"**Un Canadien errant**" ("A Wandering Canadian") is a song written in 1842 by [Antoine Gérin-Lajoie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoine_G%C3%A9rin-Lajoie) after the [Lower Canada Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Canada_Rebellion) of 1837–38. Some of the rebels were [condemned to death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment), others forced into [exile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exile) to the United States[[n 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-nA-1)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2) and as far as Australia.[[n 2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-nB-3) Gérin-Lajoie wrote the song, about the pain of exile, while taking his classical exams at the Séminaire de [Nicolet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolet,_Quebec).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-biographi.ca-4) The song has become a [patriotic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriotic) anthem for certain groups of Canadians who have at a point in their history experienced the pain of exile. In addition to those exiled following the Lower Canada Rebellion, it has come to hold particular importance for the rebels of the [Upper Canada Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Canada_Rebellion), and for the [Acadians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acadians), who suffered mass deportation from their homeland in the [Great Upheaval](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Upheaval) between 1755 and 1763. The Acadian version is known as "Un Acadien errant."

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| **Original French lyrics**:[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2)  Un Canadien errant, Banni de ses foyers, Parcourait en pleurant Des pays étrangers.  Un jour, triste et pensif, Assis au bord des flots, Au courant fugitif Il adressa ces mots:  "Si tu vois mon pays, Mon pays malheureux, Va, dis à mes amis Que je me souviens d'eux.  "Ô jours si pleins d'appas Vous êtes disparus, Et ma patrie, hélas! Je ne la verrai plus!  "Non, mais en expirant, Ô mon cher Canada! Mon regard languissant Vers toi se portera..." | **English translation**  A wandering ‘Canadien’ Banished from his homeland Travelled, weeping, through foreign lands.  One day, sad and thoughtful, Seated on the river’s bank To the fleeing current He spoke these words:  “If you should see my home My sad unhappy land Go, say to all my friends That I remember them  "O days once so full of charm You are all gone away And my homeland, alas! I'll not see her again  "No, but with my last breath O my dear Canada! My sad gaze Will go to you." |