

Principles of Legal Research

Fall 2008

Week 12: November 24-28

Cecilia Tellis, Law Librarian
Brian Dickson Law Library



Bibliothèque uOttawa Library

Outline

- Ontario legislation
 - Legislative process
 - Finding them in print and online
 - Updating laws and regulations
 - Citing laws and regulations
- In-house course evaluation



Ontario Bills: Public or Private

- **Public Bill:** relates to a matter of public policy and is usually general in its application and character and is initiated by a Minister or member.
- **Private Bill:** relates to a matter of special benefit to a particular person or group of persons and is the vehicle by which a member of the public may initiate a Bill by applying to the Legislative Assembly.

In Ontario, public bills are numbered consecutively starting with Bill 2, and private bills are numbered consecutively with the preface Pr – eg., Bill Pr2



Ontario Legislative Process

- The legislative process at the provincial level is more or less the same as that of the federal level, except there is only one House at the provincial level, the **Legislative Assembly**.
- In Ontario, a bill can sometimes be amended at second reading and thus reprinted (*i.e.*, before it proceeds to committee).

See http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/go2.jsp?locale=en&menuItem=bills_header&Page=%2Fbills%2Fbills_main for more information on how bills become law and flowchart style diagrams of the legislative process for each type of Bill.



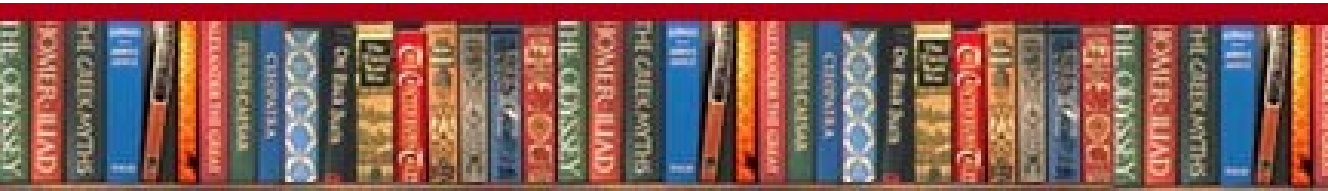
Royal Assent and Proclamation

■ Royal Assent

- Granted by the Lieutenant-Governor
- The bill is printed in its final form, and is assigned a statute number at this point: *e.g.*, S.O. 1997, c. 26

■ Proclamation

- Like federal laws, an Ontario statute comes into force either:
 - upon Royal Assent,
 - when it is proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor (by and with the advice of the Executive Council of Ontario); or,
 - on a day otherwise specified in the Act.



Updating Ontario statutes

- All Ontario statutes and regulations are published on the [e-laws](#) website
 - consolidated versions (*i.e.*, most current version, including all amendments), and also the history of most acts is also available (click on the « **H** » next to each title)
 - some point-in-time also available (click on the link « Period in Time Law » in the left sidebar)



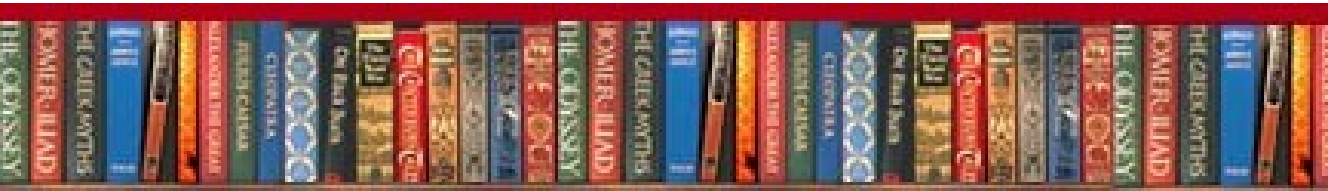
e-Laws

- Also has many **Legislative Tables** (examples below)

| Legislative Table | Content |
|---|--|
| Titles of Current Consolidated Public Statutes on e-Laws | Lists alphabetically the current consolidated public statutes available on e-Laws, along with their citation. |
| Current Consolidated Public Statutes - Legislative History Overview | Lists each public statute included in the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990 or enacted on or after January 1, 1991 ... and provides citations for all amendments made to the statute. |
| Consolidated Public Statutes - Detailed Legislative History | Provides provision-by-provision information about amendments, repeals and notices of change affecting consolidated public statutes on or after January 1, 1991. |

Updating Ontario statutes (cont.)

