

Government Documents

for the
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Library & Information Technology Program

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Overview

December 11, 2025

1. Introduction (*1:00 pm*)
2. Provincial Government Resources (*1:15 pm*)
3. Break (*1:50 pm*)
4. Federal Government Resources (*2:00pm*)



Learning Objectives

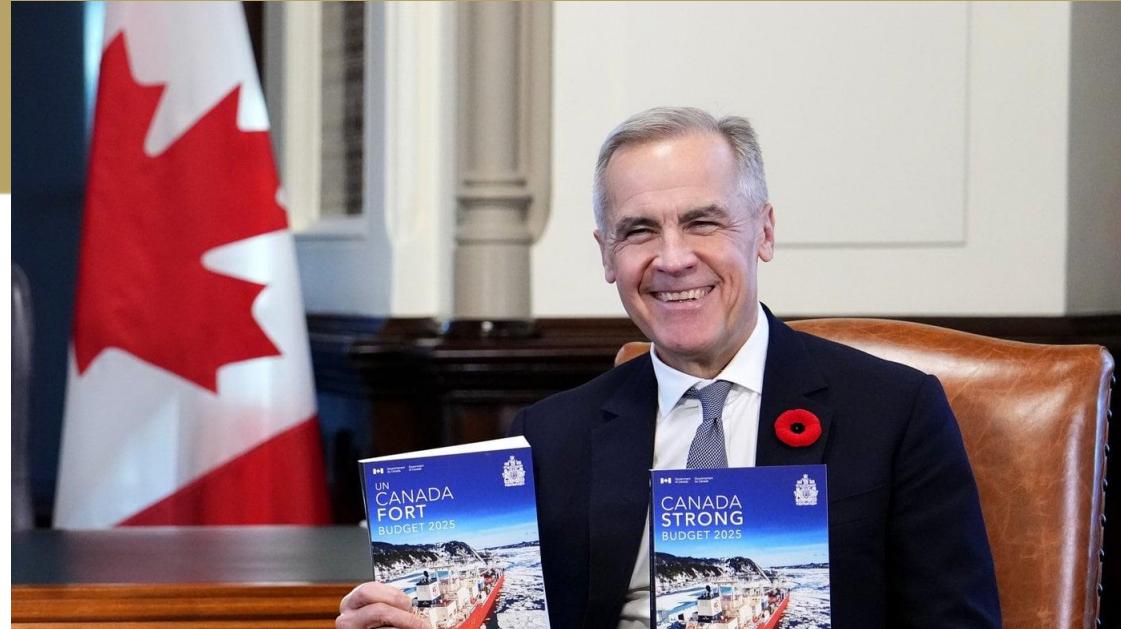
- Define government documents.
- Identify levels of government that issue documents.
- Identify the range of formats and subject matter of government documents.
- Identify guides and bibliographies to locate government information.
- Use government guides and bibliographies to locate specific-ready reference information.



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Introduction

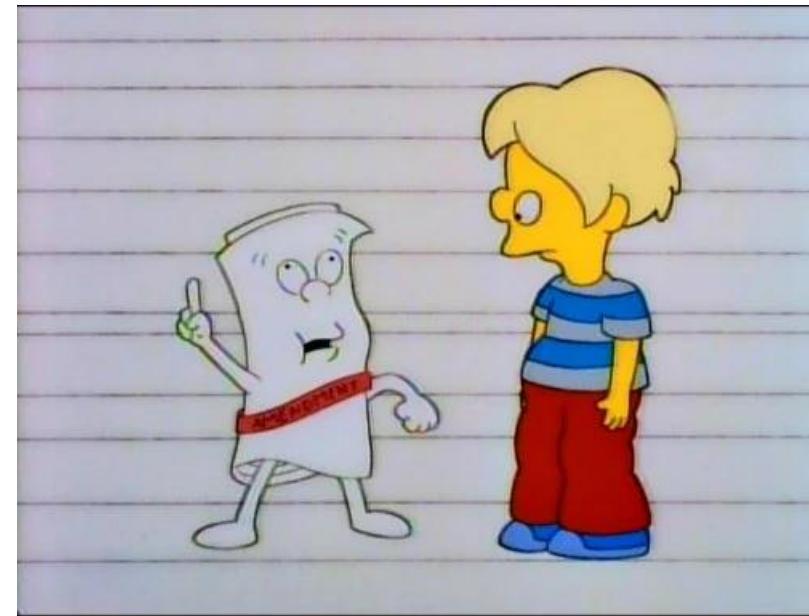
To Government Resources



What is Government Information?

