

Westlaw[®] Canada Quick Reference Card Words & Phrases

Words & Phrases Judicially Defined in Canadian Courts and Tribunals is a multi-volume collection published as part of the Canadian Abridgment since 1993. It provides judicial interpretations of both statutory and common law terms from the 1800's to the present. This service includes approximately 70,000 Canadian interpretations of 30,000 terms, making it by far the largest service of its kind available in Canada in any medium. **Words & Phrases** is available to all LawSource subscribers.

All interpretations of a word or phrase appear in a single document, making it easy to browse through several interpretations at one time. Cross-references appear both in the Result List and on each document to link you to related entries.

Interpretations are organized within the Words & Phrases entry by jurisdiction. Each interpretation contains: the paragraph number; relevant passage from the decision; the subject area; the name, citation, court level and judge(s) of the decision.

Searching Words & Phrase

1. Click the [Words & Phrases](#) link in the **Custom Search Template** section located on the LawSource homepage.



Figure 1

2. The Search **Words & Phrases** template appears.

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Search Words & Phrases' template. At the top right, there are links for 'Terms and Connectors Search' and 'Clear Query'. The main section is titled '1 Enter your search terms: Search the following fields:'. It contains several input fields: 'Word/Phrase:' with a dropdown arrow and a 'Go' button; 'Case Name:', 'Case Citation:', 'Abridgment Subject Title:', and 'Judge/Decider:'. Below these is a 'Search full text for:' field and a dropdown for 'The results must contain:' set to 'Any of these terms'. A note states: 'To find out how a word or phrase has been defined in Canadian legislation, enter the word or phrase in the "Defined Term" box on the [Legislation search template](#).' The second section is '2 Limit Results (optional)'. It has two columns of dropdown menus: 'By Jurisdiction:' with options 'All Jurisdictions', 'Alberta', 'British Columbia', and 'Federal'; and 'By Timeframe:' with options 'Unrestricted', 'Most recent 30 days', 'Most recent 60 days', and 'Most recent 90 days'.

Figure 2

3. Enter your search term(s) into any of the following fields provided. **Note:** Your result list will contain documents that have at least one interpretation from the search fields you used. Use the **Term** arrows at the bottom of the page to navigate to the desired search terms.

Word/Phrase: This is the primary search field for this template. Use this field to retrieve interpretations of a particular word or phrase. The default connector for this field is **AND**; therefore, if you enter multiple terms, your search will retrieve documents that contain all of those terms. For example, entering the terms *reasonable cause* will retrieve *reasonable cause*, *just and reasonable cause*, *reasonable and proper cause*, etc. To search for an exact phrase, use quotation marks. For example, “*general charitable intention*”.

Case Name: Enter all or part of the name of a case that has interpreted a word or phrase. For example, *Bobier Clay*.

Case Citation: Enter all or part of a case citation that has interpreted a word or phrase. Note: **Words & Phrases** entries often contain several case citations. Therefore, it is best to use quotation marks around the citation. Example, “**1964 carswellsask 26**”. The citation field is not sensitive to spacing, capitalization or punctuation used in the abbreviation. However, when a form of punctuation is an essential part of the citation style, it should be included. When searching case law, do not include the year of the decision (entered in round brackets) in the citation entry.

Abridgment Subject Title: Use this field to search a specific subject title from the Canadian Abridgment (3rd Edition) that contain interpretations of your words or phrase. For example, *Torts*.

Judge/Decider: Search only for entries that contain interpretations by a particular judge or other adjudicator. For example, *Sopinka*.

Search full text for: Search for text that appears *anywhere* in a **Words & Phrases** entry. Select an option from *The results must contain* drop-down list to specify a relationship between your search terms.

4. Limit your results by jurisdiction or timeframe (optional).

By Jurisdiction: If you limit your search to a particular jurisdiction, you will retrieve documents that have at least one interpretation in that jurisdiction. To select more than one jurisdiction, click the first jurisdiction you want and then CTRL+click the remaining jurisdictions.

By Timeframe: If you limit your search to specific timeframe, your search will retrieve documents that have at least one interpretation made within that timeframe.

5. Click on **GO**.



Legislative Definitions: The content searched by this template contains judicial interpretations only. To find how terms are defined in Canadian legislation, click the [Legislation search template](#) link and enter your term(s) in the **Defined Term** box.

6. The search results appear.

The screenshot shows a search results page with a 'Result List' on the left containing 16 documents. The 'Related Info' tab is active, showing a 'Words & Phrases' section for 'NO REASONABLE CAUSE OF ACTION'. The list on the left includes items like '8. W&P 6213', '9. W&P 21055', '10. W&P 1631', '11. W&P 5098', '12. W&P 6219', and '13. W&P 23731'. The detailed view on the right shows the text of the 'Words & Phrases' section, including a bullet point and a citation: 'McEwen v. North-West Coal & Navigation Co. (1889), 1 N.W.T.R. (Pt. 2) 15, 1889 CarswellNWT 13, 1 Terr. L.R. 203 (N.W.T. C.A.) at para. 7 the court per McGuire J.'

Figure 3

- 1 Word or phrase retrieved by your search.
- 2 Cross-reference links. Click a link to see related interpretations.
- 3 An interpretation, indicated by a bullet and arranged by jurisdiction. Within the jurisdiction, arranged reverse chronologically, by year of decision.
- 4 The Result List appears in alphabetical order.

Accessing Words & Phrases from a Case

Words or phrases interpreted in a decision appear within KeyCite® Canada citing references.

1. From your decision, click the [Citing References](#) link on the **Related info** tab in the left frame.
2. Scroll through the list in the right frame to locate the **Words & Phrases (Canada)** section.
3. Click the document number hyperlink next to the interpretation you want to retrieve.

The screenshot shows a search results page with a 'Result List' on the left containing 1 document. The 'Related Info' tab is active, showing a 'Words & Phrases (Canada)' section for 'France (Republic) v. DeHavilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd.'. The list on the left includes items like '27 Four Seasons Hotels Ltd. v. Legacy Hotels Real Estate Investment Trust, 2003 CarswellOnt 1188, 36 C.P.C. (5th) 138, [2003] O.J. No. 1341, [2003] O.T.C. 272 (Ont. S.C.J. Apr 04, 2003)' and '28 United Kingdom v. Hrynok, 135 D.L.R. (4th) 693, 107 C.C.C. (3d) 104, 1996 CarswellOnt 1986, 4 O.T.C. 268 (Ont. Gen. Div. May 28, 1996)'. The detailed view on the right shows the text of the 'Words & Phrases (Canada)' section, including a bullet point and a citation: 'COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION; Subject(s): Administrative law; Bankruptcy and insolvency; Business associations; Civil practice and procedure; Constitutional law; Criminal law; Human rights; Immigration and citizenship; Judges and courts; Labour and employment law; Tax'.

Figure 4