

Federal, Provincial & Territorial Government Regulation Process

Regulations are the details of laws. Laws usually set out only general rules and requirements, and changes have to be reviewed by the government and the legislature (and, at the federal level, by the Senate), a process that can take up to 2-3 years. Because there are often problems with the detailed parts of laws, these detailed parts are set out in regulations. Regulations can be changed much more quickly than laws, and so quick changes can be made to solve the problems a specific rule or requirement may be causing.

The flow chart set out below describes the process for developing and changing regulations generally followed by the federal government and provincial and territorial governments. Of course, different governments do things differently, but the flow chart is generally accurate concerning the usual steps in the legislative process.

