Citing Canadian Government Documents

This guide offers examples of how to cite Canadian government documents and is based on Canadian Government Publications: a citation guide by Phyllis Rudin, McGill University. There is no single “right” way to cite documents and you should try to conform to the style used for the non-governmental publications, cited in your work.

The title page of a document is generally the best source for the information needed for the citation, but you can also check the bibliographic record in the York University Libraries catalogue.

B = Bibliography or Works Cited

F = Footnote or Endnote

P = Parenthetical Referencing: The parenthetical method encourages you to incorporate the author information into the text of your essay. A few examples are provided below.

I = Internet Resources: For online documents, include the same information as for printed publications, noting what author/government agency created the web site. End with information on the electronic source: date posted, date accessed and Web address (URL)

Publications of Government Ministries, Departments, Boards, Agencies, etc.

Format: Jurisdiction – Name of Ministry, etc – Title - Place – Publisher - Date

Include branches, etc after the name of the Dept. e.g. Canada. Environment Canada. Canadian Wildlife Service.


P  (Canada, Dept of Justice 25)


If known, the name of the document’s author begins the citation (example 1) unless the name of the agency comes first on the title page (example 2).


Note: Do not include the name of the jurisdiction if the name of the government body begins with the same word, e.g. Canada or Canadian.
Royal Commissions or Task Forces

Format: Jurisdiction – Name of Royal Commission or Task Force – Title – Place – Publisher - Date


P (According to a study by the Task Force on Digitalization… 78)


Debates


Committee Proceedings


Statutes

Many acts have both long and short titles. Use the short title only, in citations.
Note: Commonly used abbreviations are: S.C = Statutes of Canada; R.S.C. = Revised Statutes of Canada; c. = chapter; s = section; ss = sections; ( ) = paragraph

B Canada. Elections, Canada Act, R.S.C. (1985), c. E-2,

F Elections, Canada Act, R.S.C. (1985), c. E-2, s.3

Bills

It is important to note the reading of the bill, i.e. 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd}.

B  Canada. An Act Respecting the Oceans of Canada, Bill C-26, First Reading, April 17, 1996 (35\textsuperscript{th} Parliament, 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess)

F  An Act Respecting the Oceans of Canada, Bill C-26, First Reading, April 17, 1996 (35\textsuperscript{th} Parliament, 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess.), s. 39.5 (22)  (In this example, 22 is the page number)

I/B  Canada. An Act Respecting Canadian Citizenship, Bill C-16, First Reading, Nov. 25, 1999 (36\textsuperscript{th} parl., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess.) 29 Feb. 2000.
http://www.parl.gc.ca/36/2/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-16/C16_1/C-16_cover-e.html

Elizabeth Watson and Janice Newton, YUL/BG/28.2.2000, revised 21/11/03