

Steps in Parliament's Lawmaking Process

A Bill is a proposal for a new law.

The Executive is responsible for the quality of engagement and co-development processes with First Nations before First Reading. While a Bill is before Parliament, it cannot be challenged in court. Once passed, a law potentially can be challenged in litigation.

1

FIRST READING

Bill is introduced in the House of Commons (or the Senate). There is no debate at this stage.

2

SECOND READING

Debate takes place on the principle of the bill. Major speeches are made by sponsoring Minister & by Opposition parties.

Once a Bill is adopted at Second Reading, it is referred by motion to a committee for study.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Witnesses are called to comment on the Bill. After witnesses are heard, the committee goes through the bill clause-by-clause.

Committee votes on each amendment proposed by members and votes on the Bill as a whole. Chair reports Bill to the chamber where it began.

REPORT STAGE

MPs can propose amendments to the Bill. Any debate or voting is on amendments only, if any - not the whole Bill.

THIRD READING

Debate at Third Reading focuses on the final form of the Bill.

BILL SENT TO OTHER LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

Once the motion for third reading is adopted, the Bill goes to the Senate if it originated in the House (or to the House if it originated in Senate).

REVIEW IN OTHER CHAMBER

Stages of review are repeated in the other legislative chamber. (If any amendments are made in Senate, the Bill must go back to the House of Commons.)

ROYAL ASSENT

After a Bill is passed in the same form by the House of Commons and the Senate, it is sent to the Governor General for Royal Assent.

