



## RESEARCH GUIDE

## federal statutes

Federal public statutes exist in revisions, the latest being *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985 (R.S.C. 1985)*, in annual volumes of the statutes and in *Canada Gazette, part III*. Federal statute research may be conducted either electronically or in print, one source often mirroring the other. For a basic introduction to the framework under which statutes are enacted and updated, see *A quick guide to researching Canadian statutes : the Canadian Abridgment*. Thomson Carswell, 2006 (KF 240 Q52 2006).

Statutes are cited by the short title, in italics, followed by, for example, R.S.C. 1985 or R.S.C. 1985 (1st Supp.) or S.C. 2006. The statutes in the original eight volumes of *R.S.C. 1985* are cited by the assigned alpha-numeric chapter number, e.g. R.S.C. 1985, c. A-6. Subsequent statutes are cited by the year and a numerical chapter number, e.g. S.C. 2005, c. 33.

For more information on citing federal statutes, please refer to the *Canadian guide to uniform legal citation*. 6th ed. Carswell, 2006 (KF 245 C36 2006).

## finding

## By title

*Table of public statutes and responsible Ministers (Table)*

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/publaw/index.html>

This is an alphabetical table of federal statutes by name. It covers all statutes since the *R.S.C. 1985* revision as well as certain statutes which predate the revision. The *Table* can be used to verify the correct titles and chapter numbers and is available in print and PDF versions, both of which are published three times a year.

Justice Laws Web Site

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>

The consolidated statutes are searchable by keyword in the title or by keyword(s) or phrase in the text of the statute. This website also allows you to browse the statutes by title.

*Canada Gazette, part III*

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partIII/index-e.html>

The most recent statutes are published in the *Canada gazette, part III*; the statutes are presently republished on an annual basis in the *Statutes of Canada*. This part of the *Gazette* is available in both print and electronic formats.

## By subject

CanLII (Canadian Legal Information Institute)

<http://www.canlii.org>

The [Federal - Statutes and Regulations] page indicates the latest update to the content, which may not be as current as other sources. You can search the statutes by keyword(s) or phrases in the title or text.

*Canadian encyclopedic digest (Western)*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Carswell, 1979-

Federal statutes can be searched using the TABLE OF STATUTES located at the beginning of each topical chapter (or TITLE). This service is also searchable electronically on LawSource.

*Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985 : English index*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Though updated only to 1988, the print index provides detailed subject access to individual sections of the statutes.

For further assistance, call 403.297.6148 (Calgary) or 780.422.2342 (Edmonton) or contact your local ALSL branch.

Subject-specific legal texts and looseleaf services often identify statutes either in a table or by footnotes.

The subscription services of LawSource and LexisNexis *Quicklaw* include updated and searchable consolidated federal legislation in their collections.

## updating

New statutes and amendments to existing statutes are introduced as bills in Parliament and may come into force when they receive Royal Assent. Alternatively, there may be a “coming into force” provision which specifies a date when the statute is in force, or the statute may come into force on a date set by Order of the Governor in Council (by proclamation). Once in force, existing statutes may be repealed by Parliament.

### Bills

Parliament of Canada : Bills

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/bills.asp?Language=E>

This section of the parliamentary website provides access to House of Commons, Senate and private members' bills from 1994 to current.

Parliament of Canada : LEGISInfo

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Lang=E>

This resource provides information on individual bills beginning with 37th Parliament - 1st Session (2001), and includes the text of a bill at various stages, summaries from the Research Branch, and bill status.

*Canadian current law : legislation.* Carswell, 1991-

A PROGRESS OF BILLS section in each issue reports activity from first reading through the legislative stages to Royal Assent and proclamation.

*Canada legislative index.* British Columbia Courthouse Library Society, 1988-

The TITLE INDEX section charts new statutes and existing statutes affected by current bills. The HOUSE OF COMMONS BILLS or SENATE BILLS sections track the stage of each bill from first reading to in force.

*Canada statute citator.* Canada Law Book, 1989-

The text of amendments to individual sections of statutes are provided. The WEEKLY BULLETIN SERVICE reports on bills with activity during the week and includes a report on the status of all bills, including a summary of the bills and consequential amendments.

### In force

*Table of public statutes and responsible ministers*

The *Table* lists amendments to statutes on a section-by-section basis, followed by the coming into force information.

