

While the Alberta Courts have not formally adopted any particular guide for citation of legislation or cases, the *Canadian guide to uniform legal citation* (the *McGill guide*), published by Carswell, is considered an acceptable standard by the legal community, including the Alberta courts.

The 7th edition of the *McGill guide*, published in 2010, contains many changes, especially with respect to punctuation in citations. While this new edition's standards have been enthusiastically embraced by some members of the legal community, others continue to prefer the more familiar citation style of the 6th edition.

Either the 6th or 7th edition style is acceptable to the courts, but whichever is chosen should be applied consistently in a document. A research guide for citing cases and legislation to the Alberta Courts using the *McGill guide*, 7th edition is in development.

Need to borrow a copy of the *McGill guide*?
Alberta Law Libraries carries both the 6th and 7th editions.
6th edition: [KF 245 C36 2006](#)
7th edition: [KF 245 C36 2010](#)

This summary on how to cite legislation to the Alberta courts is based on the *Canadian guide to uniform legal citation*, 6th ed. Carswell, 2006 ([KF 245 C36 2006](#)).

canadian statutes

Official print sources, namely the revised statutes and the annual volumes for newer acts, are used as sources for the citation.

title

The title of the statute is italicised. The short title of the act or the title at the head, if no short title is provided, is used. The spelling and capitalisation used in the statute are followed precisely.

Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26.

sessions

When there is more than one session of a legislature within a calendar year, the session information is included.

The Highway Traffic Act, 1975, S.A. 1975 (2nd Sess.), c. 56.

The first date is part of the title of this act and, therefore, is included and italicised. There were two sessions in 1975.

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(Calgary) or
1.866.230.8068
(Edmonton) or
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punctuation

After the title and after the year, commas are used. After abbreviations and at the end of the citation, periods are used.

Emergencies Act, R.S.C. 1985 (4th Supp.), c. 22.

When supplement information follows the year, the comma follows the supplement information.

section(s)

When a particular section is referenced, that information is included.

Anti-terrorism Act, S.C. 2001, c. 41, s. 12.

A comma is used after the chapter number and before the section number.

When several sections of an act are referenced, the range of sections is provided.

Anti-terrorism Act, S.C. 2001, c. 41, ss. 12-13.

amendments

Citations to statutes are usually understood to be “as amended” since the last revision or since the original enactment. When discussing the effect of a particular amendment, the citation specifies that information.

Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, as am. by S.A. 2002, c. 19, ss. 12-15.

canadian regulations

The regulation number is cited. The title of the regulation is optional but it is preferable to include it. The title is given in italics and followed by a comma.

alberta

Crop Insurance Amendment Regulation, Alta. Reg. 134/87.

This is the 134th regulation of 1987. The year is given in full after 2000, e.g. 189/2003.

federal

Hog Carcass Grading Regulations, 1986, amendment, S.O.R./87-129.

This is the 129th regulation of 1987. The year is given in full after 2000, e.g. S.O.R./2000-156.

Quebec North-West Pulpwood Order, C.R.C., c. 254, s. 21.

C.R.C. is the abbreviation of *Consolidated Regulations of Canada* (1978) which is the last official consolidation.

Order Fixing January 12, 2006 as the Date of the Coming into Force of Certain Sections of the Assisted Human Reproduction Act, S.I./2005-42.

Statutory Instruments (S.I.), other than regulations, are also published in the Canada gazette part II: the citation is formatted similarly to the S.O.R.s.

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english statutes

Generally, United Kingdom statutes are cited similarly to Canadian statutes. When citing United Kingdom statutes in Canada, the jurisdiction should be included after the title for clarification.

Statutes enacted before 1963 include the regnal year before the chapter number.

Statute of Frauds, 1677 (U.K.), 29 Cha. II, c. 3.

The abbreviation of the monarch's Latin name is frequently used in citations; for example, 29 Cha. II will often appear as 29 Car. II.

Statutes enacted since 1963 do not have a comma before a date in the title of the act.

Elections Act 2001 (U.K.), 2001, c. 7, s. 1(2).