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

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

Example:
Adoption Act
Adoption Fees Regulation

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

What is the difference between SBC and RSBC?
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)