



Resources for High School Law and Civics Teachers

Internet Resources, Texts and Magazines for Law, Process, Education and Access to Law Information from Ontario, Canada and International Sources

Many law-related resources are available for teachers. What follows is a selected list of links, texts and magazines that may be of assistance. Following each resource is a short synopsis outlining what the resource is and how it might be helpful. Resources that may be of particular value to teachers are noted with a (*) before the title. Materials related to federal matters (such as immigration) are useful for Ontario students. However, materials related to issues that fall under other provincial or international jurisdictions are useful for comparison but may not accurately reflect Ontario legislation or jurisprudence.

General

Websites

***The Access to Justice Network**

<http://www.acjnet.org/splash/default.aspx>

An electronic community that brings together people, information, and educational resources on justice and legal issues of interest to Canadians. ACJNet is a nationwide service dedicated to making law and justice resources available to all Canadians in either official language. Includes a Resource Centre with Lesson Plans and Mock Trials.

www.acjnet.org/youthfaq/index.html

Site is maintained by ACJNet and provides a list of "frequently asked questions" - FAQs - and their answers for students. The FAQs include topic areas Criminal Code, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Divorce, Hate Crime, Joyriding, Jury, Labour, Prison, Privacy, Shoplifting, Stalking, Travel, Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Canadian Judicial Council

www.cjc-ccm.gc.ca

Provides information about the Canadian Judicial Council, the Judges' Act, and complaints, process of judicial appointment, salaries, ethics and the differences between

federally appointed and provincially appointed judges. Includes a list of Council publications, with its variety of pamphlets and books on the conduct, role, ethics and independence of judges.

Canadian Superior Judges' Association: *You Be The Judge

www.youbethejudge.ca

You Be The Judge is an interactive multimedia educational program for high school social studies, civics and law courses, and designed for integration into Canadian school curricula. Developed by the Canadian Superior Court Judges' Association, *You Be The Judge* introduces students to the role of judges within our judicial system, and encourages exploration of important concepts such as the rule of law, judicial independence and judicial impartiality. *You Be The Judge* has three components – a teachers' guide, a resource website for teachers and an online interactive program for students. The program is built around five guiding questions that lead students through case scenarios and issues associated with the role of judges in Canada's judicial system.

Department of Justice Canada

www.canada.justice.gc.ca

Official site of the Department of Justice Canada. Its index includes "Canada's System of Justice" and "Canada's Court System". Site also explains how legislation is developed and passed by Parliament and the role of citizens in developing, amending and modifying laws and regulations. Outlines the responsibilities of federal versus provincial governments and courts, and provides information on all Department of Justice initiatives. Includes links to the court system, the laws of Canada, and many relevant reports and statistics. Also has an interesting "Pursuit of Justice" quiz.

laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-46/index.html (English)

lois.justice.gc.ca/fr/C-46/index.html (French)

Title page of the Criminal Code. From this location, visitors can link to the full text of the entire Code. The page also provides links to the text of other laws.

Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario

www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

The site of Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General. Outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Attorney General and provides a number of resources such as "The Parental Responsibility Act - Recovering Losses in Small Claims Court" - a brochure outlining parents' obligations for damages caused by their children, and guides to the procedure of small claims and family courts, being a witness in a criminal trial, and other topics.

Guide to Ontario's Courts

www.ontariocourts.on.ca

Guide to the Ontario Courts. Includes information on the three courts of Ontario - Court of Appeal, the Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice. Also includes

information about the Ontario Judicial Council, the process of appointment of judges, and links to other relevant sites.

Supreme Court of Canada

www.scc-csc.gc.ca

The website of Canada's highest court. Links to Supreme Court of Canada judgments.

Consolidated Statutes and Regulations/ Federal and Provincial

laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html

A database of Canadian laws from the federal Department of Justice. Allows users to access federal statutes, including a list of the most frequently accessed statutes.

