

# McGill Citation for Various Sources

## Citing legislation

**Bills:** Laws are first presented for consideration by the legislature in the form of bills. These bills must be debated and finally approved by the legislature before receiving royal assent and becoming enforceable statutes.

**Federal Bills:** Bill Number, *Title*, Session, Legislature, Provincial Jurisdiction, Year, Clause Pinpoint.

**Provincial Bills:** Bill Number, *Title*, Session, Legislature, Provincial Jurisdiction, Year, Clause Pinpoint.

Bill 139, An Act to Make April 21 *Climate Change Awareness Day*, 2d Sess, 38th Leg, Ontario, 2006, cl 3.

**Statutes:** Once a bill has received the necessary legislative approval and royal assent, it becomes a statute. Statutes are first collected in Annual Volumes. Periodically, all the statutes in a particular jurisdiction (including all amendments) are collected in a collection of statutes known as the Revised Statutes.

**Statutes:** Title, Statute Volume and Jurisdiction Year, (session or supplement), Chapter, Section Pinpoint.

**Annual Volume:** *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, SC 2000, c 5.

**Revised Statutes:** *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46, s 319.

**Electronic Versions:** Federal and provincial governments now publish their statutes electronically on government websites, some which are official versions. Citations still use the print format, however.

## Citing jurisprudence

**Cases:** *Style of Clause* (Year of Decision), Neutral Citation, [Year of Reporter] Volume reporter (Series) Page at Pinpoint, Parallel Citation (Court) [*short form*].

*R v Sharpe*, 2001 SCC 2, [2001] 1 SCR 45 at para 25, 194 DLR (4th) 1 [Sharpe]

**Neutral Citations:** Since 2001, most courts now publish their decisions with a neutral citation indicating the year of the decision, the court, and a decision number. If a neutral citation is available, list it first, right after the name of the case (style of cause); for example, “2001 SCC 2” is the neutral citation for the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in the Sharpe case listed above.

**Case Reporters:** Judicial decisions are also often collected and published in edited Case Reporters, organized according to either yearly volumes or series. For example, the Supreme Court Reports (SCR) are organized into yearly volumes (every year, volume numbering starts again at 1). The format for citing these two types of Case Reporters is as demonstrated above – note in particular the use of brackets [] and parenthesis (), depending on the type of Case Reporter.

## Citing journal articles

When citing journal articles, include the name of the author as it appears in the first page of the article. In addition, use the abbreviation for the name of the journal in which the article is published. Please see Appendix D in the McGill Guide for a list of law journal abbreviations, and the information page E-121 for citing non-law journals. Finally, if you used a database to retrieve the full text of the article, you can include this information at the end. Common law databases include Quicklaw (QL), Westlaw Canada (WL Can), and LexisNexis (Lexis).

**Journal articles:** Author, “Title of Article” (Year) Volume: Issue abbreviated Journal Title First Page (Database Service, if applicable)

**Journal Articles with one author:**

David M Tanovich, "E-Racing Racial Profiling" (2004) 41 Alta L Rev 905 (QL).

**Journal article with additional authors:**

Rachel Cox & Karen Messing, "Legal and Biological Perspectives on Employment Testing for Physical Abilities: A Post-Meiorin Review" (2006) 24 Windsor YB Access Just 23.

Rafael La Porta et al, "Law and Finance" (1998) 106:6 Journal of Political Economy 1113 at 1152

## Citing books

**Books:** Author (as name appears on title page), *Title* (Place of publication: Publisher, Year).

**Book with a single author:**

LW Sumner, *The Hateful and the Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004).

**Book with three authors – authors are separated by a comma and the "&" symbol:**

Patrick Fitzgerald, Barry Wright & Vincent Kazmierski, *Looking at Law: Canada's Legal System*, 6th ed (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2010).

