Canadian Legal Materials: Guidelines and Examples in APA Style

MacEwan University students should always check with their instructors for any preferences or requirements that may vary from the guidelines in this handout.

The examples in this handout integrate guidelines for both APA documentation style and Canadian legal citations. Please note that the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed., 2010) provides only American examples and recommends that writers consult *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed., 2005). MacEwan University students can find more information about citing legal materials in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citations* located in the Library.

**Reference Entries**

*Martin’s Annual Criminal Code*

**Whole Book and Annotations**
To cite *Martin’s* as a whole book or to cite the annotations, begin the reference entry with the names of the authors/editors. In the 2017 edition, Henein is the primary writer of the annotations, with credit given to Greenspan and Rosenberg for their previous contributions, so all three should be included in the reference entry:


**Corresponding in-text citation:** Cite Henein only.

Henein (2016) explained . . . (p. 365).

**Legal Materials in Martin’s**
To cite legal materials in *Martin’s*, begin the entry with the act:


**Corresponding in-text citations:**

Section 16 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (2016) indicates that offence-related property may be forfeited on conviction.

Or

Offence-related property may be forfeited on conviction (Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, 2016, s. 16).
**Legislation (from CanLII or LawSource)**

Criminal Code, RSC 1985, c C-46.

**Corresponding in-text citation:** Cite the act and the year.

The Criminal Code (1985) defines a prize fight as “an encounter or fight with fists, hands or feet between two persons who have met for that purpose by previous arrangement made by or for them.”

**Legislation (from a website)**

When citing legislation from a website, cite in the same form as from CanLII or LawSource; however, it may also be cited in the same way as material from a website. Before the URL, state the Government of Canada first, followed by the specific department.


**Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

The Charter is part of the Constitution Act; when citing the Charter, include a reference entry for the Constitution Act:


**Corresponding in-text citation:** Mention the Charter in the sentence, and cite the Constitution Act parenthetically:

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees that “everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure” (Constitution Act, 1982).

**Regulations**

**Cases (from CanLII or LawSource)**

R v. Vader, 2016 ABQB 266.

**Corresponding in-text citations:** Italicize the case name in text. For example,

The judge determined that statements made by the accused’s sister about “the presence of guns in the back of the truck are admissible for the truth of their contents” (*R v. Vader*, 2016).

or

In the case of *R v. Vader* (2000), the judge determined that statements made by the accused’s sister about “the presence of guns in the back of the truck are admissible for the truth of their contents.”

**Bills**

Bills are in-progress documents, so an access date can help a reader determine the stage of the bill when it was accessed.


**Corresponding in-text citation:** Shorten the title of the Bill.

*Bill C-16* (2015) began its process during the 1st session of the 42nd Parliament on December 3rd, 2015, and as of December 16th, 2016, the second reading in the Senate was in progress.

**In-Text Citations**

Cite a page or section number only if your instructor requests it. See the corresponding in-text citations for *Martin’s Annual Criminal Code* on the first page for examples that include page or section numbers.