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

Provides access to the consolidated laws of Ontario. Information concerning specific statutes and regulations as well as reference tables containing recent changes in the law.

www.canlii.org

Maintained by the Canadian Legal Information Institute, this site provides access to statutes and regulations from each of Canada's provincial, territorial and federal jurisdictions as well as decisions from various levels of courts and some tribunals.

Law Commission of Canada

www.lcc.gc.ca

Allows access to discussion documents, studies, and reports from this independent federal law reform agency that advises Parliament on how to improve and modernize Canada's laws. The Commission's work is structured around the following four themes: Personal Relationships, Social Relationships, Economic Relationships, and Governance Relationships.

Canadian Bar Association

www.cba.org/Gate.asp

The CBA site includes a useful public legal education section with an extensive list of law-related links.

***Ontario Bar Association**

www.oba.org/en/lawday/lawday_en

The website of the Ontario Bar Association. Includes information on the OBA and its Law Day/Law Week activities including poster, photo, and website competitions, and mock trial tournaments.

*** OBA Mock Trial Cases**

www.oba.org/en/lawday/lawday_en/previous_cases.asp

Copies of cases used in previous Ontario Bar Association's mock trial tournaments are available here.

Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)

www.ccla.org

Site contains the electronic copy of the booklet, *"The Fundamentals Of Our Fundamental Freedoms"* as well as information about the CCLA's schools program.

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

www.cleo.on.ca

CLEO is a community legal clinic that produces clear language material for people with low incomes. A list and order form for all of CLEO's materials are provided on-line (publications are free of charge). They also maintain a resource library of materials produced by others. Main topics include social assistance, landlord and tenant law, refugee and immigration law, worker's compensation, women's issues, family law, employment, insurance and human rights.

Legal Line Information

www.legalline.ca

Site contains general information and Frequently Asked Questions on many areas of law although not all subjects are complete or up-to-date. Resources link to useful addresses of government and non-government agencies.

Ontario History & Social Science Teachers' Association

www.ohassta.org

A voluntary organization which promotes the teaching of History in elementary schools and History and Social Sciences in secondary schools.

Dunhaime's Law Dictionary

www.duhaime.org/diction.htm

Legal concepts and terms explained at your fingertips.

***Statistics Canada**

www.statcan.ca

Presents statistics that help us better understand our country – in terms of population, resources, economy, society and culture. Gives access to many relevant statistics for law classes including crimes, victims and suspects, and the police.

Roots of Empathy

www.rootsofempathy.org

Roots of Empathy is an innovative classroom-based parenting program that aims to reduce aggression through the fostering of empathy and emotional literacy. The program reaches children aged 3 to 14 years. The heart of the program is a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom once a month for the full school year.

Magazines

Decisis: The Journal for Teachers of Canadian Law

Funded by The Law Foundation of Ontario, Decisis is published by Spetz Publishing ten

times a year and features case summaries and commentary. Each issue has a "Test Yourself" case that can be used to supplement classroom activities. For this and other related publications, contact Spetz Publishing Ltd., 630 Graceland Avenue, Kingston, Ontario K7M 7P7 or email sgspetz@kos.ca

Law Now

www.extension.ualberta.ca/lawnow

Featured articles provide commentary and news coverage of various aspects of legal history, jurisprudence and current case law. Sample articles and ordering information are available on line.

Extra-Provincial and International Jurisdictions

Federal legislation and the decisions of federal courts are binding throughout Canada, for example the Immigration Act and Youth Criminal Justice Act. The laws of other provinces and extra-provincial court decisions are not binding in Ontario.

Websites

*** Legal Canadian FAQs**

www.law-faqs.org

Questions and answers developed by the Legal Studies Program at the University of Alberta. The Frequently Asked Questions are comprehensive, covering many areas of law and legal issues. Both federal laws and Alberta provincial laws are included. The questions were answered according to the law at the time the questions were prepared - the site does not claim to be current.

