General Rules
The standard for legal writing is to use footnotes. In-text references should only be used in memorandums or factums (sec. 1.2).

The Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation requires the following rules to be followed in legal writing:

- **Pinpoint:** A pinpoint is used to cite a specific portion (page, paragraph, section, article, or footnote) of a text. Multiple pinpoints can be used in one footnote (sec. 1.5).

- **Original source:** Always cite to the original source. The original source varies by type (i.e. legislation, jurisprudence, etc.); consult specific source sections for the original/authoritative source for each document type.

- **Introductory Signals:** Introductory signals are used “to indicate the logical relationship between the cited source and the proposition stated in the main text.” Example: See, See generally, Compare, Accord, Contra, etc. (sec 1.3.6).

- **Short form:** If a source is referenced more than once, create a short form for subsequent references. If there are no subsequent references, do not include/create a short form. The style of short form created is dictated by the source type (sec. 1.4).

- **Subsequent references:** If a citation refers to the same source as an immediately preceding citation, use Ibid, and no short form is required. To cite a source previously referenced, but not immediately preceding, use: “Short form, supra note X”. (sec. 1.4).
  - Supra refers to the entire source; always reiterate the pinpoint. Supra can still be used if the pinpoint varies; just include the relevant pinpoint in each citation (sec. 1.4.3).

### Source
- **Case/Jurisprudence**
  - **Initial Citation:** Vriend v Alberta, 1996 ABCA 274 at para 11, 141 DLR (4th) 44 [Vriend ABCA].
  - **Format:** Style of cause, neutral citation at pinpoint, reporter [short form] (if applicable).
  - **Source Specific Rules:** Parallel Citation, providing two or more sources is recommended.
    - If available, always start with neutral citation, followed by official reporters and then unofficial reporters/databases.
    - Neutral citation is created by reporting court. Never create a neutral citation if one does not currently exist.

Questions? [Ask Us!](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Initial Citation</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Source Specific Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation - Statutes&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 2, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>Post Secondary Learning Act, SA 2003, c P-19.5, s.3.</td>
<td>Title, statute volume jurisdiction year, chapter, other indexing element, (session or supplement), pinpoint (if applicable).</td>
<td>Official electronic versions are cited in the same format as print, URL not required. Use official short title, usually found in first section of statute, if one exists. If statute reference includes session or supplement information, include in citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Document - Parliamentary Papers&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 4, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>Alberta, Journals of the Legislative Assembly, 29th Leg, 1st Sess, vol 124 (15 June 2015) at 7 (Lois E. Mitchell).</td>
<td>Jurisdiction, legislature, title, legislative session, volume/number (date) pinpoint (speaker) (if applicable).</td>
<td>Indicate jurisdiction at start of citation if provincial/territorial. If federal, begin with title (ex: House of Commons Debates). Do not duplicate jurisdiction or legislature if included in document title (ex: Alberta Hansard or Journals of the Legislative Assembly).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Document - Non-Parliamentary Papers&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 4, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>Canada, National Inquiry in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Interim Report, (Ottawa: Privy Council Office, 2017).</td>
<td>Jurisdiction, issuing body, title, other information (publication information) pinpoint (if applicable).</td>
<td>Do not duplicate jurisdiction or issuing body if it is included in another element of the citation. If applicable, include individual/institutional author(s) (which differ from issuing body) and any additional information a reader would need to locate the source (ex: catalogue information, updated date, under review, etc.), after the title.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 6.2, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>Kevin P. McGuinness, Canadian Business Corporations Law, 3rd ed (Toronto: LexisNexis Canada, 2017) vol 1 at 30.</td>
<td>Author, title, edition (place of publication: publisher, year of publication) pinpoint (if applicable) (electronic service) (if applicable).</td>
<td>If a multi-volume work uses the same title for all volumes, treat the volume designation as a pinpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encyclopedia&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 6.4, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>CED 4th (online), Animals &quot;Dogs: Guide and Service Dogs&quot; (X.5.(b)) at § 368.</td>
<td>CED edition (online), subject matter (series) (if applicable), &quot;detailed subject &amp; subheadings&quot; (optional) (CED Subheading code) (optional) section.</td>
<td>See section 6.5 for guidance on citing in print.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article (print)&lt;br&gt;(Sec. 6.1, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation)</td>
<td>Richard Albert, “The Difficulty of Constitutional Amendment in Canada” (2015) 53:1 Alta L Rev 85 at 93.</td>
<td>Author, “title of article” (year) volume: issue (if applicable) abbreviation of journal page pinpoint.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions? [Ask Us!](#)
Sample Bibliography/Table of Authorities

Organize bibliographies/tables of authorities into the following sections, respectively: Legislation, Jurisprudence, and Secondary Materials (sec. 1.1, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation).

LEGISLATION

Post Secondary Learning Act, SA 2003, c P-19.5.

JURISPRUDENCE

Vriend v Alberta, 1996 ABCA 274, 141 DLR (4th) 44 [Vriend ABCA].

SECONDARY MATERIAL: MONOGRAPHS


SECONDARY MATERIAL: ARTICLES

Anatomy of a Citation
This example describes the elements of a statute (legislation) citation.

Post Secondary Learning Act, SA 2003, c P-19.5, s.3.

- Title of Act
- Statute Volume
- Jurisdiction
- Year
- Chapter
- Pinpoint

This example describes the elements of a case citation.

Parallel (Alternate) Citation

Neutral Citation (online) = the 274th case in 1996 for the Alberta Court of Appeal

- Citations, separated by commas, from Law Reporters (in print)

Vriend v Alberta, 1996 ABCA 274, 141 DLR (4th) 44 [Vriend ABCA], [1996] 8 WWR 405

- Style of Cause OR Case Name (party names)
- Volume Number
- Reporter Series
- Reporter Title
- First page of case
- Year

Note: For abbreviations of full titles, see Appendix C, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation, or Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations.

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