

## Manitoba Laws Glossary – Reality Check # 17

**Act** – another word for “statute”: a formal written enactment of a legislative authority that governs a particular jurisdiction. **All Acts start as Bills.**

**Bill** – a proposed law under consideration by the Manitoba legislature. If passed a Bill becomes statute or law.

**Law** – any written or positive rule or collection of rules prescribed under the authority of the state or nation (or province). Eg. Statute law, by-law, regulatory law, common law (legal principle made by courts).

**Legislature or Legislative Assembly** – The assembly with the power to pass, amend, and repeal laws; specifically the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, made up of elected members from constituencies across the province.

**House** – a short-hand term for the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, the body which passes laws in Manitoba.

**Proclamation** – an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Cabinet) declaring when a statute or Act is to come into force.

**Reading** – refers to a Bill be “read” in the Legislature and voted on.  
**Eg.** First, second, or third reading

**Regulation** - A rule having the force of law, written by an authority granted the power to draft regulations. Regulations usually specify the actions, authority, and requirements under an Act or Law.

**Legislative Session** – The period of time a legislature is brought together for law making, with each session being within the time between two elections. Typically there is one session per year.

**Eg.:** On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Manitoba ended the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislature. October 4, 2011 is the date of the next, 40<sup>th</sup> Manitoba General Election, so the next session will be the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 40<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

**Statute** – formal written legislative authority that governs a particular jurisdiction. A statute is a Manitoba Law.