
Researching Ontario Regulations (1867- Present)

219 Research Guide

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Ontario laws and their regulations — their origins and the way in which they have evolved — tell us a great deal about our history and our changing values. This research guide will assist you in researching Ontario Regulations. You may also want to consult *Research Guide 207: Researching Ontario Bills and Statutes*.

What Are Regulations?

A regulation is law that is created under the authority of a statute or act — the terms "statute" and "act" are interchangeable. Regulations support the general requirements of the legislation. They provide the instructions to ensure the intended implementation, interpretation, enforcement or administration of a law are carried out. They make it possible for the government to act expeditiously in providing for additional rules or procedures without having to enact new statutes.

The Regulations Act, RSO 1990, chapter R21 defines a regulation as being "(...) a regulation, rule, order or by-law which is of a legislative nature made or approved under an Act of the Legislature by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a minister of the Crown, an official of the government or a board or commission all the members of which are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

In other words, regulations are the rules of the law. For example, all employers who are subject to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990 must comply with Regulation 1101 under Section 3 of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997. The regulation states what each employer is obligated to provide in the workplace.

Regulations are made by the Ontario government ministry that is responsible for administering a statute, and are passed by Order-in-Council. They do not need the approval of the legislature.

Finding Regulations

Sometimes regulations are published in an office consolidation of the act to which they

belong. [Click here to access BIBLiON, the Archives of Ontario Library Card Catalogue](#) and perform a keyword search on the subject or title of the act or regulation to see if the Library has a copy of the consolidation. Follow the “How to Request” instructions. You will find BiBLiON in the “Accessing Our Collection” section of our website.

If nothing is found in BIBLiON, follow the instructions below.

Between 1867 and 1944

Finding these regulations can be hit and miss. Sometimes they were published in the *Ontario Gazette*, and sometimes they were printed as office consolidations with the act to which they belong. For information on finding the act, consult *Research Guide 207: Researching Ontario Bills and Statutes*.

Another way to find a regulation from those years is to search the Order-in-Council authorizing the regulation.

To find an Order-in-Council authorizing a regulation, you need to access the index to Orders-in-Councils first, to obtain the Order-in-Council number and year.

[Click here to access the description of the Indexes to the Orders-in-Council, series RG 75-56.](#) [Click here to access the description of the Orders-in-Council issued by the Executive Council, series RG 75-57.](#)

From 1944 to the Present

All regulations are required by law to be published in the *Ontario Gazette*, the Ontario government’s weekly newspaper.

Various indexes (sometimes called tables) to regulations were printed regularly for finding the regulations within the *Gazette*. Each index entry lists:

- the name of the act
- all the regulations under that act and their numbers
- previous versions or amendments to the regulation between certain periods
- the date of the *Ontario Gazette* in which you can find the actual regulation.

Each index cumulates all of the regulations in force as of December 31 that year. For example, the 1960 index is a listing of all regulations *in force* as of December 31, 1960, and previous versions of the regulations or amendments between 1951 and 1960. Part 2 of the index lists regulations that have expired or been revoked. To trace a regulation back, you will have to go through each year’s index to get the date of its publication in the *Gazette*.

Table 1 shows where to find the Indexes (for a particular time period). Write down the date of the *Ontario Gazette*, and page number (if provided), and then request that

Gazette.

Year	Use
From Jan. 1, 1944 to Dec. 31, 1949	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1950, vol. Jan.-June, p. 653 (see also note below about revoked/repealed regulations)
1950	<i>Consolidated Regulations of Ontario, 1950</i>
From Jan. 1, 1951 to Dec. 31, 1960	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1960, vol. July-Dec.
From RRO 1960 to Dec. 31, 1970	<i>Statutes of Ontario</i> 1970
From RRO 1970 to Dec. 31, 1980	<i>Statutes of Ontario</i> 1980
From RRO 1980 to Dec. 31, 1990	<i>Statutes of Ontario</i> 1990
From RRO 1990 to Dec. 31, 2001	<i>Statutes of Ontario</i> 2001
From RRO 1990 to present (Continuously updated)	E-Laws: Use the various Regulations tables. Click here to access the E-laws website
2004 to present	Full text of all regulations are available on E-Laws (Historical versions of consolidated regulations, for regulations that were amended or affected by a coming into force event after January 1, 2004).

Revoked and repealed regulations from 1944 to 1948 may not appear in the indexes above. Consult the individual annual indexes listed in Table 2:

For Year	Use
1944	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1946, vol. Jan.-June, p. 223
1945	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1946, vol. Jan.-June, p. 241
1946	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1947, vol. Jan.-June, p. 553
1947	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1948, vol. Jan.-June, p. 349
1948	<i>Ontario Gazette</i> 1949, vol. Jan.-June, p. 299

How to request:

Ontario Gazette: [Click here to access BIBLiON](#) (the Archives of Ontario online library catalogue) for instructions.

Statutes of Ontario: Fill out a request slip with the following information: Title, Statutes of Ontario [year] and Reference Code (Govt Doc Statutes).

[Click here to access the Ontario Gazette online](#). Weekly issues of the Gazette are available online, starting from January 2000. If you know the date of the Gazette in which the regulation appears, or the specific regulation number, this is a good source.

Revised Regulations of Ontario

Starting in 1950, and every 10 years until 1990, the full text of regulations in force as of Dec. 31 of that year are consolidated into a multi-volume set called the *Revised Regulations of Ontario*, or RRO. (In 1950, they were called the *Consolidated Regulations of Ontario*.)

Previous versions of those regulations are NOT printed in the *Revised Regulations of Ontario*. If you need to see previous versions of a regulation, or to see the text of all amendments, the only place to find them is in the *Ontario Gazette*. Consult the table above for the indexes.

E-Laws Website:

[Click here to access the E-laws website](#). The Ontario government maintains E-Laws. It is a database of Ontario's current statutes and regulations, and is updated continually. Specific information about the currency of consolidated law on E-laws is contained within each consolidated statute and regulation. New source law is usually published on E-laws within two business days.

Period- in-Time (PIT) Law

(Versions of current and historical consolidated statutes or regulations as they read during different periods of time.)

PIT is a database of current and historical versions of consolidated statutes and regulations. It is searchable by date, enabling the user to find different consolidated versions of a law as they read during different periods. A historical version of a consolidated statute or regulation is available on E-laws only if the statute or regulation is amended or affected by a coming into force event after January 1, 2004. [Click here to access the E-laws website](#) (See also *Research Guide 207, Researching Bills and Statutes*.)

E-Laws: Source Law (2000-present)

(Statutes as they read when enacted, and Regulations as they read when filed from 2000 to the present.)

A source law may be:

- a new act or regulation (called the parent)
- an amending act or regulation (it amends the parent), or
- a repealing or revoking act or regulation (it repeals the parent act or revokes the parent regulation).

Source law is available on E-laws for statutes or regulations amended or affected after January 1, 2004. (*See also Research Guide 207, Researching Bills and Statutes.*)

If you are unable to find a specific version of a regulation in E-Laws, particularly before 2000, consult the printed indexes in the table above.

Making Contact

Ready and Willing

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Contact us

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933

Fax: 416-327-1999

Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#)

Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

Website

For information about the Archives' holdings, as well as access to research guides and other customer service materials available through the Archives of Ontario. [Click here to visit our website.](#)

Customer Service and Research Guides

The Archives of Ontario has published a series of in-depth research guides on a variety of specific topics. For more information, please see "Customer Service and Research Guides" under "Accessing Our Collection" on the home page of the Archives website.

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