Please visit <https://www.menti.com/alzuew48yf26>:

- Type in any words that come to mind when you hear “government information”!





What is Government Information?

Definitions of government information:

- "... documents, data, information and publications produced by governmental agencies."
<https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/government-information>
- "... published, compiled, or created by the government, at government expense or as required by law."
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/gov-info>

Learn more:

- Wakaruk, A., & Li, S.-c. (Eds.). (2019). [*Government Information in Canada: Access and stewardship*](#). University of Alberta Press.

Formats of Government Information?

Formats:

- Print
- Online



Examples:

- Briefing notes
- Bylaws
- Census data
- Laws
- Pamphlets
- Policy documents
- Reports
- Scientific data
- Studies
- Statistics
- Surveys
- Videos

<https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/about-us/>



OTHER
Regina drug treatment court : one success story at a time
[Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Justice](#); [Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Justice](#)
2015
[Online access](#) >

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Available in: [Saskatchewan Polytechnic Streaming Videos](#)

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Details

Title: Regina drug treatment court : one success story at a time
[Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Justice](#) >
[Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Justice](#) >

Author:

Subjects: Drug addicts -- Rehabilitation >
Drug addiction -- Relapse -- Prevention >
Drug abuse >

Description: In 2005 the Provincial Court partnered with the Federal and Provincial Departments of Justice and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region to pilot the Drug Treatment Court Program. These are their stories.
Place of publication not identified : [Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Justice](#)

Publisher:

Creation Date: 2015

Format: 1 streaming video file (20 minutes, 21 seconds) : digital, sound, colour.

Language: English

https://casls-spl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CASLS_SPL/1obmai7/alma991000894419703480

Who Creates Government Information?

In Canada:

- Federal government
- Provincial and Territorial governments
- Municipal governments

Learn more:

- Forsey, E. A. (2020). *How Canadians govern themselves* (10th ed.). Library of Parliament.

VI. Distribution of Legislative Powers

Powers of the Parliament

Legislative Authority of Parliament of Canada

91 It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate and House of Commons, to make Laws for the Peace, Order, and good Government of Canada, in relation to all Matters not coming within the Classes of Subjects by this Act assigned exclusively to the Legislatures of the Provinces; and for greater Certainty, but not so as to restrict the Generality of the foregoing Terms of this Section, it is hereby declared that (notwithstanding anything in this Act) the exclusive Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to all Matters coming within the Classes of Subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,



Who Creates Government Information?

Who else creates government information?

- Indigenous groups in Canada?
- Foreign governments?
- Intergovernmental organizations (UN, WHO, etc)?

Trend in Government Information

- **Official Depository programs?**

“Government policy requires that federal institutions provide us with portable electronic copies of every publication they author in all available language editions. In this way, the public may access government publications.”

<https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/programs/aboutDsp.html>

- **Online?**

“By 2013, more than 90% of federal government publications were published electronically...” <https://libguides.usask.ca/canada-gov>

- **Open Government/Transparency?**

“Open Government is about making government more accessible to everyone. This means giving greater access to government data and information to the Canadian public and the businesses community.”

<https://open.canada.ca/en/about-open-government>



Trend in Government Information

How do the resource we're looking at today reflect these trends?

- Official Depository programs
- Online
- Open Government Transparency



Searching Government Resources

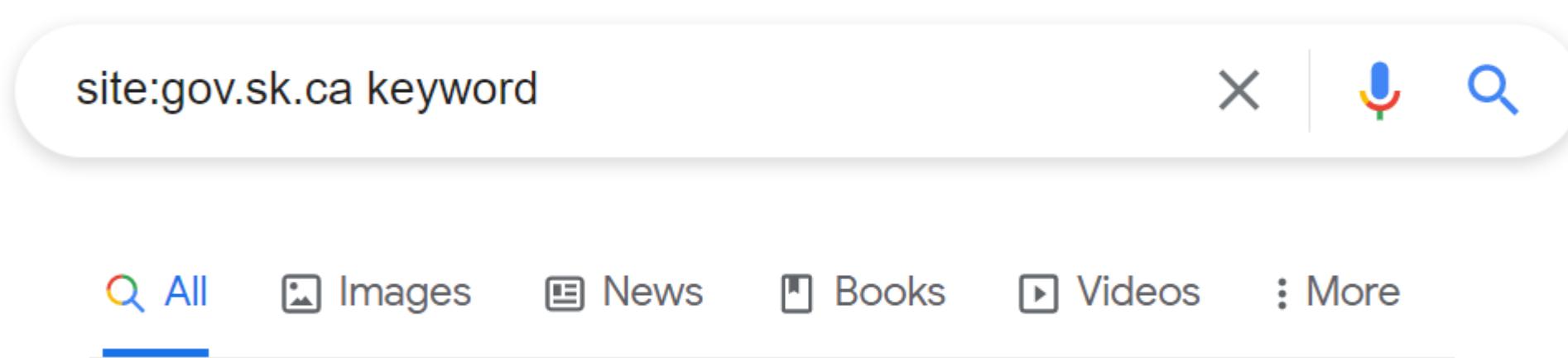
Strategy: Choose the best strategy or use a combination:

