

WSIAT Tipsheet: Finding WSIAT Decisions Online

[CanLII](#) contains decisions from courts and tribunals across Canada. You can search the full text of over 84,000 WSIAT decisions available on CanLII as set out below. New WSIAT decisions are added to CanLII on an ongoing basis.

- To find WSIAT decisions on the CanLII homepage, select “Ontario” under “Primary law”.
- Then scroll down the list of Boards and Tribunals until you see “Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal” near the bottom of the list.

You can also click on this link to go to [WSIAT decisions](#) directly.

Searching Decisions

Searching by Topic or Issue

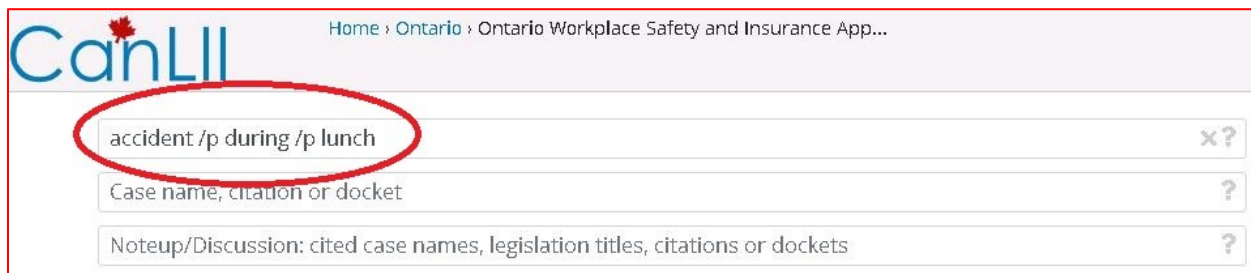
There are several ways you can search for decisions that deal with a particular topic or issue. The most common approaches are listed below.

Option 1 – Search by Words or Phrases

You can do a full text search for the words that describe the topic you are looking for. One way to narrow your search and get good results is to search for specific phrases or words in the same paragraph using CanLII’s search operators (a full list of CanLII search operators is below).

Example: If you want to find decisions about accidents that took place during lunch, you can search for: **accident /p during /p lunch**.

This will bring you to decisions where these words all appeared in the same paragraph.



The screenshot shows the CanLII search interface. The CanLII logo is in the top left, and the breadcrumb navigation is "Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App...". There are three search input fields. The first field contains the search query "accident /p during /p lunch" and is circled in red. The second field is labeled "Case name, citation or docket" and the third is labeled "Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets". Each field has a search icon (x?) to its right.

TIPS: Use **/s** to search for terms in the same sentence.

Use quotation marks to include an exact phrase like **lunch /p “initial entitlement”**.

Option 2 – Search by WSIB Policy

If you know the WSIB policy document that deals with the topic you are looking for, it is easy to enter that policy number into the document text field. WSIB decisions will usually state which policy is being applied to your case. If you are appealing a WSIB decision, check it for the policy number.

In this example of an injury that happened during a lunch break, you may want to search for Operational Policy Manual Document No. 15-02-02 which deals with whether accidents happened during the course of employment.

In this example, you can search for: **15-02-02 “lunch break”**.



The screenshot shows the CanLII search interface. The top navigation bar includes the CanLII logo and the breadcrumb path: Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App... Below the navigation bar, there are three search input fields. The first field, which is circled in red, contains the search query "15-02-02 \"lunch break\"". The second field is labeled "Case name, citation or docket" and the third field is labeled "Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets". Each field has a search icon (magnifying glass) on the right side.

Option 3 – Search by Section of the Act

If you are looking for decisions that deal with a particular section of the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, you can narrow your results to find those decisions only.

- In the bottom search field that says “Noteup/Discussion”, start typing the name of the Act. A list will appear as you type.
- Click on **Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, SO 1997, c16, Sch A** when it appears.
- A new field will appear to the right of the Act. Enter the section of the Act in that field.

In this example, you are searching for decisions that deal with Section 31 of the Act.

The screenshot shows the CanLII search interface. The top navigation bar includes the CanLII logo and the path: Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App... The search fields are as follows:

- Document text: [Empty]
- Case name, citation or docket: [Empty]
- Search query: Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, SO 1997, c 16, Sch A
- Filter: Section 31
- or: Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets

- You can combine this with a search for a relevant term. Enter **lunch** in the document text field and you will find decisions that deal with both Section 31 of the Act and lunch.

