This guide is intended to introduce you to some of the resources available for research in Canadian environmental policy and for completing the assignments in this course:

**News and Journal Articles**
**Books & Government Documents**
**Municipal Bylaws & Legislation**
**Government & Policy-related Sites**
**Environmental Statistics**
**Current Laws & Regulations**
**Research Published by ENGOs**
**Federal, Provincial Laws & Legislation**
**Industry and Corporate Information**
**Evaluating & Citing Sources**

**Articles from Newspapers, Journals, Magazines:**

**Use an Article Database:** Select databases to use based on the topic and type of articles required. The following are selected databases that are likely to be most useful for research in this course. To access these and others, select the Quick Link: “[A-Z List of Databases](#)” on the library web site.

**News: Mainstream media sources:**
CBCA and Canadian Newsstream (in ProQuest All):
Full-text collections of Canadian newspapers, television & radio news broadcasts, and newswires from across the country. Years covered: 1985 - present, varies by title. Updated daily. Other PQ news databases cover international news, as does Lexis/Nexis: e.g. *The Guardian* from the U.K. Eureka.cc has Canadian and international news sources, including the local Sackville Tribune Post.

**Environmental news services:** Covering environmental issues worldwide: Environmental News Network, EcoWatch, and Environment News Service. IISD Reporting Services provides daily coverage of international environment and sustainable development negotiations. Clean Energy Review by Clean Energy Canada is a weekly digest of important climate and clean energy developments.

**Journal Articles:**
ProQuest Databases: ProQuest databases cover a wide variety of subjects and sources including academic journals, popular press magazines, trade and business journals, some government and think tank reports, newspapers, conference papers and working papers, and theses, and include much Canadian content. Databases can be searched together or separately. Coverage: Varies by title. Updated daily. Select “ProQuest All” to search all databases together, or click on “Change Databases” at the top of the screen within ProQuest to select appropriate databases. Results can also be limited by type of source after searching. Note: Some search features are lost when combining databases.

Environment Complete and GreenFILE: Databases on the EBSCO platform; cover thousands of journals and some books on environmental topics; most articles and book chapters are available in full text. Can limit to peer-reviewed articles only. Searches can be expanded to include other EBSCO databases.

ScienceDirect: A full-text database of peer-reviewed academic journals; not just for science!
**Lexis/Nexis:** The “Environmental Law” collection is a subset of the U.S. law journals: Select Search by Subject or Topic – Law Reviews – Advanced Options – Environmental Law, then enter search terms. For articles from Canadian law journals: Select “Source Directory – Browse” – Publication Type: Law Reviews & Journals – “All Canadian Legal Journals” – OK-Continue, then enter search terms.

**Accessing Articles:**
If an article is not available directly through a “Fulltext” link or pdf icon in a database, or if you have an article reference from a book or other source, there are several ways to obtain the article:

1. Search for the journal title in Journal Finder. (See Quick Links” on the library home page, or “Find@MTA” link from within a database). Journal Finder links you to the database that has the article.

2. Search for an article’s doi under the Journal Finder “Articles” tab. Change “Identifier” to DOI.

3. Search the library catalogue by journal title. There may be print holdings or a URL to an online version.

4. Increasingly, researchers are negotiating the right to post a copy of their published articles in an open access repository, or other OA site. A GoogleScholar search may find a copy. Note: Check to make sure any OA version found is the final, edited version.

5. If the articles or books you need are not available to you online or in the library, you can request an interlibrary loan. Instructions and request form are on the library website (see under “Quick Links”).

**Books & Government Documents Available Through the Library:**

**Use the Online Library Catalogue:**
- enter a government, association, or Canadian public company name as Author to find works written, published, or sponsored by them (e.g. New Brunswick, Pembina Institute, etc.)
- use keywords in the author field (Advanced Search) if unsure of the full, correct name (e.g. full author name: Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development) author kw search: canada and committee and environment
- use keyword searches to begin a search, combine concepts, and to ensure retrieval of all government documents (e.g. new brunswick and forest$) or (kw in author: new brunswick and kw in title: forest$) $=all possible endings (keyword searches only)
- limit by location, format, etc. (Advanced Keyword Search) (e.g. kw: environmental policy and canada and location: book stacks) – excludes gov.docs and ebooks.
- see subject headings of appropriate books found to find more books on the topic, or enter a subject heading from the left column below, click on “Starts with”, and change the search field to Subject; all available sub-headings will be listed alphabetically:

**Sample Subject Headings:**
- Environmental policy
- Environmental law
- Energy policy
- Pipelines
- Fossil fuels
- Environmental protection

**Sample Sub-headings:**
- Canada [province, or more local area]
- government policy
- environmental aspects
- law and legislation
- economic aspects
- political aspects
Natural resources

Sample combined heading: natural resources – government policy – Canada

NOTE: Some government publications do not have subject headings and can only be found with keyword searches.

