

Communications and Information Act

CHAPTER 79 OF THE REVISED STATUTES, 1989

as amended by

1992, c. 14, ss. 11-29; 2022, c. 54, ss. 21-23



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CHAPTER 79 OF THE REVISED STATUTES, 1989
amended 1992, c. 14, ss. 11-29; 2022, c. 54, ss. 21-23

**An Act to Establish the Nova Scotia
Communications and Information Centre**

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(The table of contents is not part of the statute)

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Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Communications and Information Act*.
R.S., c. 79, s. 1.

Interpretation

2 In this Act,
(a) "Department" means the Department of Supply and Services;
(b) "Minister" means the Minister of Supply and Services. 1992,
c. 14, s. 11.

Supervision of Act

3 The Minister has the general supervision and management of this
Act. 1992, c. 14, s. 11.

4 *repealed 1992, c. 14, s. 11.*

Duties of Department

5 The Department shall

(a) provide a centralized information service for all government departments, agencies, boards, commissions and other components of government;

(b) disseminate, communicate and transmit information products, be they in the form of press releases, films, still photographs, television or radio presentations, advertising, graphic arts, printing or other creative forms, within the public service and outside the public service;

(c) establish an inquiry service to respond to inquiries from the general public concerning Provincial Government policies, programs and services, and receive suggestions and comments concerning such activities;

(d) provide information outlets through which government publications and information are available;

(e) act as adviser on development technology in the field of communications “hardware” systems and introduce such systems as the Governor in Council deems to be contributory to a more efficient public service; and

(f) perform such other duties as the Governor in Council directs.
R.S., c. 79, s. 5; 1992, c. 14, s. 12.

King’s Printer

6 The Governor in Council shall appoint a suitable person having practical experience in the business of printing to be known as the King’s Printer who shall be an official in the Department. R.S., c. 79, s. 6; 1992, c. 14, s. 13.

Duties of King’s Printer

7 (1) It shall be the duty of the King’s Printer to cause to be printed and published under his supervision the statutes of the Province, the journals of the House of Assembly and all such official, departmental and other reports, books, forms, documents and other papers as are required to be printed at the expense of the Province.

(2) The King’s Printer shall perform all such other duties as the Minister or the Speaker of the Assembly from time to time prescribes.

(3) Whatever is printed under the supervision of the King’s Printer by the authority of this Act shall be held to be printed by the King’s Printer.
R.S., c. 79, s. 7; 1992, c. 14, s. 14; 2022, c. 54, s. 21.

Work by contract

8 (1) All printing, binding and other like work done under the supervision of the Department or the King’s Printer shall be done and furnished under contract and every such contract shall be in such form and for such time as the Minister or the Speaker of the Assembly determines.

(2) No contract shall be made until after such reasonable public notice or advertisement for tenders as the Minister or Speaker, as the case may be, deems advisable and the lowest best tender received shall be accepted, provided that

the Minister or the Speaker, respectively, is satisfied as to the ability of the person making that tender to fulfil the contract.

(3) This Section shall not apply to any printing which the Governor in Council declares to be of a confidential character. R.S., c. 79, s. 8; 1992, c. 14, s. 15.

Confidential work

9 (1) Whenever it appears to the Governor in Council that any printing is of a confidential character, the Governor in Council may authorize such printing to be done by the King's Printer, or under his supervision at fair prices without tender.

(2) A separate account of all such work, with details of the quantities, rates charged, amounts paid and the names of the persons performing the work, shall be kept by the King's Printer. R.S., c. 79, s. 9; 1992, c. 14, s. 16.

Duties of Department

10 The Department shall assist in preparing advertisements, specifications and contracts in connection with public printing, examine all work done under any contract and require contractors to carry out fully the terms and provisions of the same and shall check and audit all accounts in connection with such work. R.S., c. 79, s. 10; 1992, c. 14, s. 17.

Statutes

11 (1) The statutes shall be printed on fine paper in such form and type as the Speaker directs, any head notes and marginal notes shall be printed in such type as the Speaker directs and such notes shall refer to the year and chapter of previous statutes whenever the text amends or repeals the same.

(2) The statutes shall be bound and lettered and distributed in such manner as the Speaker directs. R.S., c. 79, s. 11; 1992, c. 14, s. 18.

Journals of Assembly

12 (1) The journals of the Assembly shall be printed on fine paper in such form and type as the Speaker directs, with any marginal notes printed in such type as the Speaker directs, and shall be bound and lettered in such manner as the Speaker directs.

(2) The journals of the Assembly shall be uniform in printing and binding and all departmental and other reports and documents to be laid before the Assembly, or ordered to be printed by the Assembly and intended to be bound with the journals of the Assembly shall also, with the exception of the marginal notes, be in all respects uniform with the journals. R.S., c. 79, s. 12; 1992, c. 14, s. 18.

