

# VisualLaws

*Visualizing Laws over Time*

## CPSC 547: Project Presentation

  
  
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# What?

# Knomos



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Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

This Act is Current to December 2, 2015

## SUPREME COURT ACT [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 443

### Contents

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Supreme Court of British Columbia
- 3 Powers and privileges
- 4 Precedence
- 4.1 Conferences
- 5 Vacancies
- 6 Powers after leaving office
- 7 Seal
- 8 Judicial districts
- 9 Jurisdiction and sittings
- 10 Administration
- 11 Masters
- 12 Pensions for masters
- 13 Registrars
- 14 Trial and subsequent proceedings
- 15 Transfer to Provincial Court
- 16 Power to reserve decision
- 17 Issues may be submitted to jury
- 18 Verbatim proceedings

### Definitions

1 In this Act:

- "**court**" means the Supreme Court of British Columbia;
- "**judge**" means a judge of the court;
- "**judicial district**" means a judicial district defined by this Act;
- "**master**" means a master of the court;
- "**order**" includes a judgment and a decree;
- "**proceeding**" includes an action, suit, cause, matter, appeal, petition proceeding or requisition proceeding;
- "**registry**" means an office of the Supreme Court in a judicial district.

### Supreme Court of British Columbia

2 (1) The Supreme Court of British Columbia is continued under the name and style of the "Supreme Court of British Columbia".

(2) The court consists of

- a Chief Justice, who is called "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court",
- an Associate Chief Justice, and
- 90 other judges.

(3) The Chief Justice has responsibility for the administration of the judges of court.

(4) Powers of the Chief Justice may be delegated to the Associate Chief Justice.

(5) If the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice are absent or unable to act, the powers of the Chief Justice may be exercised by the next senior non-

# What?

## "POINT IN TIME" ACT CONTENT

### SUPREME COURT ACT

#### [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 443

NOTE: Links below go to act content as it was prior to the changes made on the effective date. (PIT covers changes made from September 6, 2000 to present)

SECTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
1	<a href="#">July 1, 2010</a>
2	<a href="#">October 26, 2012</a>
4.1	<a href="#">May 31, 2007</a>
8	<a href="#">May 30, 2002</a>
	<a href="#">April 11, 2013</a>
10	<a href="#">May 31, 2007</a>
11	<a href="#">May 29, 2003</a>
	<a href="#">October 23, 2003</a>
	<a href="#">April 1, 2008</a> [retro from May 29, 2008]
12	<a href="#">May 29, 2003</a>
	<a href="#">October 23, 2003</a>

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Section 10(4) was added by 2007-14-65 effective May 31, 2007 (Royal Assent).

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Section 11(3), (4) and (5) BEFORE amended by 2003-37-43 effective May 29, 2003 (Royal Assent)

(3) The salary of a master is to be the salary of a Provincial Court judge.

(4) Salaries of the masters must be adjusted accordingly at the time the salary of judges of the Provincial Court are adjusted in accordance with a resolution under section 12 (1) of the *Provincial Court Act*.

(5) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may set other terms of employment and benefits of a master.

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# Why?



- Query
  - **Compare** the changes between dates
  - **Identify** dates of interest
  - **Summarise** overall changes
- Search
  - **Lookup/Locate**



- Search
  - **Browse** changes
  - **Explore** all changes
- Consume
  - **Discover** points of interest
  - **Enjoy**

# Supreme Court Act: Dates Jan 1, 2000 vs Today

█ Enacted  
█ Amended  
█ Repealed

(4) The chief administrator of court services, for the purposes of carrying out his or her duties under this Act, may disclose to the Chief Justice information regarding the conduct of persons appointed under subsection (2) in the performance of their duties under this Act.

