

Demystifying B.C. Gov Docs

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Legislative Publications

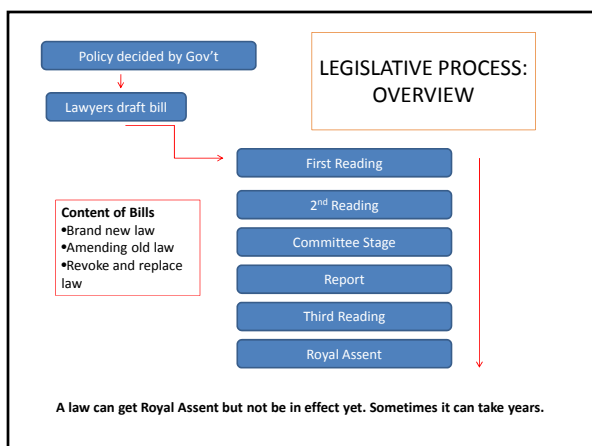
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Presentation Overview

- Legislative Process
- Legislative Publications
 - Hansard
 - Journals
 - Parliamentary Committees
 - Standing Orders
 - Legislation (very basic)

Functions of Legislative Assembly

- Pass laws
- Approve finances
- Scrutinize government



Laws change over time

- Small changes (word changes)
- Sections added, removed, renumbered
- Significant revisions (law revoked, replaced)

Key point: A law can be amended many times after it is first passed.

Legislative Publications

B.C. Legislative Assembly
<http://www.leg.bc.ca/>

- Hansard
- Journals
- Reports and Minutes of Parliamentary Committees
- Standing Orders

B.C. Legislation

- Types of legislation
- Reading a citation
- Where to find legislation

Types of Legislation

General Rules/Big Picture

- Statutes/Acts (“Adoption Act”)
- passed in House

Subordinate Legislation

- Regulations, Orders, Directives
- Fill in the details
- not passed in House

Example:

Adoption Act

Adoption Fees Regulation

How to Read a Citation

Representative for Children and Youth Act
 [SBC 2006] ch. 29, sec. 1

Adoption Act [RSBC 1996] ch. 5, sec. 1

1999-2-11

Parts of a Citation

Title

Statute Volume

Chapter No.

Section No.

[Representative for Children and Youth Act \[SBC 2006\] ch. 29, sec. 1](#)


Adoption Act [RSBC 1996] ch. 5, sec. 1

1999-2-11 = Year Law Passed – Chapter No. – Section No.

What is the difference between SBC and RSBC?

SBC = Statutes of BC

- Original version of the legislation
- Does not include any later amendments
- All laws passed in a year are published in (usually) one yearly volume



1998 statute volume

RSBC = Revised Statutes of BC

- Published every decade or so
- Current version of laws, all amendments blended in
- Last revision in 1996. Earlier revisions in '79, '60, etc.
- RSBC = snapshot of law as it appeared in 1996

•It does not mean the law was passed in 1996



Where do you find legislation?

- Bills (not yet law)
- Current versions
- Older versions of laws

Bills (not yet law)

Assembly Legislation page:
<http://www.leg.bc.ca/legislation/index.htm>

- First Reading
- Third Reading (final version of bill)
 - Back to '92
- Progress of Bills Table
 - Back to '92

Current Laws

Legislative Assembly's "Legislation" page

- [BC Laws](#)
 - current, consolidated laws within two weeks
- QP Legaleze, Quickscribe, other databases

Older Versions of Legislation

- Some online (QP Legaleze, Quickscribe, Canlii, etc)
- Sometimes need to go back to print

What did the Adoption Act look like in 2000?

- Start with [QP Legaleze](#)
- Find archived consolidation

How has sec. 13 of the Representative for Children and Youth Act changed since it was introduced in 2006?

- Use Table of Legislative Changes
- Look at Point in Time (back to 2000)

www.qplegaleze.ca

Ask the patron

- Do you know the name of the law?
- ... the citation?
- ... when it was passed?
- Do you want the current version or an older version?

Remind patron: Not a lawyer, this is not a legal opinion

Further Help

- Courthouse Libraries
- Clicklaw
- UBC Law Library
- Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research
- BC Laws Glossary

Finding Background on Laws

- Hansard (back to 1970)
- Newspaper sources
- Press Releases
- Special Reports (uncommon)