- **Browsing:**
 - How is the content organized and structured?
- **Searching:**
 - Find the search tips page!
 - Advanced Searching
 - Filters and narrowing

Searching Government Resources

Tip: Government websites can be challenging to browse and search.

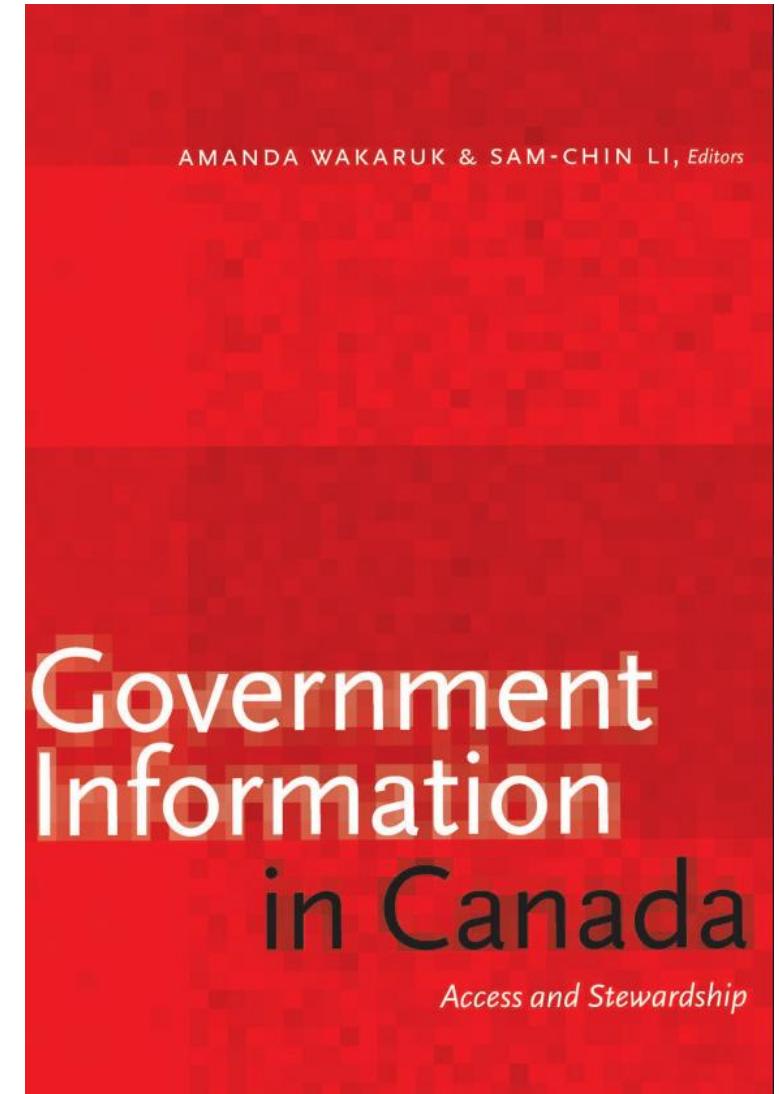
- Use a Google “site search” operator:



Why is Government Information Important?

Wakaruk, A., & Li, S. (Eds.). (2019). *Government Information in Canada: Access and stewardship*. University of Alberta Press.