**Selected Government & Policy-related Websites:**

**Canada Site.** ([http://canada.ca](http://canada.ca))
- the official federal government website (some government bodies have URLs ending in gc.ca).
- search engine covers information from federal government depts. including policy information, acts and regulations, public consultations, speeches, statements, news releases, etc.

NOTE: Alternative site search option using Google: For federal sites: enter keyword(s) and site:canada.ca or site:gc.ca (e.g. “climate change” site:canada.ca). Official provincial & territorial government sites can be searched in the same way:


**GALLOP** (Government & Legislative Libraries Online Publications Portal)
Search for publications from the federal government, NWT, and all provincial governments except PEI. (Not as current as searching government sites directly, but useful for seeing how a topic is covered in each province.)

**Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.** Office of the Auditor General of Canada. Select “Reports and Petitions” -- “Reports to Parliament” – CESD Reports
- monitors the federal government’s management of environmental and sustainable development issues and reports to Parliament on behalf of the Auditor General. (These are extremely valuable reports as they expose problems often ignored by the government and news media.) The Commissioner also manages the **Environmental Petitions** process, which allows citizens and groups to request information on environmental issues under federal jurisdiction, and requires government to respond. The responses are posted by department, issue, and petition number. Provincial example: **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**.

**Consulting with Canadians.**
A federal government page that provides access to all federal consultations by department, date, title or subject. Also links to past consultations and related documents. (Provincial versions also exist.)

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry.**
Has information about projects subject to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012; may include public participation documents, hearings, comments received, panel records, news releases and more. Browse by province, or search by keyword, type of project, etc. (Provincial EIA Registries also exist.)

**IEA Policies & Measures Databases.**
This International Energy Agency website has four databases that show thousands of policies and measures taken or planned for addressing climate change, supporting the deployment of renewable energies, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving building energy efficiency, from over 100 countries.
**Current Federal Laws & Regulations:**

For a list of the acts & regulations for which federal departments and agencies are responsible, select “Treaties, laws & regulations” at the bottom of the Canada.ca homepage.

**Dept. of Justice Canada Laws Website.**
- The official site for all of Canada’s federal laws. *Consolidated Statutes & Regulations* updated regularly, and related resources. All federal laws and regulations are searchable by keyword or browse by title.

**Federal Legislation in Progress:**
**Parliamentary Internet Site.** Divided into two separate sections. Select:

- **House of Commons** scroll down to search the site, or select “Parliamentary Business” to see:
  - Debates (Hansard): These are the verbatim transcripts of debates, accessible by date, or search by keywords, speaker, or topics.
  - Committee Reports, Studies, Meeting Transcripts, & Witness Briefs
  - Bills (LEGIsnife): a research tool; for each bill currently before Parliament, it links to the text of the bill at first reading and any later amended versions, major speeches in Parliament, status of the bill, selected recorded votes, CIF information, legislative summary, party press releases, further reading and related links.

- **Senate** – Search window top right to search the site or select “In the Chamber” or “Committees”.

**Canada Gazette Part I.** - see for proposed federal Regulations

**Provincial Laws & Legislation:**
See the provincial and territorial government websites (e.g. Attorney General, Queen’s Printer, etc.) for their official acts & regulations, and the Legislative Assembly websites for equivalents to parliamentary documents (Hansard, committee minutes and reports, status of legislation, etc.) Availability varies by province. (New Brunswick is the only one of all the provinces and territories that doesn’t have the Hansard digitized and searchable online.)

**CanLII: Canadian Legal Information Institute**
- Provides access to the Consolidated Acts & Regulations of each province & territory
- Keyword searches can be expanded to search across all jurisdictions.
- Information available varies by province but can include statutes, status of bills, debates, regulations, court reports, tribunal and board decisions, user guides, etc.

**Municipal Bylaws & Legislation:** Most official municipal websites have bylaws and Council meeting minutes posted.

**Selected Sources for Environmental Statistics and related Information:**

**Canadian:**
**Statistics Canada.**
Search the site or browse by subject: “Environment” or “Energy”, etc. and limit by data or analysis.