## 11 Masters

- (1) On the recommendation of the Attorney General after consultation with the Chief Justice, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint one or more masters of the court.
- (2) A person must not be appointed as a master unless that person is a member in good standing of the Law Society of British Columbia at the time of appointment.
- (3) A master is entitled to the remuneration, allowances and benefits established under section 6 (2) to (6) of the Judicial Compensation Act, as that section applies to Provincial Court judges.
- (4) ~~Salaries of the masters must be adjusted accordingly at the time the salary of judges of the Provincial Court are adjusted in accordance with a resolution under section 12 (1) of the Provincial Court Act.~~  
[Repealed 2003-37-43.]
- (5) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may set other terms of employment ~~and benefits~~ of a master.
- (6) A master ceases to hold office at the end of the month in which the master reaches ~~the age 75 years of~~  
70 age.
- (7) A master has, subject to the limitations of section 96 of the Constitution Act, 1867, the same jurisdiction under any enactment or the Rules of Court as a judge in chambers unless, in respect of any matter, the Chief Justice has given a direction that a master is not to exercise that jurisdiction.
- (8) Wherever a power is given to the registrar, a district registrar or a deputy district registrar under an enactment, that power may be exercised by a master.
- (9) A master may administer an oath.
- (10) An action must not be brought against a master for damages for anything done or omitted in good faith by the master

(a) in the performance or intended performance of any duty, or  
 (b) in the exercise or intended exercise of any power



Changes unavailable before 2000.

# How?



## Encode:

- categorical hues
- redundantly underline and strikeout for categorical data

## Facet:

- Overview and detail
- Multiple linked views

## Manipulate:

- Linked highlighting with borders
- Linked navigation

(c) services or treatment for an illness or condition excluded by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(d) laboratory services that are benefits within the meaning of the Laboratory Services Act.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) (c), the regulations may authorize the minister to define categories of out patient care and specify the treatment or diagnostic services to be provided for those categories.

(4) No person is entitled to receive any of the benefits under this Act unless

(a) it has been certified in the manner provided in the regulations that the person requires the services, and

(b) ~~the person~~ it is ~~proved~~ proved to the satisfaction of the minister that ~~the or she~~ person is a beneficiary ~~by making an application for benefits in the manner and form specified by the minister on being admitted to hospital.~~

~~(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) (b), if a person requires admission to a hospital and is unable to make an application, or if the person is a dependant, the application must be made on the person's behalf by a member of his or her family or some other person having knowledge of facts required to be stated in an application.~~

(6) If a person does not obtain certification as provided in subsection (4), the person has no claim against the government for general hospital services

The screenshot shows a document viewer interface. The text is displayed in a light blue background. A vertical navigation bar on the right side of the document is color-coded: green for 'Enacted', cyan for 'Amended', and red for 'Repealed'. The text is also color-coded: (d) is green, (b) is cyan, and (5) is red. A mouse cursor is visible over the red section (5).

# How?

Encode:

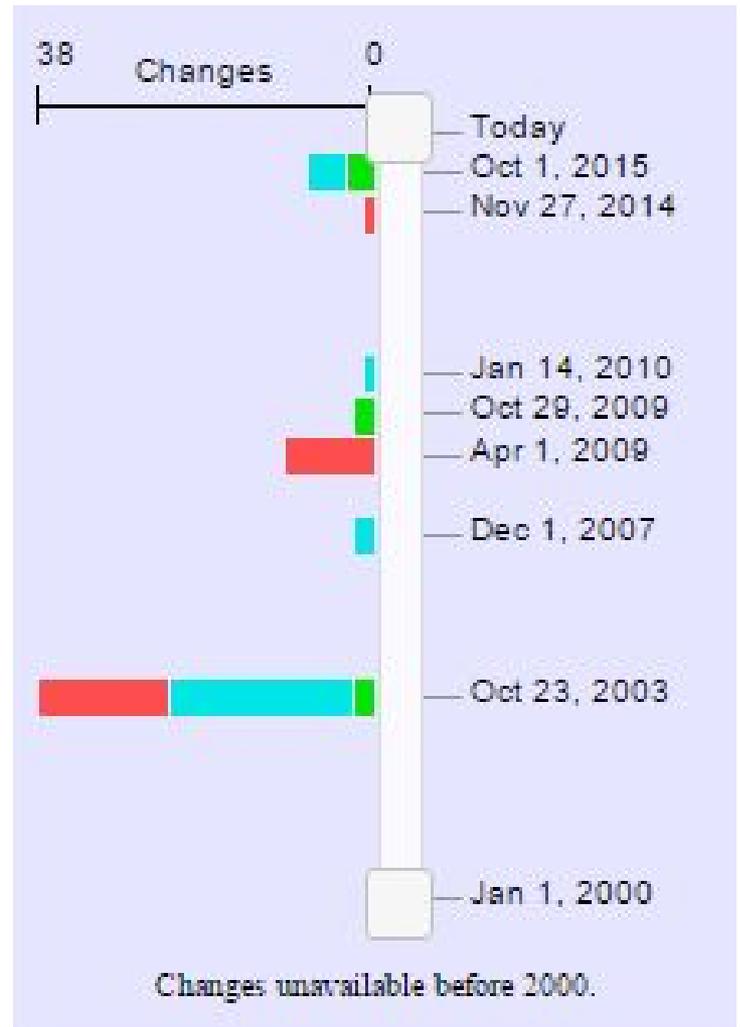
- categorical hues
- Stacked Bar chart spatial position for quantitative data