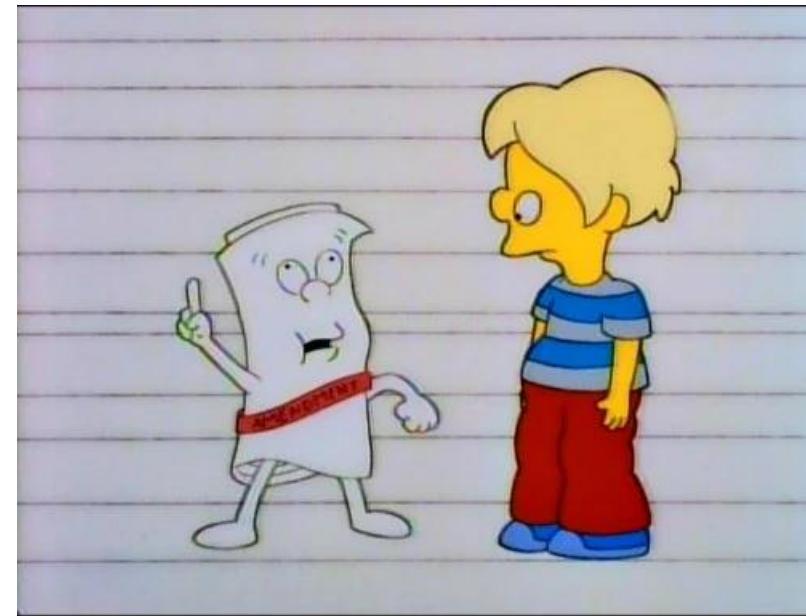
- “Government information is not something that most people think about until they need it or see it in a headline.”
- Available digitally at YOUR library!



Why is Government Information Important?

Please visit <https://www.menti.com/alzetedmm1gis>:

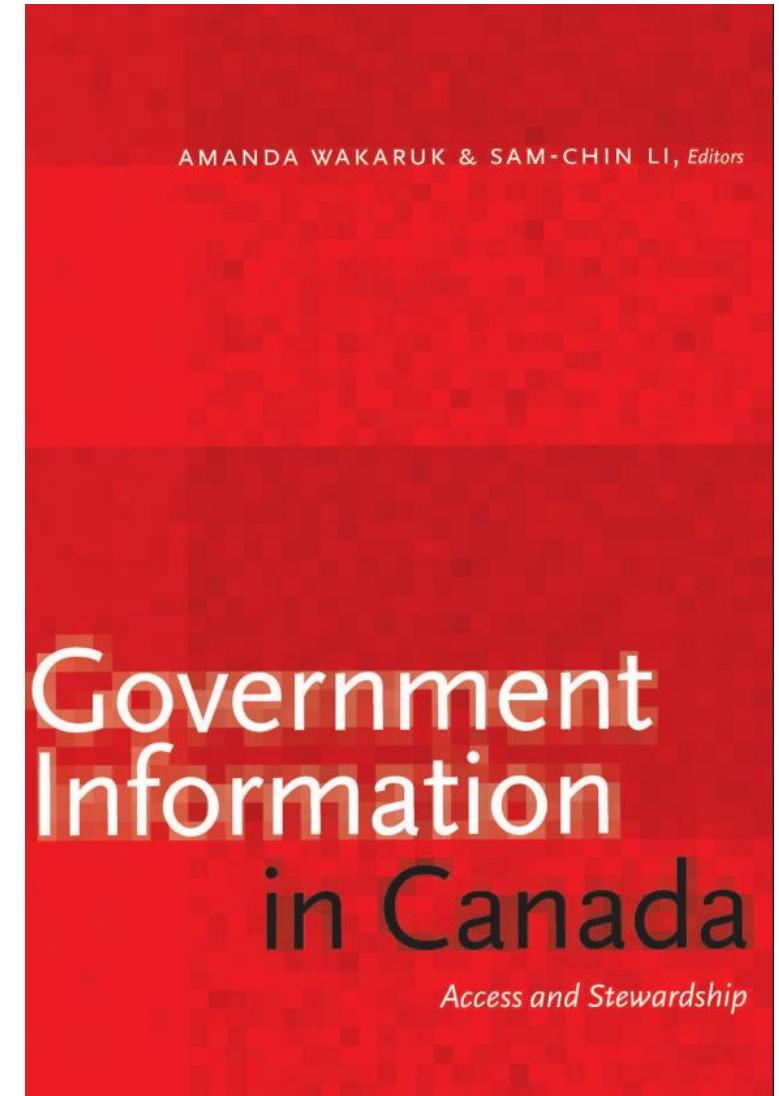
- Type in any words that come to mind!



