

Indexes to company charters

These indexes document charters of incorporations issued to Ontario corporations. From 1868 to 1971, incorporation of businesses in Ontario was usually done through a company charter (also known as letter patents). The charter included the name of the corporation, the names of the main officers of the new corporation, and information about the share structure and initial value and the purpose of the corporation. A copy of the charter was kept in charter books.

The indexes and the charter books for the years 1868 to 1971 are held by the Archives of Ontario. Three indexes are available on microfilm, for the years 1868 to 1946. The indexes provide the liber (volume) and folio (page) number for the copy of the company charter found in the charter books. The index you will need to consult will depend on when the corporation was created and when it ceased to exist.

The charter books are available only in the Archives' Reading Room. We can also provide you with a copy of the charter if you give us the name of the corporation, the year of the charter, and the folio and liber number found in the indexes. For more information about the charter books see the description for series [RG 55-1](#).

The Archives of Ontario also hold other records pertaining to corporations as well as partnership, sole proprietorship and business name registrations. For more information, see Research Guide 217, *Corporation Records of the Government of Ontario* ([Word](#), [PDF](#)) and Research Guide 218, *Partnership and Benevolent Society Registration Records* ([Word](#), [PDF](#)).

Index to corporations ([RG 55-6](#))

This alphabetical card index documents corporations that either ceased to exist before 1907 or did not submit annual returns to the Department of the Provincial Secretary after 1906. The index also includes references to other records pertaining to the corporation. For more information about this index, see the description for series [RG 55-6](#).

This index is available on microfilm **MS 480, reel 1** (letters **A to P**) and **MS 480, reel 2** (letters **Q to Z**).

Index to company charters ([RG 55-15](#))

This alphabetical index documents charters for corporations incorporated before 1947. The index also includes references to supplementary letter patents, surrenders of charters, extra-provincial licenses and changes of name. For more information about this index, see the description for series [RG 55-15](#).

Use the table below to identify which index volume and microfilm to use:

Alphabetical Range	Dates	Volume Number	Microfilm Reel	Reference Code
Corporations incorporated between 1868 and 1908, which had ceased to exist or became dormant by 1908				
A-Z	1868-1902	1	MS 508, reel 1	RG 55-15-1
A-Z	1902-1908	2	MS 508, reel 2	RG 55-15-1
Corporations incorporated between 1868 and 1908, still in existence after 1908 AND Corporations incorporated between 1909 and 1928				
A - Doz	1868-1928	3	MS 508, reel 1	RG 55-15-2
Dor - Dy	1868-1928	3	MS 508, reel 2	RG 55-15-2
E - L	1868-1928	4	MS 508, reel 2	RG 55-15-2
M - Ontario A	1868-1928	5	MS 508, reel 2	RG 55-15-2
Ontario B - Q	1868-1928	5	MS 508, reel 3	RG 55-15-2
R - Z	1868-1928	6	MS 508, reel 3	RG 55-15-2
Corporations incorporated between 1929 and 1946				
A - B	1929-1946	7	MS 508, reel 3	RG 55-15-2
C - E	1929-1946	7	MS 508, reel 4	RG 55-15-2
F - N	1929-1946	8	MS 508, reel 4	RG 55-15-2
O - Ontario S	1929-1946	9	MS 508, reel 4	RG 55-15-2
Ontario O - Z	1929-1946	9	MS 508, reel 5	RG 55-15-2
Corporations incorporated between 1947 and 1971: Charters are indexed in the Index to company charter books; this index is not available on microfilm, and it can only be accessed in the Archives' reading room. For more information about this index, see the description for series RG 55-2 .				

Index to Benevolent societies corporation files ([RG 55-7](#))

This alphabetical index document charters issued to benevolent societies, as well as files containing additional information about those societies. For more information about this index, see the description for series [RG 55-7](#).

Benevolent societies were mutual assistance organizations. They provided various social and economic services to their members, including collective insurance. These societies included the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Canadian Order of Foresters, the Chosen Friends of the Grand Council of Ontario, the Loyal True Blue Associations, the Knights of Pythias, the Oddfellows Independent Order Lodge and many others.

This index is available on microfilm **MS 5127**.