Facet:

- Multiple linked views

Manipulate:

- Select two dates



# How?

## Encode:

- categorical hues
- Icicle plot for document structure
- dense display with guaranteed visibility
- stacked bar charts for summary views

## Facet:

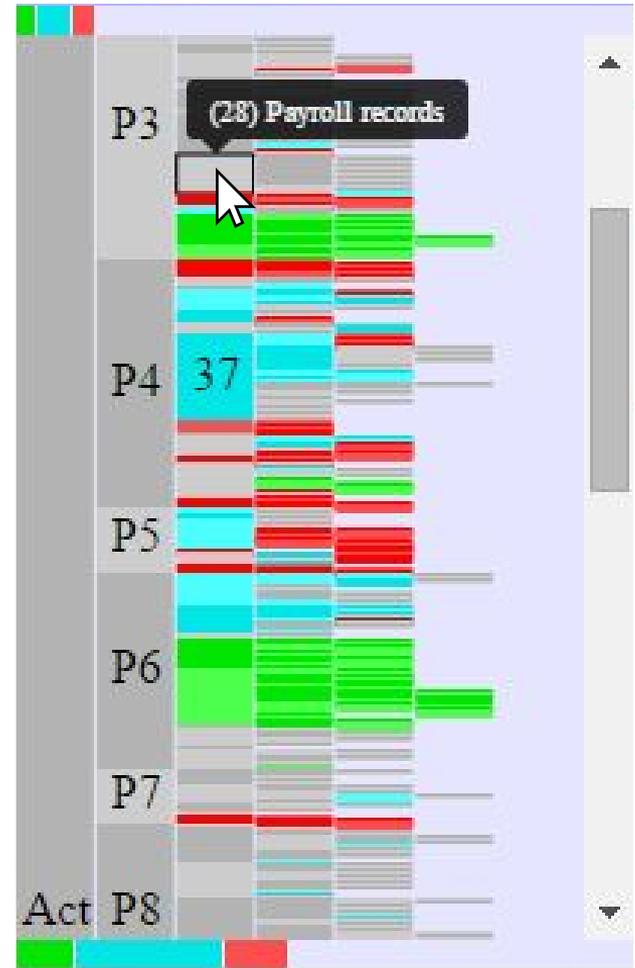
- Multiple linked views

## Manipulate:

- navigate: scroll
- navigate: geometric pan and zoom

## Reduce:

- embed: focus + context



# Live Demo

# Conclusion

## Limitations

- Limited number of laws supported
- Performance
- Cannot display everything at once

## Lessons

- Data format is crucial
- Pixels are a precious resource
- Colours are hard

## Future Work

- Address the limitations
- Derive and display “themes” common within change dates
- Linked highlighting for icicle summary bars
- Shift click highlighting to select multiple dates
- User studies

Thank you



**VisuaLaws**



# VisuaLaws

*Visualizing Laws over Time*

Please select a law to view

- Select a law... ▾
- Select a law...
- Apology Act
- Age of Majority Act
- Tug Boat Worker Lien Act
- Court Rules Act**
- Supreme Court Act
- Marriage Act
- Hospital Insurance Act
- Personal Property Act
- Employment Standards Act



# Supreme Court Act: Dates Jan 1, 2000 vs Today

■ Enacted  
■ Amended  
■ Repealed

Act

1	
2	(2)
4	
7	
8	(1)
9	
10	
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12	
13	
15	

## 1 Definitions

In this Act:

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- "**master**" means a master of the court;
- "**order**" includes a judgment and a decree;

"**proceeding**" includes an action, suit, cause, matter, appeal ~~or originating application;~~ petition proceeding or requisition proceeding;

"**registry**" means an office of the Supreme Court in a judicial district.

