

## Finding the Words or Phrases you want

The **Word/Phrase** field (called the **Title field** in the Terms & Connectors template) is the primary search box for **Words & Phrases**.

It will only retrieve documents that have your query terms in the word or phrase being interpreted.

**LawSource** [Terms and Connectors Search](#)

Search Words & Phrases [tip](#) [Clear Query](#)

**1 Enter your search terms:**  
**Search the following fields:**

Word/Phrase:  [Searching Tips](#)

Case Name:  Case Citation:   
 Abridgment Subject Title:  Judge/Decider:

Search full text for:   
 The results must contain:

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](#).

**2 Limit Results (optional)**

By Jurisdiction:   
 Alberta  
 British Columbia  
 Federal

By Timeframe:   
 Most recent 30 days  
 Most recent 60 days  
 Most recent 90 days

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## Searching for more than one word

1. If you enter more than one word, separated by a space, your search will retrieve documents for any phrase that contains *all* of the words you entered, whether they appear together or not.
2. When you wish to specify an exact phrase, use quotes e.g. "reasonable cause."
3. When you wish to find entries that contain *any* of the words you enter, insert the connector or between the words or phrases. For instance, "reasonable" or "probable" will search for any word or phrase that contains either or both these words. Note that you can also search for alternate phrases in this way: e.g. "reasonable cause" or "probable cause" will retrieve any entry that contains either of those phrases. (N.B. If you are searching for a phrase that contains the word OR, you must enter the phrase in quotes, e.g. "acquired by one or both spouses.")
4. You can do more complicated Boolean searches using this query box: you do not have to use the Terms & Connectors template: e.g. (reasonable or probable) /3 cause will retrieve all phrases that have either the word "reasonable" or "probable" appearing within three words of the word "cause"

## Needlessly restricting your search by using quotes when you do not have to

It is often disadvantageous to use quotes because doing so may weed out relevant results. Thus a search for **reasonable cause** (= **reasonable & cause**) retrieves entries for:

- reasonable and probable cause**
- reasonable and proper cause**
- absence of reasonable and probable cause**
- without reasonable or probable cause**

all of which are likely to be relevant to your research. A search for "**reasonable cause**" does not include the above phrases.

## Needlessly restricting your search by entering too many terms

It often pays to think which word in a phrase is most important and search only that term. Say you wish to know what an insurance contract means by the phrase “**loss of amenities of life.**” If your key concern is what “**amenities**” means in this context, you may be better off searching for the term “**amenities**” rather than the whole phrase. By doing so, you would also find entries for “**loss of amenities**” and “**amenities.**”

## Using the *Result List* to find all relevant entries.

Note that when you enter a word or phrase in the template you will retrieve all entries that have your word or phrase imbedded in them. The capability of retrieving every phrase that contains the term(s) you searched for is in fact one of the main advantages of using this resource online rather than in print. For example if you searched for “**reasonable cause**” in print, you would see only entries adjacent too that entry:

**reasonable cause of action**  
**reasonable cause to believe**  
**reasonable cause to terminate**

But by searching online you would also find in your result list entries for:

**discloses no reasonable cause of action or answer**  
**discrimination without reasonable cause**  
**dismissal for sufficient and reasonable cause**  
**has reasonable cause to believe**  
**just and reasonable cause**  
**no reasonable cause of action**  
**other reasonable cause**  
**unless reasonable cause exists**  
**without reasonable cause and to the prejudice of the corporation**

To help determine which phrases in your result list might be relevant to your search, you should note that the subject matter of the interpretation(s) appears in the result list:

[16. W&P 28736](#)  
Words & Phrases; WITHOUT REASONABLE CAUSE AND TO THE PREJUDICE OF THE CORPORATION; **Subject(s): Insurance**

To help navigate the result list, note that result lists are arranged in alphabetical order, so you can skim quickly to the term you searched.

[6. W&P 14935](#)  
Words & Phrases; HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE; **Subject(s): Health law** — See also [REASONABLE CAUSE](#)

[7. W&P 10735](#)  
Words & Phrases; JUST AND REASONABLE CAUSE; **Subject(s): Labour and employment law** — See also [DISMISSAL](#); [UNSUITABLE](#)

[8. W&P 6213](#)  
Words & Phrases; NO REASONABLE CAUSE OF ACTION; **Subject(s): Civil practice and procedure** — See also [CAUSE OF ACTION](#); [REASONABLE CAUSE OF ACTION](#)

[9. W&P 21055](#)  
Words & Phrases; OTHER REASONABLE CAUSE; **Subject(s): Criminal law**

[10. W&P 1631](#)  
Words & Phrases; REASONABLE CAUSE; **Subject(s): Administrative law; Criminal law; Human rights; Labour and employment law; Public law** — See also [AGE](#); [BONA FIDE](#)