- Another place you can find amendments to a statute is in the *Ontario Statute Citator* (located in the library in aisle SLR 4-7 just after the Ontario statutes)



Updating Ontario statutes (cont.)

- Information on most bills tabled in the Ontario Legislative Assembly since 1995 is available on the legislature's [website](#)



The screenshot shows the official website of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The header features the assembly's crest and name. A navigation menu on the left lists various sections: Français, Home, Members (MPPs), Bills & Lawmaking, Debates & Proceedings, Committees, Getting Involved, Contact an MPP, Participation in Committees, Use of Assembly Grounds, Petitions, Visitor Information, Tours & Events, The Gift Shop, and Observe Parliament in Session. The main content area includes a large photograph of the assembly building with the text 'Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario'. Below the photo, it states 'The Ontario Legislature is currently in Session.' and provides links for 'Today's business in the Legislative Assembly', 'Today's Agenda (Orders and Notices)', and 'Weekly Committee Schedule'.

Information on bills



Bills from the Current Session of Parliament

- [Status of Legislation](#) (summary information for each bill)

Bills from Previous Parliaments

Detailed information on Bills since 1995.

Private Bills

Procedures for applying for private legislation.

Queen's Park Webcast



How Bills become Law

Flowchart style diagrams of the legislative process for each type of Bill.

[Government Bills \(pdf\)](#)

[Government Bills - pre-legislative stages \(pdf\)](#)

[Private Members Public Bills \(pdf\)](#)

[Private Bills \(pdf\)](#)

[Committee Bills \(pdf\)](#)

[Acts and Regulations - when they come into force \(pdf\)](#)

[Bills Status Table](#)

[Statutes and Regulations of Ontario \(External Site\)](#)

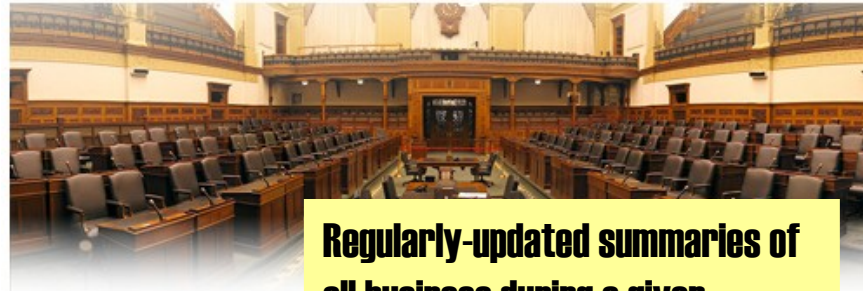
The Ministry of the Attorney General's e-laws website provides information on all Ontario Statutes and Regulations.



Debates (Hansard) and Proceedings

The official minutes of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly.

Verbatim transcripts of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly since 1984.



Regularly-updated summaries of all business during a given session, including **Status of Legislation**.

Today's Business (Orders and Notices)

Daily agenda, and detailed information on all business available for consideration by the Legislative Assembly. Updated at the end of each day.

Debates (Hansard) and Votes & Proceedings

Hansard: Substantially verbatim transcripts of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly since 1984. Typically available online within a few hours of adjournment each day.

Votes & Proceedings: The official minutes of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. Produced daily and available online within hours of adjournment.

Speech from the Throne

First Session of the Thirty-Ninth Parliament of the Province of Ontario ([pdf](#))

Queen's Park Webcast



Status of Business

Regularly updated summaries of all business considered by the Legislative Assembly during a given session of Parliament.