## 2 Supreme Court of British Columbia

- The Supreme Court of British Columbia is continued under the name and style of the "Supreme Court of British Columbia".
- The court consists of
  - a Chief Justice, who is called "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court",
  - an Associate Chief Justice, and
  - ~~86~~ 90 other judges.
- The Chief Justice has responsibility for the administration of the judges of court.
- Powers of the Chief Justice may be delegated to the Associate Chief Justice.
- If the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice are absent or unable to act, the powers of the Chief Justice may be exercised by the next senior non-supernumerary judge who resides in the judicial districts of Vancouver or Westminster.
- The court has for each office established under subsection (2) an additional office of supernumerary judge.





# Supreme Court Act: Dates May 31, 2007 vs May 31, 2007

- Enacted
- Amended
- Repealed

Act

- 1
- 2
- 4
- 7
- 8 (1)
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 15

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Changes unavailable before 2000.



# Supreme Court Act: Dates May 30, 2002 vs May 31, 2007

- Enacted
- Amended
- Repealed

Act

1

(2)

2

4

7

8 (1)

9

10

11

12

13

15

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- Enacted
- Amended
- Repealed

1	
2	(2)
4	
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8	(1)
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**12**

(1) Subject to ~~sub this section (2), the Public Service~~, a master is entitled to the ~~Pension Plan, continued under the Public Sector P~~ **benefits established under sections 16 to 24 of the Judicial Compensation Plans Act, applies to every master Act.**

(2) ~~When calculating the amount of a pension under the Public Service Pension Plan, each year of service as a master must be counted as 1 1/2 years of pensionable service. For purposes of giving effect to subsection (1).~~

(a) "December 1, 2002" is substituted for "January 1, 2001" wherever it appears in sections ~~196 to 19.824~~ of the ~~Provin Judicial Court mpensation~~ Act, and

(b) sections ~~196 to 19.824~~ of the ~~Provin Judicial Court mpensation~~ Act are to be read with necessary changes.

## 13 Registrars

- (1) A registrar and one or more district registrars, deputy district registrars and persons necessary to assist them may be appointed under the Public Service Act.
- (2) The registrar, district registrars and deputy district registrars may carry out the duties assigned to a registrar by the rules and under any other enactment.
- (3) The registrar may appoint a person to act temporarily as a district registrar or a deputy district registrar.

## 14 Trial and subsequent proceedings

- (1) All proceedings in the court and all business arising from those proceedings, if practicable and convenient, must be heard, determined and disposed of before a single judge.
- (2) All proceedings subsequent to the hearing or trial including the final order, except as otherwise provided, and on a rehearing must, if practicable and convenient, be before the judge before whom the trial or hearing took place.

## 15 Transfer to Provincial Court





# Supreme Court Act: Dates May 30, 2002 vs May 31, 2007

- Enacted
- Amended
- Repealed

1	
2	(2)
4	
7	
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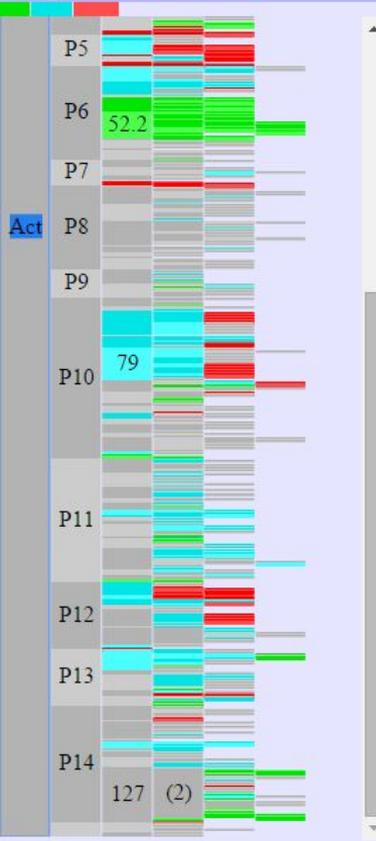


(2) When calculating the amount of a pension under the Public Service Pension Plan, each year of service as a master must be counted as 1 1/2 years of pensionable service.



