Writing Skills

Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation, 9th edition
(McGill Guide/Red Book)

The guidelines provided in *McGill Law Journal’s Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* are only applicable to footnotes, in-text citations, and bibliographies.

**Characteristics of Uniform Legal Citation:**

- Unlike APA, MLA, or Chicago, journal titles are abbreviated (see reverse for examples).
- Generally, numbered footnotes are preferred. However, in certain types of documents (e.g., memoranda and facta), use in-text citation.
- When citing any work for the first time, provide a complete citation. Use *ibid* when referring to the immediately preceding citation. *Supra* can be used in later footnotes to refer the reader back to the note that contains the first complete citation to a particular source.
- Pinpointing is used to reference a precise location within a text.

**Creating Footnotes:**

- There should only be a single footnote number at any place in the text. This means that you may need to combine citations into a single footnote separated by semicolons.
- Indicate a footnote by using a superscript number immediately following the information to which it applies (after punctuation marks, if applicable).
- Footnotes should be positioned at the bottom of the same page on which the text they refer to appears.

Example notes:

1 *Income War Tax Act, 1917, SC 1917, c 28.*
   [This footnote indicates the *name of the act, statute volume jurisdiction year, chapter]*


3 *Ibid, s 19(1).*
   [Footnote 2 refers to the footnote directly above it with the same pinpoint. Footnote 3 refers to footnote 2 (which refers to footnote 1) with a different pinpoint.]

4 *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c E-12, ss 2, 38-42, 84.*
   [This footnote indicates the *name of the act, statute volume jurisdiction year, chapter, pinpoint (ss means sections).]*
Creating a Bibliography:
If your assignment requires a bibliography, it should include a list of all the sources you consulted when researching your paper, even if they were not directly cited. Your bibliography should be organized according to category: legislation, jurisprudence, secondary materials (such as journals and books), and other materials (if needed). Organize each category in alphabetical order.

Legislation

Anti-Terrorism Act, SC 2001, c 41.

Jurisprudence

Lavigne v Ontario Public Service Employees Union, [1991] 2 SCR 211.

Secondary Material