[Status of Legislation](#)

[Government Motions](#)

[Opposition Day and Want of Confidence motions](#)

[Private Members' Motions](#)

[Petitions and Responses](#)

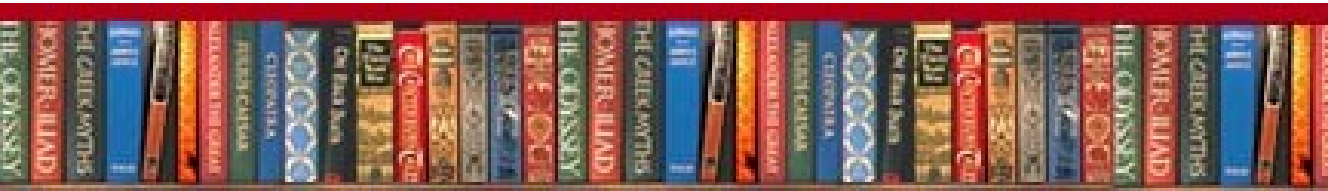
[Estimates](#)

[Sessional Papers](#)

[Order Paper Questions and Responses](#)

Where is Ontario legislation **officially** published?

- **Statutes of Ontario** (Annual volumes)
- **Revised Statutes of Ontario** (last published in 1990)
- **The Ontario Gazette**: proclamations issued by the Lieutenant Governor and all regulations filed with the Registrar of Regulations



Citing Ontario bills (McGill – 2.1.5)

| Number | <i>Title (always use the long title)</i> | Session | Legislature, | Jurisdiction, | Year | Pinpoint (if any) | Additional info (optional, but a good idea!). |
|-----------|---|------------|--------------|---------------|------|-------------------|---|
| Bill 7, | <i>An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 2000,</i> | 1st Sess., | 39th Leg., | Ontario, | 2007 | | (First reading, 4 December 2007). |
| Bill Pr3, | <i>An Act respecting St. Andrew's Congregation of The United Church of Canada at Toronto,</i> | 1st Sess., | 39th Leg., | Ontario, | 2007 | | (First reading, 12 December 2007). |



Citing Ontario statutes (McGill – 2.1.1)

■ Revised Statutes

| <i>Title (use short title, if there is one),</i> | R.S.O. | Year of revision, | Chapter number. |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Children's Law Reform Act,</i> | R.S.O. | 1990, | c. C.12. |

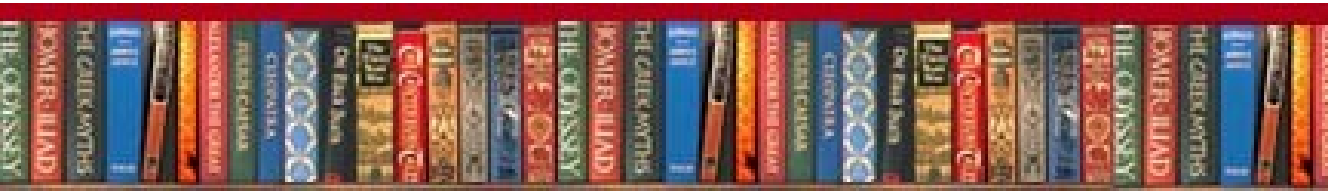
■ Sessional/Annual Statutes

| <i>Title (use short title, if there is one),</i> | S.O. | Year, | Chapter number. |
|---|-------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <i>Highway 407 Act, 1998,</i> | S.O. | 1998, | c. 28. |



Ontario regulations

- Similar to federal regulations, these are made or approved under the authority of a provincial Act
- Published in the *Ontario Gazette*, along with other statutory instruments such as orders of cabinet
- There is an index of regulations for the *Ontario Gazette*, as well as information on the [e-laws](#) website (for updating regulations, etc.)
 - On the e-laws site, regulations are listed under the statute which they were issued pursuant to



Citing Ontario regulations (McGill – 2.1.1 and 2.1.6)

■ Revised Regulations

| <i>Title (if there is one),</i> | R.R.O. | Year of revision, | Reg. | Number | Pinpoint (if any). |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | R.R.O. | 1990, | Reg. | 1015. | |

■ Unrevised Regulations

| <i>Title (if there is one),</i> | Jurisdiction. | Reg. | Number/last two digits of year | Pinpoint (if any). |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | O. | Reg. | 426/00. | |