# Employment Standards Act: Dates Jan 1, 2000 vs Today

Green	Enacted
Cyan	Amended
Red	Repealed



## Part 1 - Introductory Provisions

### 1 Definitions

**"adjudicator"** means a person appointed as an adjudicator under section 102 (2) (b);

**"determination"** means any decision made by the director under section 22 (2), 30 (2), 66, 68 (3), 73, 76 (3), 79, 100 or 119;

(1) In this Act:

**"flexible work schedule"** means a work schedule under which the hours may exceed 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week;

**"school student"** means a person enrolled in a school or francophone school as defined in the School Act or in an independent school or francophone school as defined in the School Act;

**"assignment of wages"** includes a written authorization to pay all or part of an employee's wages to another person;

**"collective agreement"** means the same as in the Fishing Collective Bargaining Act, the Labour Relations Code, or the Public Service Labour Relations Act;

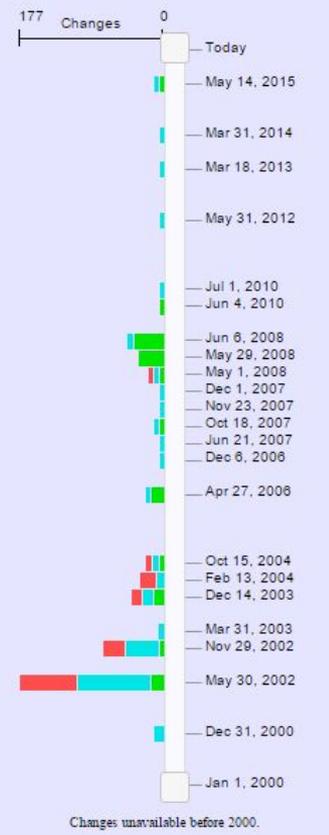
**"conditions of employment"** means all matters and circumstances that in any way affect the employment relationship of employers and employees;

**"construction"** means the construction, renovation, repair or demolition of property or the alteration or improvement of land;

**"day"** means a 24 hour period ending at midnight and working day means a 24 hour period beginning at the start of an employee's shift; day means

(a) a 24 hour period ending at midnight, or

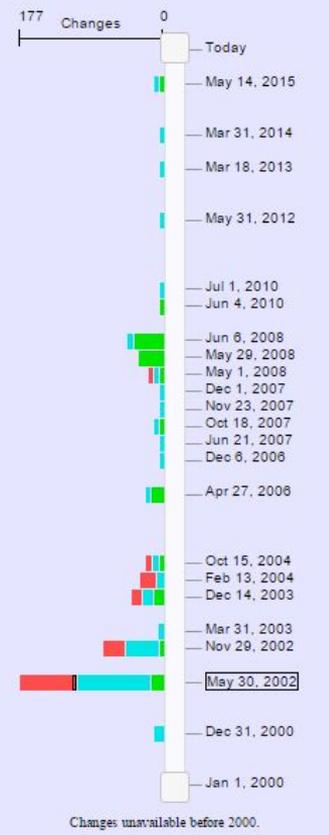
(b) in relation to an employee's shift that continues over midnight, the 24 hour period beginning at the start of the employee's shift;





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- Enacted
- Amended
- Repealed