**Book with more than three authors – include online the first authors name and "et al":**

CJC Sampford et al, *Retrospectivity and the Rule of Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

**Article in an edited collection:**

Cathy Caruth, "The Claims of the Dead: History, Haunted Property and the Law" in Austin Sarat et al, eds, *Law's Madness* (Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2003) 119.

## Citing newspapers

**When citing newspaper articles,** cite to the electronic database or the online source from which you obtained the article.

**Newspaper articles:** Author, "Title of Article", Newspaper (Date) Page (Database Service, if applicable) OR online: <URL>

Rod Mickleburgh & Gloria Galloway, "Storm brews over drug strategy", *The Globe and Mail* (15 January 2007) A1 (Lexis)

Naomi Wolf, "Take the Shame Out of Rape" *The Guardian* (25 November 2005) online: <www.guardian.co.uk>

## Citing government documents

Government documents include diverse sources ranging from legislative debates, reports from Parliamentary committees, and documents and reports from other bodies such as Officers of Parliament and Commissions of Inquiry. Parliamentary documents are published by a legislative body (either federal, provincial, or territorial); all others are non-parliamentary.

**Debates:** Jurisdiction, Legislature, Title, Legislative Session, Volume or Number (Date) at Pinpoint (Speaker).

*House of Commons Debates*, 37th Parl, 1st Sess, No 64 (17 May 2001) at 4175 (Hon Elinor Caplan)

**Non-parliamentary papers:** Jurisdiction, Issuing Body, Title, Volume (Publication Information).

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Protecting Your Privacy on the Internet: Canada's New Privacy Laws* (Fact Sheet) (Ottawa: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2004).

## Citing international documents

International documents include a wide range of materials from inter-governmental bodies such as the UN, the WTO, and the European Union, case law from international courts such as the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, and bilateral and multilateral treaties.

**Treaties and UN Documents:** While most treaties and UN documents can now be found online, it is preferable to cite to the print version (most of the needed information should be listed on the website), with an optional reference to the electronic source.

*Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, 4 November 1950, 213 UNTS 221 at 223 (entered into force 3 September 1953).

**UN Documents (Supplements example):** Author (if applicable), *Title*, UN Body Res or Dec Number, UN Body and OR, Session Number or Calendar Year, Supp Number, UN Doc Number (Calendar Year) First Page and Pinpoint.

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, GA Res 217A (|||), UNGAOR, 3rd Sess, Supp No 13, UN Doc A/810 (1948) 71.

## Citing online materials

For materials found online, give the citation according to its traditional form (e.g., Government document), and then add "online: name of website <URL>", as in the Privacy Commissioner example below.

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Protecting Your Privacy on the Internet: Canada's New Privacy Laws* (Fact Sheet) (Ottawa: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2004), online: Privacy Commissioner of Canada <[http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs/\\_/02\\_05\\_d\\_13\\_/asp](http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs/_/02_05_d_13_/asp)>.

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Protecting Your Privacy on the Internet: Canada's New Privacy Laws* (Fact Sheet) (Ottawa: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2004), online: Privacy Commissioner of Canada <[http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs/\\_/02\\_05\\_d\\_13\\_/asp](http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs/_/02_05_d_13_/asp)>.

## Bibliographies

This tip sheet demonstrates the style for footnotes and endnotes. In most cases, however, you will also be expected to include a bibliography at the end of your paper, in addition to your footnotes or endnotes. Your bibliography should be a list of all sources you have used in preparing your paper, whether or not you actually cited them, arranged alphabetically by author's last name.

You may wish to further organize your bibliography according to categories or sources; e.g., jurisprudence, legislation, government documents, international documents and secondary sources. The style is largely the same as that for footnotes and endnotes.

## Reference

Carleton University Learning Commons. (n.d.). *Using uniform legal citation*. Retrieved from [https://library.carleton.ca/sites/default/\\_les/help/writing-citing/uniform\\_legal\\_style.pdf](https://library.carleton.ca/sites/default/_les/help/writing-citing/uniform_legal_style.pdf)

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