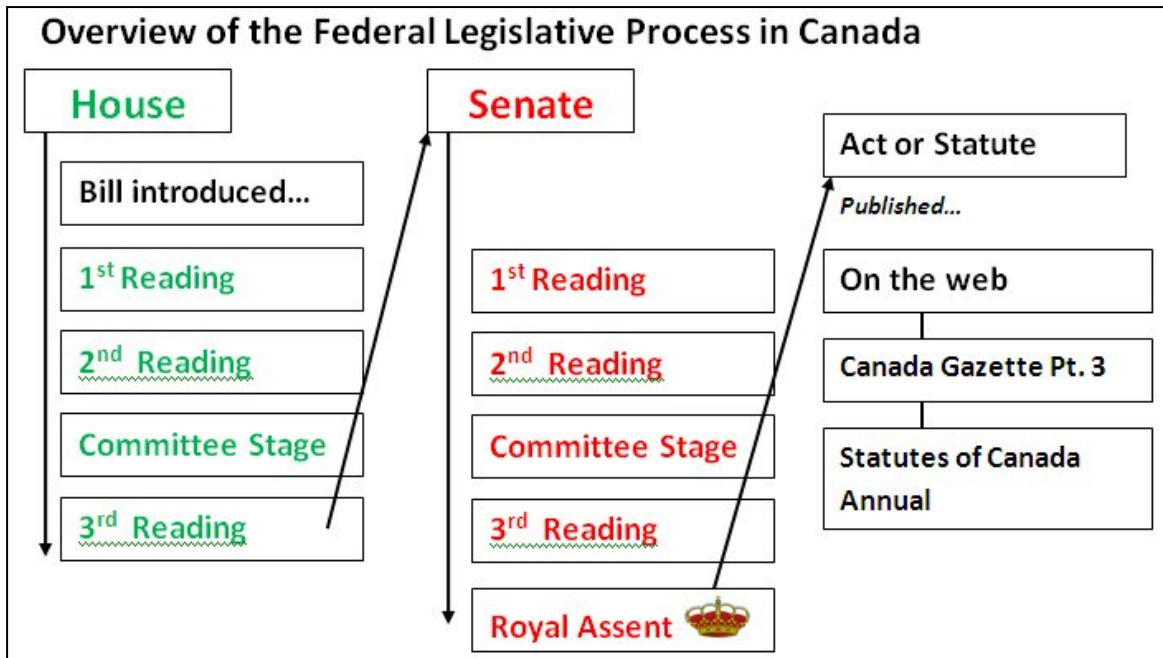


Legislative Process -- Flowchart



1. Identify Legislation on your topic

There are many ways to find legislation under consideration (Bills), or in force (Acts or Statutes). There are several ways of finding legislation, including the following suggestions:

1.1 Use online indexes to “news events” to find reference to your topic, and hopefully any associated legislation... for example, use CBCA, Canadian Business & Current Affairs.

1.2 Search “LEGISinfo” at www.parl.gc.ca → Bills → LEGISinfo (in Left Menu)

LEGISinfo provides excellent information for Bills introduced after the 37th Parliament - 1st Session (Jan. 29, 2001)

1.3 Look up the Ministry / Department you think might be responsible for a particular piece of Legislation.

- Table of Public Statutes and Responsible Ministers – (look up in Library Catalogue)
- ONLINE at URL: <http://lois.justice.gc.ca/en/publaw/index.html>

1.4 Search the Index to the Journals of the House of Commons

- ONLINE: <http://www.parl.gc.ca> → Chamber Business Home → Journals – Index
- PRINT: Look up in Library Catalogue

1.5 Look up older legislation using the Index to the Revised Statutes of Canada (latest 1985). Look up the ‘topic’ of interest using the index to identify associated Statutes (laws). **Revised Statutes are periodic cumulations of all the laws of the land – a great convenience! The Revised Statutes work best in conjunction with the **Annual Statutes of Canada (in print)**.**

2. Find the Bill Associated with your legislation

You need to determine **when** (i.e. *during which Parliament & Session*) your Bill was passed. **Bill numbers are reused**, so if you do not have an idea of when your legislation was passed, you'll need to work your way back through the various Parliaments and Sessions to find *your* Bill. This is why having a rough idea of the 'timeframe' for your Bill is important.

Canada -- House of Commons			
Sessional Dates for Online Legislative Information			
Parliament	Session	Start Date	End Date
35th	1st	17-Jan-94	02-Feb-96
35th	2nd	27-Feb-96	25-Apr-97
36th	1st	22-Sep-97	18-Sep-99
36th	2nd	12-Oct-99	22-Oct-00
37th	1st	29-Jan-01	16-Sep-02
37th	2nd	30-Sep-02	12-Nov-03
37th	3rd	02-Feb-04	23-May-04
38th	1st	04-Oct-04	29-Nov-05
39th	1st	03-Apr-06	14-Sep-07
39th	2nd	16-Oct-07	07-Sep-08
40th	1st	18-Nov-08	04-Dec-08
40th	2nd	26-Jan-09	30-Dec-09
40th	3rd	03-Mar-10	26-Mar-11
41st	1st	02-Jun-11	--

Remember that **WHEN** something happened (i.e. *which Parliament/Session*) is essential to finding the legislative documents you're after.