Why is Government Information Important?

Wakaruk, A., & Li, S. (Eds.). (2019).
Government Information in Canada: Access and stewardship. University of Alberta Press.

- “Government information is not something that most people think about until they need it or see it in a headline... **Fewer people will likely appreciate the fact that access to government information is a requirement of a democratic society. Government information allows us to assess our governing bodies—access that is required for a democracy to function.”**





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Government Resources

Provincial Resources



premierscottmoe 1 d
Yesterday at the Legislature, the Riders briefly took over the cabinet room and passed an important motion.

@sskroughriders

kerriludvigsen 1 d
Reply

786 likes
1 day ago



Provincial Government Resources

- General Reference Tools
- Resources
 - Government of Saskatchewan website
 - Publications Centre website
 - Legislative Assembly website
 - *Legislative Library of Saskatchewan*

Provincial Government Resources

General Reference Tools

- University of Saskatchewan LibGuide

- [Government Information - Saskatchewan](#)

“This guide is designed to help get you started finding and using publications from the Government of Saskatchewan.”

[**Government Information - Saskatchewan, Other Canadian Provinces and Territories: Home**](#)

Search this Guide

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- [Research Help](#)



Government Publications Contact



Robert Alary

Contact:
Ph: 306-966-5987



Provincial Government Resources

Government of Saskatchewan Website

- A key place-facing place to interact with Government information.
- Contains Government news releases, general ministry information, web content, and the Publication Centre content.
- Each ministry and agency usually maintains its own “micro-site”.
- Managed by the Digital Strategy and Operations (DSO) Branch of the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Provincial Government Resources

Government of Saskatchewan Website

■ Your Turn

1. I need to send a letter with some important documents to Jaylene Righetti, who works for the Saskatchewan government. What is her position? What department? Email address? Mailing Address?
2. I have seen the work that the organization Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers does to support African grandmothers raising children orphaned by AIDS. I think they deserve to be nominated for the Premier's Service Club Award. Who would I contact to have them added to the list of eligible organizations?

■ Bonus

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. I heard that the Saskatchewan government tried to fight the Carbon Tax and said that it is unconstitutional. What is the initiative that they have in place instead of the Carbon Tax to deal with climate change?



Provincial Government Resources

Publications Centre Website

- Houses all formal publications/documents, including annual reports and legislation, but not including News Releases or other general ministry information.
- A great resource if you are looking for the latest Saskatchewan Government publications (not historical content).
- Managed by the Office of the King's Printer.



Provincial Government Resources

Publications Centre Website

- **Your Turn**

1. Who knew that there was a bridge in Saskatchewan called Sherwood Forest (“Hungry Hollow”) Bridge. Please help me find the report that discusses the importance of this bridge.
2. On the way to Calgary, there are lots of those big wind turbines. I am wondering if Saskatchewan has conducted any research into the possibility of installing them? Where is one project being proposed?

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. I would like a copy of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board Annual Report for 2019-2020. Let me know how you found it.



Provincial Government Resources

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

- The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan website hosts a wealth of useful research documents under the heading Legislative Business. As the body that oversees the creation of legislation, the Assembly hosts many documents related to the legislative process:
 - Bills
 - Legislative Proceedings (Hansard)
 - Committee reports, minutes
 - Orders, Journals, Votes, Sessional Papers
 - Legislative Library
- You can locate the contact information for the MLAs and the topics that they have spoken about during the debates.



Provincial Government Resources

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

- [Saskatchewan Legislative Library](#)
 - Saskatchewan's official legislative library provides "library collections and services to increase the knowledge base of parliament, enhance informed decision-making, preserve and make accessible the historical record, and help citizens to be informed."
 - [Government of Saskatchewan Publication Deposit](#): "Legal Deposit is a legal requirement for Government of Saskatchewan bodies to deposit copies of their publications with the Legislative Library."



Provincial Government Resources

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

- **Your Turn**

1. I live in Turtleford, SK. What is my Constituency? Who is my MLA?
2. In the October 25, 2017, Speech from the Throne, health care was mentioned. How many MRIs does it indicate people have purchased? There was a mention of the small brewers' rebate program that was put in place in Alberta. What is the issue with it?

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. Danielle Chartier (NDP, Saskatoon Riversdale) made an appeal to the members of the Legislature to vote for the Co-operative Good Food Junction during the 27th sitting of the Legislature. How did she define the Good Food Junction, and what was she requesting the members to vote for?