***The Law Connection**

www.lawconnection.ca

A site where teachers can learn to incorporate legal concepts and principles into their classroom teaching, and students can access information about the law. Includes lesson plans, legal updates, and a list of supplemental resources. Based in British Columbia, the site includes federal laws and Supreme Court of Canada decisions as well as materials relating to British Columbia laws. Resources include the 'Legal Beagle, who answers your legal questions by email.

Law Courts Education Society of BC

www.lawcourtsed.ca

Helpful books, pamphlets, videos, charts, and curriculum can be ordered from this site.

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan

www.plea.org

Free brochures on a variety of legal issues and topics that includes federal law as well as Saskatchewan provincial law.

Jurist/Canada - A Legal Education Network

<http://jurist.law.utoronto.ca>

Jurist is directed by Professor Bernard Hibbets (a Canadian trained lawyer who is a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law). The site contains useful information on Canadian legal news, research, and teaching of law as well as information about court systems and laws worldwide.

US Supreme Court Decisions

www.findlaw.com

Provides information on the US Supreme Court and its recent decisions. Links to other US jurisdictions.

American Bar Association Public Education

www.abanet.org/publiced/home.html

The American Bar Association's (ABA) public legal education division website that includes information on the US Supreme Court, lawyers and judges and how the American court system works.

Youth and the Law

Websites

***John Howard Society of Canada**

www.johnhoward.ca

Justice for Children and Youth (Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law)

www.jfcy.org

The organization provides legal representation to low-income children and youth in Toronto and vicinity. It is a community legal clinic specializing in protecting the rights of those facing conflicts with the legal system, education, social service or mental health systems. The site has numerous publications and briefs on legal issues concerning children and includes an "ask the lawyer" service.

Site provides information on issues such as Leaving Home, School, The Young Offender's Act, Police, Age Based Rights, Peer Mediation as well as an "ask a lawyer a question" section.

Young Offender Services and Facilities in Ontario

www.mpss.jus.gov.on.ca/english/corr_serv/young_off/facilities.html

Outlines possible actions taken against young offenders (e.g. different forms of custody, probation, educational programs etc.)

Youth Criminal Justice Act

www.canada.justice.gc.ca/en/dept/pub/ycja/youth.html

Compares the Act with the old Young Offenders Act.

Toronto Child Abuse Centre

www.tcac.on.ca/courthouse/index_ie.html

Provides information directed at children who are testifying in abuse cases. Includes information on the roles of persons in the courtroom (basic level) including judges.

***CourtPrep**

www.courtprep.ca

An interactive, educational resource about the justice process in Canada, this site is designed and developed by youth for youth who are preparing to testify in court. Features information on the Courtroom, Witness Tips and the Justice Process, and includes definitions and games.

Online Chat Rooms

***ePALS: Classroom Exchange**

www.epals.com

An on-line classroom community for teachers and students. Issues and ideas can be debated and discussed.

***The Law Room on Canada's School Net**

www.uottawa.ca/hrrec/lawroom/lawroom.html

A joint project of the Access to Justice Network, the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, Industry Canada, and the Department of Justice. A site where students can learn about the law, talk to other students about the law and ask lawyers and other legal experts questions about the law, human rights and social justice issues. Includes Frequently Asked Questions, and a "Teachers' Corner" with lesson plans and a bibliography of law related materials.

***The Great Young Offenders Act Debate**

www.lawyers.ca/tgyad/

Discussion board where people, primarily high school students, can debate various issues about the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Young Offenders Act.

Charter of Rights & Human Rights Legislation

Texts

Canadian Constitutional Documents Consolidated edited by: Bernard W. Funston and Eugene Meehan © 1994 Carswell (Thompson Professional Publishing)

Canadian Constitutional Law: Volumes One and Two by P. Macklem, R.C.B. Risk, C.J. Rogerson, K.E. Swinton, L.E. Weinrib, J.D. Whyte © 1994 Emond Montgomery Publications Limited

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms (2nd edition) by the Hon. Robert J. Sharpe, the Hon. Katherine Swinton, Kent Roach © 2002 Irwin Law

Websites

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/index.html

The text of the Charter on the web.