Form of printing and publication

12A The form of printing and publication of all legislative materials, with the exception of books, papers and forms required to conduct an election to elect a member to serve in the House of Assembly, shall be as the Speaker directs. 1992, c. 14, s. 19.

Certified statutes to King's Printer

13 The Legislative Counsel of the Assembly or such other person as the Governor in Council may from time to time appoint for that purpose shall furnish the King's Printer with a certified copy of every Act of the Legislature as soon as the same has received the assent of the Governor or, if the Bill has been reserved, as soon as the assent thereto has been proclaimed in the Province. R.S., c. 79, s. 13; 1992, c. 14, s. 20.

Distribution of statutes

14 (1) The Department shall as soon as practicable after the close of every session of the Legislature transmit in the most economical mode the proper number of printed copies of the Acts of that session to the persons hereinafter mentioned:

(a) to the members of the Assembly, such number of copies as is from time to time directed by any resolution of the Assembly or, in default of such resolution, such number as the Governor in Council directs;

(b) to such public departments, administrative bodies, officials or other persons as the Governor in Council specifies.

(2) Where any bill receives assent before the termination of any session of the Legislature, the Department shall, if so instructed by the Governor in Council, cause distribution to be made of such number of copies thereof to the same persons and in the like manner as is in this Section provided with respect to other Acts. R.S., c. 79, s. 14; 1992, c. 14, s. 21.

15 *repealed 1992, c. 14, s. 22.*

Excess copies of statutes

16 If after the distribution of such printed Acts any copies remain in the hands of the Department, he may dispose thereof in such manner by sale or otherwise as the Governor in Council from time to time directs. R.S., c. 79, s. 16; 1992, c. 14, s. 23.

Royal Gazette

17 (1) The official gazette of the Province shall be or continue to be the Royal Gazette as published under the authority of the Attorney General in print or electronic form.

(2) Proclamations, official and other notices and all such matters whatsoever as the Governor in Council requires to be published shall be published in the Royal Gazette and all advertisements, notices or publications, which by any Act or law in force in the Province are required to be published by the Government or any department thereof, by any sheriff or other officer, by any municipal authority or by any officer or person, whomsoever, shall be published in the Royal Gazette, unless some other mode of publishing the same is directed by law. R.S., c. 79, s. 17; 2022, c. 54, s. 22.

Powers of Governor in Council

18 (1) The Governor in Council may from time to time

(a) prescribe the form, mode and conditions of the publication of the Royal Gazette;

(b) designate the public bodies, officers and persons to whom it shall be sent without charge;

(c) regulate the price of copies of the Royal Gazette, or portions thereof, and the charges to be paid for the publication of notices, advertisements and documents, or notices of correction for anything previously published.

(2) All sums payable for such subscriptions and charges shall be paid in advance to the Minister.

(3) *repealed 2022, c. 54, s. 23.*

R.S., c. 79, s. 18; 1992, c. 14, s. 24; 2022, c. 54, s. 23.

19 *repealed 1992, c. 14, s. 25.*

General Revenue Fund

20 The expenses to be incurred under this Act shall be paid out of the General Revenue Fund of the Province. R.S., c. 79, s. 20; 2010, c. 2, s. 84.

21 *repealed 1992, c. 14, s. 25.*

Certificate

22 No money for printing, binding or other such work done pursuant to this or any other Act of the Legislature shall be paid out of the General Revenue Fund without a certificate from the Department or the King's Printer that the work has been properly done and that the charges therefor are fair and reasonable. R.S., c. 79, s. 22; 1992, c. 14, s. 26; 2010, c. 2, s. 84.

23 *repealed 1992, c. 14, s. 27.*

Agreements

24 (1) The Governor in Council may enter into and carry out agreements with the Government of Canada, or a member or agency thereof, or a province, or a member or agency thereof, or with any person or corporation to effect the objects and purpose of the Act.

(2) The Governor in Council may authorize the Minister or the Speaker to execute such agreements and instruments as are necessary for the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Act. R.S., c. 79, s. 24; 1992, c. 14, s. 28.

Regulations

25 The Governor in Council may make such rules and regulations as are deemed expedient for the better carrying out of this Act. R.S., c. 79, s. 25.

Hansard office

26 (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the staff and equipment of the Hansard office shall be under the supervision, direction and control of the Speaker of the Assembly.

(2) Where there is any conflict between this Act and the *House of Assembly Act* or the rules of the Assembly, the *House of Assembly Act* and the rules of the Assembly shall prevail.

(3) When the staff and equipment of the Hansard office are not required by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Clerk of the Assembly or the Legislative Counsel, such staff and equipment may be utilized by the Department. R.S., c. 79, s. 26; 1992, c. 14, s. 29.

Reference to Public Printing Act

27 A reference in any Act or regulation to the former *Public Printing Act* shall be and shall be read and construed to be a reference to this Act. R.S., c. 79, s. 27.
