
Canadian Environmental Policy Research Guide

For: GENV 3201: Canadian Environmental Policy

27 Sept. 2011

This guide is intended to introduce you to some of the resources available for research in Canadian environmental policy and for completing the assignments in this course:

News and Journal Articles

Books & Government Documents

Government & Policy Sites

Current Laws & Regulations

Federal, Provincial Laws & Legislation

Municipal Bylaws & Legislation

Environmental Statistics

Industry and Corporate Information

Citing Sources

Articles from Journals, Magazines and Newspapers:

Use an Index or Full-text Database

Select indexes to use based on the topic and type of article required. The following are some that are likely to be most useful for research in this course. To access these and others, select the Quick Link: "Indexes & Databases" on the library web site.

News:

Canadian Newsstand (in ProQuest).

Index and full-text collection of Canadian newspapers from across the country.

Years covered: 1985 - present, varies by title. Updated daily, (some delayed 2 days).

Eureka.cc

A full-text collection of local and international news sources including the Sackville Tribune, TV news transcripts, etc. Years covered: varies by title. Updated daily.

Journal Articles:

ProQuest Databases.

A multi-database index, with abstracts and selected articles in full text. ProQuest databases cover a wide variety of subjects and sources including academic journals, popular press magazines, trade and business journals, some government reports, newspapers, conference and working papers and theses, and much Canadian content. Databases can be searched together or separately. Coverage: Varies by title. Updated daily. Select "ProQuest (All)" to search them all together, or click on "See List / Change" within ProQuest to select appropriate databases, or you can limit searches by type after searching.

Environment Complete.

A database of over 2,000 journals and books on environmental topics; most are available in full text.

LexisNexis.

Has a collection of environmental law journals, including some Canadian.. (Select "Subject Areas", then

“Environmental Studies”). Includes U.S. EPA decisions, environmental news stories and law review articles.

ScienceDirect.

A good full-text database of peer-reviewed academic journals. Can limit to Review articles.

Finding Articles Available Through the Library:

If an article does not seem to be available directly through a Full-Text link or Pdf icon, there are two places to check:

1. Search for the journal title in the Journal Finder, a “Quick Link” on the library home page, or a link from within the database.
2. Search for the journal title in the library catalogue, the first “Quick Link” on the library homepage and also linked from within most databases. Scroll down to the bottom of the full record to see if the library “holdings” include the issue you need; note the format, location, and call number. Journals are kept on the bottom two floors of the library. If the library’s subscription is to an online version, click on the link given.

Articles NOT in the Library or Online:

If the articles or books you want are not available online or in the library, you can request an interlibrary loan. Instructions and online request forms are on the library web site. There is no charge for this service.

Books & Government Documents Available Through the Library:

Use the Online Library Catalogue

- enter a government, association, or Canadian public company name as Author to find works written, published, or sponsored by them (e.g. New Brunswick, NRTEE, NB Power, Pembina Institute, etc.)
- use keywords in the author field (Advanced Search) if unsure of the full, correct name (e.g. full author name: Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development) author kw search: canada and committee and environment
- use keyword searches to begin a search, combine concepts, and to ensure retrieval of all government documents (e.g. new brunswick and forest\$) or (kw in author: new brunswick and kw in title: forest\$)
 \$=all possible endings (keyword searches only)
- limit by location, format, etc. (Advanced Keyword Search)
 (e.g. kw: environmental policy and canada and location: book stacks)
- see subject headings of appropriate books found to find more books on the topic and related topics.

Sample Subject Headings:

Environmental policy
Nature conservation
Land use
Environmental protection
Environmental law
Conservation of natural resources
Sustainable development
Energy policy

Sub-headings:

-- Canada [province, or more local area]
-- government policy
-- environmental aspects
-- law and legislation

Selected Government & Policy Web Sites:

Canada Site. <http://canada.gc.ca>

- the official Federal Government web site links to federal departments and agencies by name, and to the provincial/territorial government web sites
- has a search engine that covers all federal government web sites
- see the relevant departmental sites for their own policy information, site maps, search engines, links to their Acts and Regulations, public consultations and news archives, etc. e.g:
 - Environment Canada. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/> , Natural Resources Canada. <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca>
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada <http://www.agr.gc.ca>

Government departments and ministries and some agencies have a standard url format allowing for an alternative site search option using Google:

- for federal government web sites: enter keywords site:gc.ca (e.g. climate change site:gc.ca)
- for prov/territorial government sites:URL format is: gov.bc.ca (exception: gnb.ca for New Brunswick)

Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Office of the Auditor General of Canada. http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/esd_fs_e_46.html

- monitors federal departmental sustainable development strategies and manages the environmental petitions process (see for citizen and organizational petitions, and the government response).

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. <http://www.eco.on.ca>

Ontario also has an environmental commissioner (“the province’s independent environmental watchdog”) with similar responsibilities.

Consulting with Canadians. <http://consultingcanadians.gc.ca>

A federal government site that provides access to all federal consultations by department, date, title or subject. Also links to past consultations and related documents.

Current Federal Laws & Regulations:

Federal department web sites all have a section listing the Acts & Regulations for which they are responsible. From their home page, select the “Acts & Regulations” link.

