

Research Guide 219  
Researching Ontario regulations (1867 to present)

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## In this guide

This guide has information on how to search Ontario provincial regulations, including the Ontario Building Code.

### What are regulations?

A **regulation** is law enacted by the Government under the authority of a statute (law as voted by the Legislative Assembly and signed by the Lieutenant-Governor, also referred to as an act). It provides the rules and procedures to ensure the intended implementation, interpretation, enforcement or administration of a statute are carried out. Regulations are made by the Ministry responsible for the related statutes and are passed by Orders-in-Council.

Examples of regulations are those passed under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. The Act sets up the legislative framework to ensure workplace safety, facilitate the return to work of workers who were injured in the workplace or suffer from an occupational disease, and provide compensation to workers and survivors of deceased workers. Regulations include the rules and procedures to be followed by the government and its agencies, employers, workers and survivors to achieve these goals.

### Where do I find these records?

Regulations are available online (for some years) and in paper format. See [“The Records” section](#) below for more information.

Regulations in paper format may also be available at some Ontario libraries. To view them in our reading room, you will need to request them in advance. We can provide copies at a distance if there is enough information to identify the regulation.

## What do I need to get started?

To find a regulation, you need to know the regulation number or year, and the name of the corresponding act. See [“The Records” section](#) below for more information.

## The Records

Regulations are published in the Ontario Gazette, the official provincial government publication. Since 2000, they also appear on e-Laws, the provincial government legislation website.

### 1. Regulations, 2000 to present

You will find Ontario regulations and statutes from 2000 to present on the e-Laws website, [www.ontario.ca/laws](http://www.ontario.ca/laws). This site also includes “point-in-time” law (historical versions of regulations and statutes, from 2004 to present). To find regulations on e-Laws, browse by the name of the related Act.

### 2. Regulations, 1944 to 2000

Regulations from 1944 to 2000 are available the following versions:

- the original version, found in the Ontario Gazette
- Revised Regulations of Ontario (periodical consolidations of regulations)
- unofficial office consolidations (pint copies of some acts, with related regulations) and printed stand-alone copies of regulations

See [section 4](#) below for information about the Ontario Building Code, a regulation under the Ontario Building Code Act.

#### 2.1 Regulations in the Ontario Gazette

Using the indexes: To find regulations between 1944 and 1999, you first need to get the regulation number and year using indexes found either in the Ontario Gazette or published statutes. 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 issue *Ontario Gazette* in which you can find the actual regulation.

Each index includes all 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 find it in the *Gazette*.

**Table 1** below shows where to find the Indexes. In the table, RRO refers to Revised Statutes of Ontario (see section 3 below).

The Ontario Gazette is available online from 2000, at <https://www.ontario.ca/search/ontario-gazette>. It is also available in print format, in our reading room and at some Ontario libraries, from 1867 to March 31, 2021. To view it in our reading room:

- 1968 to 1982: use self-serve microfilm reels **MS 7196 to MS 7223** (an index for those years is on reel **MS 7195**)
- other years: request the year you need, using call number Gvt Doc Ont Gaz.

To view the Statutes of Ontario for the years mentioned in **Table 1**:

- online (1970 to 1999) : on the Osgoode Commons, York University Website, at [https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ontario\\_statutes/](https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ontario_statutes/)
- in our reading room: request using call number *Govt Doc Statutes SO* [the year you want]

**Table 1: Indexes to Regulations, 1944 to 2001**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Where to find the index</b>
1944 to 1949 (regulations still in force in 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1950, vol. January-June, p. 653
1944 (regulations revoked or repealed before 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1946, vol. January-June, p. 223
1945 (regulations revoked or repealed before 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1946, vol. January-June, p. 241
1946 (regulations revoked or repealed before 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1947, vol. January-June, p. 553
1947 (regulations revoked or repealed before 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1948, vol. January-June, p. 349
1948 (regulations revoked or repealed before 1950)	Ontario Gazette 1949, vol. January-June, p. 299
1950	Consolidated Regulations of Ontario, 1950
From January 1, 1951 to December 31, 1960	Ontario Gazette 1960, vol. July-December
From RRO 1960 to December 31, 1970	Statutes of Ontario 1970
From RRO 1970 to December 31, 1980	Statutes of Ontario 1980
From RRO 1980 to December 31, 1990	Statutes of Ontario 1990
From RRO 1990 to December 31, 2001	Statutes of Ontario 2001

