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Citing Canadian Government Documents

<http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/govdocs/yorkciting.pdf>

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 library 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.

B Canada. Dept of Justice. A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice. Ottawa: Dept. of Justice Canada, 1998

F Canada. Dept of Justice. A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice (Ottawa: Dept. of Justice Canada, 1998), 25

P (Canada, Dept of Justice 25)

I/B Canada. Status of Women Canada. Gender Based Analysis: A Guide for Policy-Making – Working Document. Ottawa: Status of Women Canada, Policy Analysis and Development Directorate, 1999. 19 Oct. 1999. 29 Feb. 2000. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/publish/gbagid-e.html>

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).

B 1. Camozzi, Anne. Community Environmental Projects: from Needs Assessment to Evaluation. [Ottawa]: Environment Canada, c1995.

B 2. Canada. Environment Canada. Community Environment Projects: from Needs Assessment to

Evaluation, by Anne Camozzi. [Ottawa]: Environment Canada, c1995.

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
B Canada. Federal Task Force on Digitization. Towards a Learning Nation: the Digital Contribution: Recommendations Proposed by the Federal Task Force on Digitization: Final Report. [Ottawa : National Library of Canada, 1999]

F Canada. Federal Task Force on Digitization. Towards a Learning Nation: the Digital Contribution: Recommendations Proposed by the Federal Task Force on Digitization: Final Report. ([Ottawa : National Library of Canada, 1999]), 78

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

I/B Canada. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. People to People, Nation to Nation: Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Ottawa: The Commission, 1996. 29 Feb. 2000. <http://www.inac.gc.ca/rcap/report/index.html>

Debates

B Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Debates, 35th Parl., 1st sess., vol. 133 no. 177 (1995)

F Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Debates, 35th Parl., 1st sess., vol. 133 no. 177, (1995): 2798-2799.

I/B Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Debates. 36th Parl., 2nd sess., no. 58 (Feb. 28, 2000): 1400. 29Feb. 2000.
http://www.parl.gc.ca/36/2/parlbus/chambus/house/debates/058_2000-02-28/han058-e.htm#LINKT28

Committee Proceedings

B Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Minutes of Proceedings. 34th Parl., 3rd sess., issue 5 (1991-92).

F Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Minutes of Proceedings. 34th Parl., 3rd sess., issue 5 (1991-92): 8

I/B Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. Minutes of Proceedings. 36th Parl., 2nd sess. Meeting No. 12 (17 Feb. 2000). 29 Feb. 2000.
[http://www.parl.gc.ca/InfoComDoc/36/2/HUMA/Meetings?Minutes/HUMAmn12\(9309\)-e.htm](http://www.parl.gc.ca/InfoComDoc/36/2/HUMA/Meetings?Minutes/HUMAmn12(9309)-e.htm)

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

I/B Canada. Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act. R.S.C. (1985) c. E-3, s.1. 31 Aug. 1999. 29 Feb. 2000. <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Laws/Chap/E/E-3.txt>

Bills

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

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

F An Act Respecting the Oceans of Canada, Bill C-26, First Reading, April 17, 1996 (35th Parliament, 2nd 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 (36th parl., 2nd 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

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