Canadian Charter of Rights Decisions Digest

<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/dept/pub/ccrdd/cdtoc.htm> Each section of the Charter is explained with the relevant case law and judicial interpretation.

Decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada relative to the Charter of Rights

<http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scs/en/index.shtml>

A useful source for research.

Dunhaim's Canadian Human Rights Centre

<http://duhaime.org/hr.htm>

An organized, easy-to-navigate set of links. Sections are Legislation, Tribunals and Agencies, Articles, and Earliest Human Rights Documents.

***Ontario Human Rights Commission**

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/>

General information website with a link to an educational package called "Teaching Human Rights in Ontario." The package was specifically designed for use in the Grade 11 Law course.

Criminal Law

Texts

Criminal Law and Procedure: Proof, Defences and Beyond by J. Abell and E. Sheehy © 1995 Captus Press

Learning Canadian Criminal Procedure, Fourth Edition, by R.J. Delisle and Don Stuart, © 1996 Carswell (Thompson Professional Publishing)

"An Introduction to the Criminal Process in Canada", 4th Edition, by Alan W. Mewett, Shaun Nakatsuru © 2000, Carswell, (Thompson Professional Publishing)

Websites

***John Howard Society of Canada**

www.johnhoward.ca/start.htm

The Society is an organization governed by people whose goal is to understand and respond to problems of crime and the criminal justice system. The mission is "effective, just and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime." Lesson plans, publications, and position papers are available on the site.

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

www.elizabethfry.ca

Elizabeth Fry Societies work with, and on behalf of, women involved with the justice system, particularly women in conflict with the law. The website offers numerous issue papers and reports.

Canadian Criminal Justice Resource Page

members.tripod.com/~BlueThingy/index.html

This page compiles links to sites dealing with criminal justice, corrections and life inside a prison, restorative justice, crime prevention, victims of crime, juvenile delinquency, and law enforcement.

***Correctional Service Canada**

www.csc-scc.gc.ca

Governmental agency website that has a Public Education section that includes a Speakers' Kit, statistics, myths and realities, and a teacher's guide with a lesson plan.

The Crime Primer

www.uottawa.ca/hrrec/lawroom/primer.html

This site contains a quick lesson in the basics of Canadian criminal law.

Duhaime's Canadian Criminal Law Centre

www.duhaime.org/cacrhome.htm

Plain language articles on Canadian criminal law with an expansive list of topics.

National Crime Prevention Centre

www.prevention.gc.ca/en

The organization that is responsible for implementing the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. Links to on-line publications and public education team members.

Ontario Parole and Earned Release Board

www.operb.gov.on.ca

Includes an organizational chart and a variety of facts, figures and statistics.

Family Law

Texts

Introduction to Canadian Family Law by Julien D. Payne, © 1994, Danred Inc.

Websites

Canadian Journal of Family Law

<http://faculty.law.ubc.ca/cdnjfl/index.html>

A meeting place for academics and professionals from a variety of disciplines to discuss and debate family law issues. Past issues of the journal can be accessed on-line.

***Dunhaime's Canadian Family Law Centre**

<http://duhaime.org>

A collection of links on topics such as federal child support guidelines, marriage and divorce law, child custody, and spousal support.

The Family Law Helpline

<http://www.lawhelpline.com/>

General information website about family and matrimonial law in Ontario.

Tort Law

Texts

Canadian Tort Law Sixth Edition by Allen M. Linden, © 1997 Butterworths Canada Ltd.

Canadian Torts Law in a Nutshell by Margaret Kerr, Jo Ann Kurtz, Laurence M. Olivo © 1995 Carswell (Thompson Professional Publishing)

Websites

Duhaime's Canadian Personal Injury and Tort Law Centre

<http://www.duhaime.org/Tort/tort.htm>

Summary of tort law in Canada. Includes sections on Negligence, Causation, Nuisance, Defamation, Government Liability, and Medical Liability.