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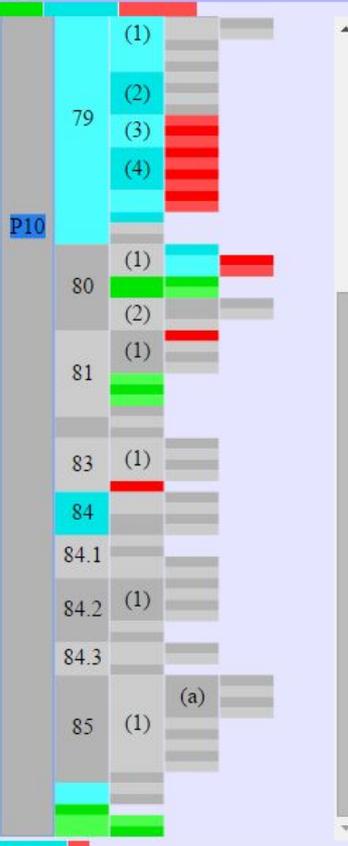
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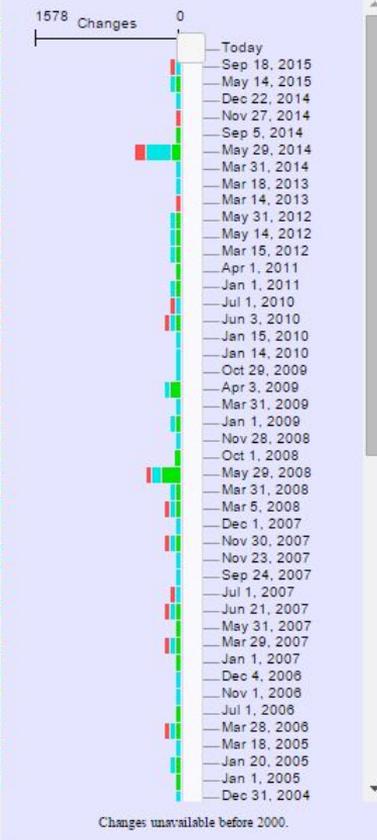
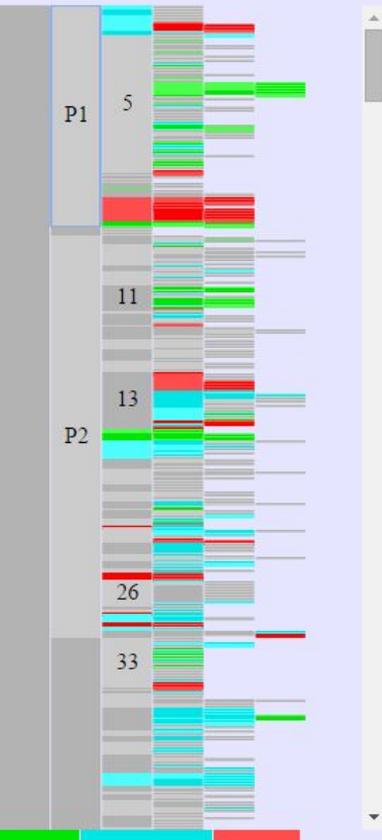
(b) in relation to an employee's shift that continues over midnight, the 24 hour period beginning at the start of the employee's shift;





# Local Government Act: Dates Jan 1, 2000 vs Today

Enacted  
Amended  
Repealed



## Part 1 - Purposes, Principles and Interpretation

### 1 Purposes of this Act

~~Recognizing that local government is an independent, responsible and accountable order of government within its jurisdiction,~~ The purposes of this Act are

- (a) to provide a legal framework and foundation for the establishment and continuation of local governments to represent the interests and respond to the needs of their communities,
- (b) to provide local governments with the powers, duties and functions necessary for fulfilling their purposes, and
- (c) to provide local governments with the flexibility to respond to the different needs and changing circumstances of their communities.

### 2 Purposes of local governments

~~The purposes of a local government~~ Recognizing that regional districts are an independent, responsible and accountable order of government within their jurisdiction, the purposes of a regional district include

- (a) providing good government for its community,
- (b) providing the services and other things that the board considers are necessary or desirable for all or part of its community,
- (c) providing for stewardship of the public assets of its community, and
- (d) fostering the current and future economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.

### 3 Broad powers

The relationship between regional districts and the Provincial government in relation to this Act is based on the following principles:

(1) The powers conferred on local governments by this Act are to be interpreted broadly in accordance with the