2.1 BILLS

ONLINE -- 1994 to present:

- Go to the Parliamentary web site (<http://www.parl.gc.ca>)
- Click on "Bills" on the "Main Menu"
- Choose the appropriate *Parliament & Session* on the Left Menu (at bottom)
- Click on "Status of House Business" under "House of Commons" on the Left Menu
- Choose the *type* of Bill you're after (e.g. Government, Private, or Private Members Bill)
- Scroll to the *Bill Number* you're after, or use "CTRL-F" to find it on the web page

ONLINE -- 2001 to present: Search "LEGISinfo" at www.parl.gc.ca → Bills → LEGISinfo

LEGISinfo provides excellent information for Bills introduced *after* the 37th Parliament - 1st Session (Jan. 29, 2001)

PRINT – holdings vary by library

2.2 ACTS / STATUTES -- Bills that are passed are known as Acts or Statutes.

ONLINE – Full-text of current laws at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>

PRINT – holdings vary by library

3. Find Debates on the Bill:

ONLINE -- 1994 to present:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca> → Chamber Business Home → Debates – Indexes

(Note: 'old style' indexes up to 38th Parl. 1st Session, then 'searchable' index available)

PRINT – holdings vary by library

Indexes found at end of each session.

4. Some Useful Links:

- Canadian Legislation Online <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>
- FAQ on legislative documents <http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo/Faq.aspx?Mode=1&Language=E>
- How an Ontario Bill becomes Law <http://www.ontla.on.ca/lao/en/media/laointernet/pdf/bills-and-lawmaking-background-documents/how-bills-become-law-en.pdf>

5. Locating Print Resources:

Federal Print Resources:

Debates
Journals
Order Paper and Notice Paper
The Statutes of Canada (annual)
The Revised Statutes of Canada Index
Canada Statute Citator
Table of Public Statutes and Responsible Ministers
Canada Gazette Part III (Bills as passed)
Bills (unbound, on Reference)
Ottawa Letter(CCH Canada)

Call Number/Location:

All of these resources are available in print and may be available at your local Public and/or Academic Library. Check the Library Catalogue and/or consult with Library staff.

Ontario Print Resources:

Debates
Gazette
Statutes of Ontario (annual)
Revised Statutes of Ontario
Office Consolidations
Bills (recent bills are unbound, on Reference)
Votes & Proceedings
Orders & Notices

Call Number/Location:

All of these resources are available in print and may be available at your local Public and/or Academic Library. Check the Library Catalogue and/or consult with Library staff.

Finding Canadian Depository Libraries:

<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/locatingOurPublications/depositoryLibraries/index.html>

The screenshot shows the Government of Canada Publications website. The header includes the Government of Canada logo and a search bar. The main navigation menu has 'Publications', 'Services', and 'Resources'. The page title is 'Depository Libraries'. The content is organized into sections: 'Our Catalogue', 'Locating Publications', 'Orders, Claims and Inquiries', 'Services', 'Resources', 'Full Depository Libraries', 'Selective Depository Libraries', and 'Map Depository Libraries'. A sidebar on the right lists 'Depository Library listings' by province and territory, including Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and International Depository Libraries.

6. Navigating the Parliament of Canada Web Site:

Much of what you'll need can be found under "Parliamentary Business", as shown below. Here, you'll find "Chamber Business", "Committees", and "Bills".

The screenshot shows the Parliament of Canada website's "Parliamentary Business" section for the 41st Parliament, 1st Session. The page features a navigation menu with "Parliamentary Business" selected. The main content is organized into three columns: Chamber Business, Committees, and Bills. Chamber Business includes links for Senate and House of Commons activities. Committees lists Senate, House of Commons, and Joint Committees, with a note that no meetings are scheduled today. Bills includes links for bills before Parliament and legislation at a glance. A Reference Material section provides procedural guides and legislative summaries.

Site Map | A to Z Index | Contact Us | Français

PARLIAMENT of CANADA

Home | **Parliamentary Business** | Senators and Members | About Parliament | Visitor Information | Employment

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

41st Parliament, 1st Session

Chamber Business

In the Senate

- Order Paper and Notice Paper
- Latest Journals
- Previous Sittings - Journals
- Latest Debates
- Previous Sittings - Debates

In the House of Commons Chamber

- Projected Order of Business
- Order Paper and Notice Paper
- Latest Journals
- Previous Sittings - Journals
- Latest Debates
- Previous Sittings - Debates

Parliamentary Calendars

- Senate Calendar
- House of Commons Calendar

Parliamentary Seating Plans

- Senate Seating Plan
- House of Commons Seating Plan

Committees

Senate Committees

- No committee meetings scheduled today
- Previous Meetings

House of Commons Committees

- No committee meetings scheduled today
- Previous Meetings

Joint Committees

- No committee meetings scheduled today
- Previous Meetings

The following information is available about Senate, House of Commons and Joint Committees:

- Committee Mandates
- Membership
- Lists of Studies
- Committee Meetings
- Schedules of Meetings
- Minutes of Proceedings
- Evidence
- Press Releases

Bills

Bills Before Parliament

Legislation at a Glance

Bills on Today's Agenda in the Senate and in the House of Commons

LEGISinfo provides current and historical data on legislation dating back to the 37th Parliament in 2001.

Reference Material

Procedural Reference Material
Rules, guides and other reference materials about Senate and House of Commons procedure. Includes information for committee witnesses, practical guides on a number of subjects, and other useful procedural documents.

Legislative Summaries and Research Papers
Overviews of most government bills (Legislative Summaries) and topical research papers produced by expert staff from the Library of Parliament.