

Canadian Banknote Prefixes

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At first, 2-letter prefixes were used on notes issued between 1969 and 1975. In 1979 the Bank of Canada started to use an 11-digit no-letter serial number on \$5 and \$20 notes. In 1981, the new 3-letter prefix system was adopted on all other notes. The 1979 \$5 and \$20 continued to use the numerical prefix until they were replaced by the Birds series, and since then all notes have used the triple letter prefix system. In recent years, prefixes previously used on discontinued \$1 and \$2 notes have been used again on other denominations.

3-Letter Prefix Details

First letter	Second Letter	Third letter
<p>The Bank of Canada contracts out the printing of notes to two private companies: BA International Inc. (BAI), and Canadian Bank Note (CBN.)</p> <p>The first letter indicates the printer:</p> <p>A, B, and C indicate printing by BAI.</p> <p>E, F, G, and H indicate printing by CBN.</p>	<p>The second letter indicates the denomination (listed in order of first appearance):</p> <p>\$1 (discontinued in 1989): A, C, F, L, M, X†</p> <p>\$2 (discontinued in 1996): B, G, R, U</p> <p>\$5: N, O, P, A</p> <p>\$10: D, E, T, F</p> <p>\$20: I, S, V, W, Y, Z, L, R, U;</p> <p>\$50: H, M</p> <p>\$100: J, K</p> <p>\$1,000 (discontinued in 2000): K</p> <p>†X was used on "test" notes. Q has never been used at all. Colours indicate the letter had been first used on a denomination that has since been discontinued, and is now reused on a different denomination.</p>	<p>The third letter indicates the series and is used sequentially on all denominations.</p> <p>A through Z are used, with some exceptions:</p> <p>-I, O, and X are only sometimes used (see pages 3 and 4)</p> <p>-Q is never used.</p>

Looking for the most up-to-date version of this table? Get it at <http://www3.telus.net/gavinlg/prefixes.pdf>
Found a new prefix, or have a question? Send me an anonymous e-mail at <http://tinyurl.com/c68u5>

Denom	Multicoloured Series (1969-1979)			Birds Series (1986-1991)		Canadian Journey (2001-2006)	
	2-letter Prefix	Numerical Prefix	3-letter Prefix	Printed by BAI	Printed by CBN	Printed by BAI	Printed by CBN
\$5	Issue of 1972. CA-CZ SA-SZ XA RS (test note).	Issue of 1979. 30 31 (replacement note) 33 (test note).	-	Issue of 1986. ANA-ANU. ANX.	Issue of 1986. ENA-ENZ EOA-EOZ EPA-EPZ FNA-FNZ FOA-FOZ FPA-FPZ GNA-GNZ GOA-GOZ GPA-GPZ HNA, HNB.	Issue of 2002. ANV-ANW ANY-ANZ AOA-AOF. Issue of 2006. AOF-AOZ APA-APZ AAA- (in issue)	Issue of 2002. HNC-HNZ HOA-HOZ HPA. Issue of 2006. HPA-HPZ HAA- (in issue)
\$10	Issue of 1971. DA-DZ TA-TZ VA-VX.	-	Issue of 1971. EDA-EDZ EEA-EEZ ETA-ETZ FDA-FDS.	Issue of 1989. ADA-ADZ AEA-AEZ ATA-ATZ BDA-BDZ BEA-BEH.	-	Issue of 2001. BEI-BET. Issue of 2005. BEU-BEZ BTA-BTZ BFA- (in issue)	Issue of 2001. FDT-FDZ FEA-FEN. Issue of 2005. FEP-FEV
\$20	Issue of 1969. EA-EZ WA-WZ YA-YH.	Issue of 1979. 50 51 (replacement note) 52 56.	-	Issue of 1991. AIA-AIZ ASA-ASZ AVA-AVZ AWA-AWZ AYA-AYP.	Issue of 1991. EIA-EIZ ESA-ESZ EVA-EVZ EWA-EWZ EYA-EYF.	Issue of 2004. AYR-AYZ AZA-AZZ ALA-ALZ ARA-ARZ AUA- (in issue)	Issue of 2004. EYG-EYZ EZA-EZZ ELA-ELZ ERA-ERZ EUA-EUZ FIA- (in issue)
\$50	Issue of 1975. HA-HD.	-	Issue of 1975. EHA-EHN. EHX.† EFA.	-	Issue of 1988. EHP-EHZ. EHX.† FHA-FHZ FMA-FMF.	Issue of 2004. AHA- (in issue)	Issue of 2004. FMG- (in issue)
\$100	Issue of 1975. JA-JD.	-	Issue of 1975. AJA-AJM. AJX.†	Issue of 1988. AJN-AJZ. AJX.† BJA-BJW.	-	Issue of 2004. BJY-BJZ BKA-BKM	Issue of 2004. EJA- (in issue)