Annual statutes

The volumes include charts on proclamations and Orders in Council relating to the coming into force of acts for the year.

*Canada Gazette, part II*

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/index-e.html>

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS fixing coming-into-force dates are included in the *Canada gazette, part II*. This publication is available in both print and electronic form (the latter from 1998 to current).

*Canada Gazette, part III*

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partIII/index-e.html>

Each issue includes a PROCLAMATIONS OF CANADA AND ORDERS IN COUNCIL RELATING TO THE COMING INTO FORCE OF ACTS table covering the Acts included in that issue.

Parliament of Canada : LEGISInfo

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Language=E>

This section of the parliamentary website includes coming into force information on bills.

For further assistance, call 403.297.6148 (Calgary) or 780.422.2342 (Edmonton) or contact your local ALSL branch.

*Privy Council Office : Orders in Council Database*

<http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/oic-ddc.asp?lang=eng&Page=secretariats>

This website provides a searchable Orders in Council database (including proclamations).

*Canadian current law : legislation.* Carswell, 1991-

The PROGRESS OF BILLS section of the issues and the STATUTES AMENDED, REPEALED OR PROCLAIMED IN FORCE section in the issues and annuals have information on in force status.

*Canada legislative index.* British Columbia Courthouse Library Society, 1988-

The PROCLAMATIONS section reports on the in force status of legislation.

*Canada statute citator.* Canada Law Book, 1989-

Its WEEKLY BULLETIN SERVICE has information on proclamations and Orders in Council.

## history

*Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985*

The TABLE OF THE HISTORY AND DISPOSAL OF ACTS facilitates research on the history of a statute and its particular sections. Also, at the end of sections of a revised or consolidated statute is a historical footnote that states the source of this section in the previous revision or later new statute and includes any subsequent amendments. To trace a revised statute further, check the historical footnote for the section in the previous revision; continue to follow the sections backwards to identify the original section.

## Justice Laws Web Site

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/>

Use the [Advanced - Point in Time] search feature to access point-in-time statutes from 2003. They are searchable by keyword(s) in title and text as well as by chapter number. Regulations are available in a similar fashion from 2006.

In LexisNexis *Quicklaw*, search or browse the source [Canada Statutes] for point-in-time statutes from 1999 and the source [Canada Annual Statutes] for statutes from the annual volumes from 1996.

## background

*House of Commons Debates : official reports.* [Hansard]

This edited verbatim record of the debates of the House of Commons, or *Hansard*, provides discussion on new legislation. *Hansard* is indexed.

*Parliament of Canada : Chambers Business*

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/chamber.asp?Language=E>

Edited verbatim records of the debates in both the House of Commons and the Senate are available online, beginning in 1994 for the House and 2007 for the Senate.

*Parliament of Canada : LEGISinfo*

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Language=E>

This section of the parliamentary website includes important speeches from the second reading of bills.

## Law Commission of Canada

Reports, discussion papers and studies on a range of legislative issues are published in print and included in the ALSL collection. The Commission is no longer active.

*Canadian abridgment : index to Canadian legal literature.* Carswell, 1981-

The TABLE OF STATUTES section indexes articles under specific statutes.

For further assistance, call 403.297.6148 (Calgary) or 780.422.2342 (Edmonton) or contact your local ALSL branch.

## private statutes

The scope of legislation enacted as a private statute is restricted to private companies, organisations or individuals. Private statutes are published only in the annual volumes of the statutes: they are not incorporated into revisions or consolidations.

### *Parliament of Canada : Bills*

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/bills.asp?Language=E>

This section of the parliamentary website gives searchable access to the House of Commons Private Members' Bills beginning in 1994.

### *Table of private acts of Canada, 1867 to December 31, 2000*

Listed are all private statutes published in the Statutes of Canada other than those dealing with divorce, enacted since 1867, plus the amendments and repeals. The statutes are grouped under subject headings.

### *Table of private acts of Canada (1867 to December 31, 2007)*

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/privlaw/index.html>

Private statutes from 1867 to 2007, except those dealing with divorces, are searchable.

**For further assistance, call 403.297.6148 (Calgary) or 780.422.2342 (Edmonton) or contact your local ALSL branch.**