**Canadian Environmental Resource Guide.** (See A-Z List of Databases.) Select “Introductory Material” for

**International:**

- **GEO: Global Environment Outlook**, United Nations Environment Programme. (Latest: GEO6 Regional reports) This major UNEP publication reviews and analyses the state of the environment and environmental policy around the world, highlights issues of concern and includes recommendations for policy action. The site includes many other global environmental statistics and analyses.

- **IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)**, Leading source for scientific and technical assessments of climate change and related data.

- **IISD Linkages**, International Institute for Sustainable Development. “A resource for environment and development policy makers”. Provides an excellent list of links to sites with significant content on many different environmental issues. The IISD also provides updates on international environmental negotiations.

See also “Environmental Data & Statistics” in the Geography & Environmental Studies Subject Guide.

**Research Published by Environmental Organizations:**

ENGOs generally don’t have the funding available that industry and governments do, but many have excellent researchers on staff. Some of the best environmental research available is being produced and made available online by groups like Pembina Institute, David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence, Canadian Environmental Law Association, etc. Selected links available in the Geography & Environmental Studies Subject Guide: [http://libraryguides.mta.ca/geog/envt/websites#orgs](http://libraryguides.mta.ca/geog/envt/websites#orgs)

**Industry & Corporate Information:**

Companies and the industry groups that represent them are often major stakeholders in environmental issues. Industry associations are paid to represent their industry’s viewpoints and frequently publicize their arguments for or against policy issues. Their websites, annual reports, ads, press releases, industry-funded think tanks, and trade journals are key sources of information on industry views. Besides the regular news sources and parliamentary committee evidence noted above, corporate, industry, and other stakeholders can also be identified by using the following sources:

- **Business Databases (in ProQuest (All))**, Library website: A-Z List of Databases
  - In ProQuest, select “Change databases” – “View databases by Subject” – Business.

- **Canadian Environmental Resource Guide and Associations Canada**, Library website: A-Z List of Databases
  - search by Subject Heading or keyword to find Canadian organizations (and foreign ones headquartered in Canada) involved in an issue or industry.

  - this federal site is searchable by lobbyist’s name, organization, subject of lobbying activity, keyword, etc. Shows the corporations, industry groups and individuals involved, and the issues, bills, regulations, policies or programs targeted.
Registries exist in all provinces (except PEI), and in some cities: e.g. Toronto, Ottawa, St. John’s, and all Quebec municipalities. New Brunswick Lobbyist Registry opened in 2017.

**Evaluating Information & Citing Sources:**

*DeSmog Climate Disinformation Research Database*. An extensive database of those involved in the global warming denial industry. It lists and analyses organizations, think tanks, industry associations, astroturf groups and individuals who are misleading the public and stalling action on global warming. Entries include background information, documented quotes and actions, funding sources, and more. A very helpful site.

Reading information critically is an important aspect of research. Unlike most scholarly, printed texts, information found by searching the Internet may appear out of context, and lacking metadata (information about the information). This is your first clue when a source is likely not appropriate for academic research. The author(s) or authoring body should be clearly stated, along with the date, publisher and/or original source. Look for author affiliation, funding sources, context and purpose of the text, etc. If you don’t know anything about the authoring body, or the organization website on which the text is “published”, go to the homepage, and read the “About” page; check their mandate and see what other kinds of information they publish. Google it to see what others have said about it.

Analyze content by noting whether statements are supported by evidence and whether sources are cited. Follow up by checking original sources where possible. Note language use; clarify definitions of terms; ask yourself questions while you read; note what is not being said and what questions remain unanswered. Use “groundtruthing”; check statements against real-world evidence and other sources. Read widely and do not restrict your reading to one side of an issue. Try to answer all relevant questions and objections. More tips on critical thinking skills are given in this youtube video by Jim Emberger, a local environmental activist, in his presentation at Le Talking Tree, Shediac Market, August 11, 2013: “Will New Brunswick’s “Strictest” Regulations Protect its Citizens?”

For guides and examples of how to critically analyse sources and how to cite sources, see the library website under the “Research Help” tab. Tip sheets and the complete citation manuals are also available at the library Research Help Desk. For citing government sources, links to tip sheets are available on the “Government Information” Subject Guide under “Citing Gov Info”.

This class guide is available on the Mount Allison University Library’s Government Information page, and on the Geography & Environmental Studies Subject Guide. For assistance, please contact acannon@mta.ca the Environmental Studies and Government Information Librarian.