

Federal, Provincial & Territorial Government Legislative Process

The flow chart set out below describes the process for reviewing draft laws, known as the legislative process, 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. The main thing that changes is the speed at which each draft law passes through the process. Generally, a legislative process lasts 6 months - 1 year. However, if a government is responding to what it views as a crisis (e.g. the attacks in New York on Sept. 11, 2001), or if the government wants something changed quickly (e.g. increasing the pay of Cabinet ministers), then a draft law can be reviewed and become law within a month or two.