†EHX and AJX appear on both 1975 and 1988 \$50's and \$100's respectively. See page 4 for details.

Exceptions

There are a few exceptions to the above table:

For **2-letter prefix** notes, the letters I, O, and Q were never used as the second letter.

For **3-letter prefix** notes, there are a few exceptions in the **third letter**:

- There are only 13 prefixes that end in I (see below)
- There are only 2 prefixes that end in O (see below)
- There are **no** prefixes that end in Q.
- There are only 10 prefixes that end in X (see page 4.)

Valid prefixes ending in I or O						
1986 \$5	1989 \$10	2001 \$10	1991 \$20	2004 \$20	2004 \$50	1988 \$100
GOI ANI	BDI	BEI	ASI AVI AWI AWO EWI EWO	EYI EZI AZI	FMI	BJI

Test Notes

On occasion the Bank of Canada formulates a new paper, ink type, or some other new feature for their notes, and they want to see how the new feature holds up in circulation. For this purpose, **test notes** with special serial numbers have been released in very limited quantities. Test notes are very scarce, and should not be marked with *Where's Willy?*® under any circumstances!!! There are only two types of test note enterable on *Where's Willy*: The 1972 \$5 with prefix **RS**, and the 1979 \$5 with prefix **33**. **These currently list at \$5,000 and \$6,500 in uncirculated condition!**

Replacement Notes

Sometimes new notes get spoiled during the printing process, and extra notes must be inserted into the stack to replace the bad ones before they are issued. These extra notes are called **replacement notes**. For notes with 2-letter prefix, replacement notes are indicated by an asterisk (*) to the left of the prefix. **All asterisk notes are worth over face value and should not be marked!** A 3-letter prefix replacement note, instead of an asterisk, has an “X” as the third letter. In the late 1990’s the use of “X” notes was discontinued, and now just other regular notes are used as replacements when they are needed. When in higher grades, all replacement notes command a premium over face value. Some of them are even worth in the 4-figure range. If I had one of these bills, I’d check into the value before marking it with *Where’s Willy?®!*

Denom	Multicoloured Series (1969-1979)			Birds (1986-1991)
	2-letter Prefix	3-letter Prefix	Numerical Prefix	3-Letter Prefix
\$5	Issue of 1972. *CA, *CC, *CD, *CS, *CU, *CV, *SB, *SL. *SP, *SW.	-	Issue of 1979. 31.	Issue of 1986. ANX, ENX, FNX.
\$10	Issue of 1971. *DA, *DB, *DE, *DG, *DK, *DR, *DX, *DY, *TC, *TG, *TL, *TT, *VA, *VJ, *VL, *VT.	Issue of 1971. EDX.	-	Issue of 1989. ADX, ATX.
\$20	Issue of 1969. *EA, *EB, *EH, *EM, *EV, *EX, *EZ, *WA, *WE, *WF, *WL, *WN, *WV, *YA.	-	Issue of 1979. 51.	Issue of 1991. AIX, EIX.
\$50	Issue of 1975. *HB, *HC.	Issue of 1975. EHX: range from 0000001-0859999, 1700000-2159999. †	-	Issue of 1988. EHX: range from 0860000-1699999, 2160000-4119999. †
\$100	Issue of 1975. *JA, *JC.	Issue of 1975. AJX: range from 0000001- 1059999. †	-	Issue of 1988. AJX: range from 1060000- 3479999. †

†EHX and AJX are the only two cases where a prefix is repeated across two different years of issue within the same denomination.