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Government Resources

*Federal
Resources*





Federal Government Resources

- General Reference Tools
- Resources
 - Government of Canada Publications
 - Government Electronic Directory Services (GEDS)
 - LEGISinfo
 - Parliament of Canada
 - Statistics Canada

Federal Government Resources

General Reference Tools

- University of Saskatchewan LibGuide
 - [Government Information - Canada: Home](#)

“This guide is designed to help get you started finding and using publications from the Government of Canada.”

Government Information - Canada: Home

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[Parliamentary Procedure](#)

[Open Data / Open Government](#)

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Overview

Government Publications at the University Library

Historically, the Government of Canada provided publications produced by Canadian federal agencies to the Library through the [Depository Services Program](#), which played a vital role in making government information available across Canada. By 2013, more than 90% of federal government publications were published electronically, leading to the closure of the DSP program.

The Library holds a large collection of print government publications on the **2nd floor of the Murray Library**. We can also help you locate government publications online.

Government Information Librarian





Federal Government Resources

Government of Canada Publications

- Federal institutions are required to provide electronic copies of every publication they author to the Publishing and Depository Services Directorate.
- Provides the public with centralized access to Government of Canada publications through a searchable website.
- Includes publications on a wide range of subjects and in a variety of formats, making it easier to find what is needed.



Federal Government Resources

Government of Canada Publications

- **Your Turn**

1. Find the latest annual report from Library and Archives Canada
2. Find and read the Statistical Survey of Canadian Libraries from 1931. Tell the class two things that surprised you about the document's findings.

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. Please find a copy of Legislative libraries: partners in democracy. What is this document about?



Federal Government Resources

Gov. Electronic Directory Services (GEDS)

- The Government Electronic Directory Services (GEDS) provides a directory of public servants across Canada.
- Information in this directory is supplied by individual federal government departments and agencies and updated by one or more data administrators within each department.
- Some departments do not list all their employees.



Federal Government Resources

Gov. Electronic Directory Services (GEDS)

- **Your Turn**

1. I would like to call Transport Canada's press secretary. Please find me a name, address and phone number.
2. How many astronomers does the National Research Council list? Who are they?

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. What is the Prime Minister's phone number and office address?



Federal Government Resources

LEGISInfo

- We looked at this resource briefly in the Law section.
- The primary source of information regarding legislation before Parliament
- Created by the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament.
- It is the site where you can see which Member of Parliament brought up a certain Bill to have it discussed in the House of Commons.



Federal Government Resources

LEGISInfo

- **Your Turn**

1. What was Bill S-8 from the 41st Parliament, 1st Session?
2. I think there was an Act from a few years ago about establishing Food Day. What reading is the bill at? Was this a Senate or House of Commons sponsored bill?

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. In the 40th Parliament, 2nd Session, there were 5 Bills that were defeated. What were the 5 Bills?



Federal Government Resources

Parliament of Canada

- The official site regarding Parliament and business related to the Federal Government.
- Landing page:
 - Senate
 - House of Commons
 - Visit Parliament
 - Learn about Parliament



Federal Government Resources

Parliament of Canada

- **Your Turn**

1. Who is your Member of Parliament (MP)? What interventions or votes have they made recently?
2. Senator David Arnot is a Saskatchewan Senator. How much has he spent on hospitality expenses this quarter?

- **Bonus**

3. What kind of patron would ask you a question that would lead you to use this tool? What kind of library would use the resource?
4. What 2017 House of Commons committee discussed elbowgate?



Federal Government Resources

Statistics Canada

- Statistics Canada is the national statistical office. The agency ensures Canadians have the key information on Canada's economy, society and environment that they require to function effectively as citizens and decision makers.
- In addition to conducting a Census every five years, there are about 350 active surveys on virtually all aspects of Canadian life.
- The federal government is responsible for providing these statistics to the people of Canada.



Federal Government Resources

Statistics Canada

- Your Turn
 - There are some frightening reports about the number of people who report experiencing cyberstalking. Find the results from the 2014 study on the topic. How many women and men are affected?
 - According to the latest Census, what is the change in population in Saskatoon from 2016 – 2021?

Thank You

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Regina King's Bench Courthouse
306-569-8020
2425 Victoria Ave

[Law Society of Saskatchewan:
Saskatchewan's Law Library](#)