Dept. of Justice Canada Laws Web Site. <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>

- The official site for all of Canada’s laws. *Consolidated Statutes & Regulations* updated weekly. Search all federal laws and regulations by keyword or browse by title.
- Use the *Consolidated Index of Statutory Instruments* to find regulations.
- The most recently passed laws are printed in the Canada Gazette, Part III (regulations in Part II) <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/>

Federal Legislation in Progress:

Parliamentary Internet Site. <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

- previous Parliaments and Sessions (1994 -) can be searched separately
- search the whole site or just selected portions using Advanced Search, or select specific sections:

Library of Parliament Research Publications. See A-Z Index – Library of Parliament – Research Publications. Has brief overviews on topics requested by Members.

Hansard (Debates of the House and Senate) – Select “Parliamentary Business” - “Chamber Business” - verbatim transcript of debates accessible by date, or use the keyword searchable and browsable index to link to the text of debates by topic or speaker. You may need to select “Previous sittings”.

Status of House Business: – “House of Commons” – “Today in the House” Updated daily.
- use to see at what stages a bill is in the legislative process; note key points for further research: e.g. if passed into law, date and committee name if referred to committee, date of second reading (to find most detailed debates in Hansard), chapter number if passed, etc.

Committee Reports, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence: -- “Parliamentary Business”
- “evidence” = verbatim record of committee meetings accessible by date or use the keyword searchable and browsable index to link to the recorded text by topic or speaker. “Witness Information” allows searching specifically for “expert” testimony by groups and individuals.

LEGISINFO.

- a very useful research tool that links, where available, to all the above information and more for each bill currently before Parliament: the text of the bill at first reading and any later amended versions, major speeches in Parliament, status of the bill, selected recorded votes, CIF information, legislative summary, party press releases, further reading and related links.

Canada Gazette Part I. <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/index-e.html> - see for proposed Regulations

Provincial Laws & Legislation:

LawCentral Canada. <http://www.lawcentralcanada.ca>

- Select “Canadian Law” for links to all provincial and territorial statutes, bills and regulations.
- Can also search by keyword across all jurisdictions.
- Information available varies by province but can include statutes, status of bills, debates, regulations, court reports, user guides, etc.

Municipal Bylaws & Legislation:

LawCentral Canada. <http://www.lawcentralcanada.ca>

- Links to official municipal government web sites, where Council meeting minutes and bylaws may be available.

Selected Sources for Environmental Statistics:

Canadian:

Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

Search the site or select “Browse By Subject” – “Environment” or “Energy” for links to key sources such as: *Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators, Human Activity and the Environment*, etc.

National Inventory Report 1990-2009: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada.

<http://tinyurl.com/3vddjj5>

The Canadian government's submissions to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. (Click on full report; also links to other countries' submissions.)

National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), Environment Canada.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/inrp-npri/default.asp?lang=En>

Database of pollutant releases, disposals and transfers for recycling.

International:

GEO: Global Environment Outlook. United Nations Environment Programme.

<http://www.unep.org/geo/>

This major UNEP publication reviews and analyzes the state of the environment and environmental policy around the world, highlights issues of concern and includes recommendations for policy action. The site includes a link to *Geo Yearbook* an annual survey of the environment, statistics and analysis.

Other sources: See the research papers, technical papers, etc. published by organizations funding research on your topic. (E.g. IPPC reports on climate change, CEC papers on N. American issues, etc.)

Industry & Corporate Information:

Companies and industry groups are often stakeholders in environmental issues. Associations representing particular industries frequently publicize their arguments for or against policy issues. Their web sites, news releases and trade journals are key sources of information on industry views. Besides the regular news sources, parliamentary committee evidence, and the petitions on the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development site noted above, corporate and other stakeholders can also be identified by using the following sources:

CBCA Business and ABI/INFORM (on ProQuest). Library web site: Find... Articles

- CBCA for coverage of Canadian business magazines, trade journals and corporate news. ABI has global business coverage in academic and trade journals.

Associations Canada Directory. At the Research Help Desk.

- use the Subject Index to find a listing of the Canadian organizations (and foreign ones headquartered in Canada) that are involved in an issue.

Registry of Lobbyists. Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada. <http://www.ocl-cal.gc.ca>

- this federal site is searchable by lobbyist's name, organization, subject of lobbying activity, keyword, etc. Shows the corporations, industry groups and individuals involved, communication techniques used, and the issues, bills, regulations, policies or programs targeted.

Equivalent exist for the provinces in ON, BC, QC, AB, NS & NL, and for cities: Toronto and St. John's.

Evaluating Information & Citing Sources:

Reading information critically is an important aspect of research and applies to all sources. Unlike most scholarly, published texts, information found using an Internet search engine may appear out of context, with

little to judge its appropriateness for an academic paper. Lack of identifying metadata (information about the information) is your first clue when a source is likely not appropriate for academic research.

For guides and examples of how to cite sources including government information, web sites, online journal articles, legal sources, etc., see the library web site under “Research & Citation Guides”. Tip sheets and the complete citation manuals are also available at the library Research Help Desk.

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