confirmation at the end of a sentence; i.e. "Canada is a great country eh?"

EI: an acronym for Employment Insurance. Employment Insurance provides temporary financial support to Canadians while they are unemployed and looking for work. Employment Insurance also provides benefits for maternity, parental and sick leave.

Emergency Brake: the lever brake found in a motor vehicle to keep it stationary. Also referred to as an 'E-brake' or 'handbrake' in other English-speaking countries.

Entree: the main course of a dinner.

Ff

Fall: the season between summer and winter. Also known as 'autumn'.

Fire Hall: a fire station or firehouse.

First Nations: the Aboriginal peoples of Canada excluding Inuit and Metis people. Some Aboriginal peoples also call their communities a 'First Nation'.

First & Last's: used in reference to first and last's month rent. When a tenant rents an apartment or house, the landlord will usually request payment for the first and last month's rent as a security deposit.

Fixed Mortgage: The rate of interest and payment amount of the mortgage is fixed for a specific term.

Fourplex: a building that has four separate units (apartments) for four separate families. The units are typically located in an apartment building.

Gg

Garbage: household waste, also known as 'rubbish' in other English-speaking countries.

Garburator: an electronic garbage disposal unit installed under the kitchen sink to prevent food and other waste from blocking the plumbing.

Gas: a slang term for petrol or gasoline.

GED: acronym for General Education Diploma. It is the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Groceries: items of food or food products. Also known as 'shopping' in other English-speaking countries.

Grocery store: a retail business that sells groceries (food products) to customers.

Hh

Highway: a main road for public travel and transportation. Also known as a freeway, motorway or expressway.

Homo milk: homogenized or whole milk. It refers to milk that has a fat content of 3.25%.



Housecoat: a long robe that is worn inside the home, usually with pyjamas and slippers. Also known as a 'dressing gown' or 'bathrobe'.

Humidex: a combined measurement of heat and humidity to describe how hot the weather feels to an average person.

Hydro: is an abbreviation for the words hydroelectric or hydroelectricity. It is Canada's main source of electric power supply.

Ii

In-law Suite: a small, self-contained unit within a home where guests or family members can stay or live.

Internship: work experience within a business or organization. Internships are usually unpaid or low paid but offer valuable training opportunities.

Jj

Kk

Kitty-corner: used to describe something that is located diagonally opposite i.e.: “The house is located kitty-corner to the school.”

Kraft Dinner: a convenience meal of macaroni and cheese. It is easy to prepare and a popular food choice for children.

Ll

Lease: the provision of a product or service for a certain period of time in exchange for money. Apartments and vehicles are commonly leased. Also known as ‘rent’.

LCBO: an acronym for Liquor Control Board of Ontario. It is a government corporation that sells liquor, wine and beer through a chain of retail stores. They are the only stores allowed to sell these types of alcoholic spirits in Ontario.

Liquor Store: A slang term for LCBO.

Loonie: a commonly used slang word for the Canadian one dollar coin.



Long Weekend: a three-day weekend due to a public holiday falling on the Friday or Monday.

Lumberjack: a person who works in the logging industry, cutting and harvesting trees. Also known as a ‘woodcutter’.

Mm

Mall: a large, indoor shopping centre that offers a variety of retail stores.

Metis: Aboriginal peoples who have a mixed First Nation and European ancestry.

MP: acronym for Member of Parliament. An MP is elected by the residents of a city or town to represent their interests and views in Federal government at the Parliament of Canada.

MPP: acronym for Member of Provincial Parliament. An MPP is elected by the residents of a city or town to represent their interests and views in Provincial government.

Nn

Napkin: a paper or cloth towel used to wipe the hands and face while eating. Also known as a 'serviette'.

Newfie, Newf: a slang word to describe a person from the province of Newfoundland.

Nickel: a slang term for a Canadian 5 cent coin.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation: a political territory organization that represents the interests of 49 First Nation communities in Northern Ontario. Also shortened into the acronym 'NAN'.

NSF: an acronym for Non Sufficient Funds. This means a cheque has been written but that there is not enough money in the bank account to cover the cheque amount. Also known as 'bouncing' a cheque.

Oo

OHIP: an acronym for Ontario Health Insurance Plan. OHIP provides a variety of free medical services to Ontario residents. To receive these services, residents must apply for a health card from Service Ontario.

Outpost: a small station or dwelling located in a remote, unpopulated location

Pp

Pants: an item of clothing worn on the legs. Also known as 'trousers'.

Parkade: a place to park a car or vehicle indoors. They are usually multi-storey and located in city centres or near shopping malls. Also known as 'car park' or 'parking garage'.

Peameal Bacon: a type of Canadian bacon that comes from the back of a pig, rather than from the side. It is sliced and rolled in cornmeal.

Period: a punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence. Also known as a 'full-stop' in other English- speaking countries.

Persian: an oval shaped donut with sweet, pink icing on the top. It originated and is popular in the city of Thunder Bay.



Pickereel: a type of white, freshwater fish that is also called 'walleye'. They are commonly found in Canada's Great Lakes.