Once you have found a regulation in the index: Write down the:

- regulation number **and** year
- the date of the issue of the Ontario Gazette, where it was published
- the page number (if it is mentioned)

Use this information along with the call number: *Gvt Doc Ont Gaz*, to request the retrieval of the Gazette in our reading room.

Regulations are also available on the Internet Archive, [www.internetarchive.org](http://www.internetarchive.org), from 1944 to 2008. You will find a link to each volume on the website of the Great Library, Law Society of Ontario; go to the webpage for the Great Library's research guides, <https://greatguides.lsuc.on.ca/>, and choose the guide to Canadian legislation.

## **2.2 Revised Regulations, 1950 to 1990**

Revised Regulations were periodical consolidations of all regulations in force. They were published in 1950 (under the name Consolidated Regulation), 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990.

To view the Revised Regulations:

- online: the Revised Regulations are on the Internet Archive website, [www.internet.org](http://www.internet.org)
- in our reading room: request the year you are looking for, with call number *Gvt Doc RRO* [year].
- the print version is also available at some public library

## **2.3 Office consolidations and printed regulations**

To find if we have an office consolidation or printed regulation [click here to search our online library holdings, by the name of the Act](#). Some office consolidations and printed regulations are also online.

## **3. Regulations, 1867 to 1943**

Before 1944, there was no requirement to publish regulations. Some regulations are in the Ontario Gazette. Some were published as stand-alone publications, or as part of office consolidation of an Act.

The Ontario Gazette for those years is available in print format only, in our reading room and at some Ontario libraries. To view it in our reading room, request the year you need, with call number: *Gvt Doc Ont Gaz*. For information about searching office consolidations and printed regulations, see section 2.3 above.

## **4. Ontario Building Code**

The Ontario Building Code is a regulation under the Ontario Building Code Act. It was first issued in 1975. Before 1975, some municipalities issued standards or by-laws for building construction, and we do not have those.

New regulations amending the Code were issued in 1983, 1986, 1990, 1997, 2006 and 2012. You will find a table listing the regulation numbers up to 2006 at <https://collections.ola.org/mon/17000/274551.pdf>.

The official Ontario Building Code website, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-building-code>, has the most recent updates to the Act and the Code.

The current Code, passed in 2012 and the past (revoked) 1997 and 2006 versions are on e-Laws, at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>

The following versions of the code are online on the Internet Archive website.

- 1975: <https://archive.org/details/v2ontarioregulat1975onta/page/1788/mode/2up>
- 1983: <https://archive.org/details/v3ontarioregulat1983ontauoft/page/n7/mode/2up>
- 1986: <https://archive.org/details/v3ontarioregulat1986ontauoft/page/1272/mode/2up>

Copies of the Code, as well office consolidations that include the Ontario Building Code Act, are available in print format in our reading room and at some Ontario libraries. For more information on what we have, [click here to search our online library holdings](#).

## Are there related records?

For information on searching bills, statutes and related records, [click here to view Research Guide 207](#). On our website, you will find this and other research guides under “Access Our Collections,” in the “Research Guides and Tools” page.

## Contact us

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

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

**Email:** [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#). The e-mail address is [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca)

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

## Website

Visit our website for information about our collections and our services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. [Click here to visit our website](#). The website is [www.archives.gov.on.ca/](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/).

## **Customer Service and Research Guides**

Our guides contain information about our services, freelance researchers available to do research for you, and some of most popular records. [Click here to view our guides](#). To find the “Research Guides and Tools” on our website, click on “Access our Collections”.

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