Poggie: a slang term for employment insurance; a financial benefit collected from the Government by unemployed people.

Pop: a term for carbonated soft drinks i.e., cola.

Poutine: a hot food dish of French fries served with pieces of cheese and covered in gravy.

Premier: the head or leader of the provincial government. A similar title to a Prime Minister except the Prime Minister is the head or leader of Canada.

Produce: foods that have been grown such as fruits and vegetables.

Province: large political jurisdictions within Canada that make up the country. Similar to 'states' in the United States of America.



Public Transit: transportation services that are offered to the general public for a small fee; i.e. buses, trains, subways etc. Most public transit is funded and operated by a government agency.

Public Works: the work carried out by municipalities to maintain public infrastructure such as roads, sewers, landscaping and other public services.

Purse: a small bag typically carried by a woman to hold personal items. Also known as a 'handbag'.

Qq

Rr

Realtor: a person who sells and buys buildings and land as a career. Also known as a 'real estate agent'.

Regular: a coffee with one cream, one sugar.

Resume: a summary of a person's education, career history and other key skills. It is used to apply for employment. Also known as a 'Curriculum Vitae or CV'.

RV: an acronym for a Recreational Vehicle. It is a home on wheels that is used for camping and other trips. Also known as a 'motor home', 'camper' or 'caravan'.



Ring of Fire: a term used to describe an area in remote Northern Ontario where major mineral deposits have been discovered. A significant amount of mineral exploration and mining activity is developing in this area.

RRSP: an acronym for Registered Retirement Savings Plan. This is a method to save and invest money for retirement. Individuals may contribute every year to an RRSP and defer income tax or capital gains on the amount invested. Taxes are paid when the money is withdrawn from the plan.

Runners: a comfortable type of footwear used for sports and other physical activities. Also known as 'running shoes', 'trainers' or 'sneakers'.

Rye: a type of Whiskey.

Ss

Seadoo: a personal watercraft that is engine powered. It typically seats one to three people and is used for water recreation. Also known as a 'jet ski'.

Shag: a party or dance held to celebrate an engaged couple. The money raised through ticket sales is used by the couple to pay for the future wedding.

SIN: an acronym for Social Insurance Number. Residents must have a SIN in order to work or receive benefits in Canada. A SIN can be applied for through Service Canada.

Smokes: a slang word for cigarettes.

Skidoo: a personal land vehicle for travelling through the snow. It is widely used as a recreational vehicle during winter months. Also known as a 'snowmobile' or 'snow machine'.



The States: a slang term used to reference The United States of America.

Store: a retail outlet that sells products to customers.

Stroller: a chair on wheels that is pushed to transport babies and young children. Also known as a 'pram' or 'pushchair'.

Sweater: a warm item of clothing that is worn on the upper body and has long sleeves. Also known as a 'jumper' in other English-speaking countries.

Tt

Take-out: food that is purchased at a restaurant to take home or eat elsewhere. Also known as 'take-away' or 'carry-out'.

Tenant: a person who rents property i.e. a house, land or apartment, from a landlord.

Tim Horton's: a very popular coffee and donut (doughnut) shop in Canada.

Timbits: a small, ball shaped donut (doughnut) made by Tim Hortons.

Toque: a knitted woolly hat that is worn in the winter to keep warm.

Toonie: a commonly used slang word for the Canadian two dollar coin.



Tribal Council: an administrative body that supports groups of First Nation communities through the provision of common advisory and technical services.

Triplex: a building that has three separate units (apartments) for three separate families. The units are typically located in an apartment building.

Two-Four: a slang word used to describe a case of twenty-four beers.

Tylenol: medication that can be purchased without a prescription for pain relief. Also known as ‘paracetamol’.

Uu

Utilities: basic public services such as electricity, gas and water.

Vv

Vest: an item of clothing that has no sleeves and has buttons down the front. It is typically worn underneath a jacket or coat. Also known as a ‘waistcoat’.

Ww

Washroom: a room with toilet and hand washing facilities. Also known as the ‘toilet’, ‘lavatory’, ‘bathroom’ or ‘restroom’.

Welfare: financial benefits provided by the government to low-income individuals and families who need assistance and support.

Wire Transfer: transferring money electronically from one bank account to another. A wire transfer is commonly used for international transactions.

WSIB: an acronym for Workplace Safety & Insurance Board. It is a government organization that promotes good health & safety practises in the workplace. The organization also pays compensation to

workers who get injured on the job. Employers are required to contribute to WSIB to provide insurance coverage for their workers.

Xx

Yy

Yard: the area outside and surrounding a house or property. Also known as a ‘garden’ in other English-speaking countries. In Canada, the word garden is used only if vegetables, fruits or plants are being grown in the outdoor space.

Yard Sale: the informal sale of unwanted used items by an individual from their home. Items are typically set out for viewing on the individuals lawn or driveway. Also known as ‘garage sales’.



Yellow Pages: a large book of telephone numbers including residential and business contacts.

Zz

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