Option 4 – Search for Summaries

Many WSIAT decisions have been summarized by Tribunal lawyers. CanLII does not permit searches within the summaries only, but you can use CanLII operators (a full list of CanLII search operators is below) to search for terms that appear near each other. This will sometimes find decisions that use the word “summary” in a different context.

In this example you can search for: **summary /50 lunch**.

This will find decisions where the term **summary** was used within 50 words of **lunch**.

The screenshot shows the CanLII search interface with the following search query entered:

- Document text: summary /50 lunch
- Case name, citation or docket: [Empty]
- Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets: [Empty]

Option 5 – Search by Keyword

Most WSIAT decisions have keywords assigned to them by Tribunal lawyers that identify the main topics of the decision. You can use keywords to find decisions on that same topic. To receive a full list of the keywords you can contact the Ontario Workplace Tribunals Library (OWTL) at owtl@wst.gov.on.ca. You may also find keywords at the top of a decision.

In this example you can search for: **"In the course of employment (lunch)"**.

CanLII Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App... Franç

"In the course of employment (lunch)" x?

Case name, citation or docket ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

TIP: Make sure you use quotation marks to search the keyword as a complete phrase.

Option 6 – Search Decisions Cited

If you found a decision and want to find other decisions that have talked about it, you can use the full text search field for the most accurate results.

In this example you can search in the document text field for: **2256/15**.

CanLII Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App... Franç

2256/15 x?

Case name, citation or docket ?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

Searching by Decision Number or Case Name

If you know the Decision Number or the name of the decision you want to find, you can type the name into the field that says “case name, citation or docket”.

CanLII Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App...

Document text ?

1234/00 x?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

Searching by a Person's Name

Most WSIAT decisions are anonymized to protect the privacy of the parties who have cases before the Tribunal. You can search decisions for the names of representatives, Vice-Chairs/Panel Members, doctors and others.

Enter the name into the Document Text field. You will be searching the full text of the decisions. Use quotation marks around the name to make sure it is searched as a phrase and not as two separate words. The example below is for "Joe Smith".

TIP: You may want to try variations of the name such as "J Smith" or "Dr Smith" depending on how the person may have been referred to in the decision.

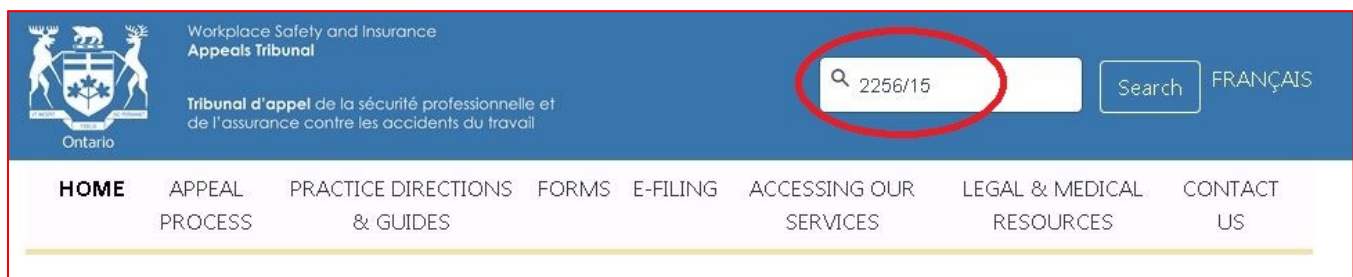


The screenshot shows the CanLII search interface. At the top left is the CanLII logo. To its right is the breadcrumb trail: Home > Ontario > Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance App... Below this is a search box containing the text "joe smith", which is circled in red. To the right of the search box is a small 'x?' icon. Below the search box are two dropdown menus. The first dropdown is labeled "Case name, citation or docket" and has a question mark icon. The second dropdown is labeled "Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets" and also has a question mark icon.

Finding Noteworthy Decisions

Since 2010, the WSIAT has published select decisions it considers [noteworthy](#) on the Tribunal's website. If you would like to know whether a decision you have found in your research is noteworthy, you can search for it on the WSIAT [website](#).

In this example enter the decision number in the search field in the top right corner of the WSIAT home page.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the WSIAT Appeals Tribunal website. On the left is the logo of the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal. To the right of the logo is the text "Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal" and "Tribunal d'appel de la sécurité professionnelle et de l'assurance contre les accidents du travail". In the top right corner, there is a search box containing the text "2256/15", which is circled in red. To the right of the search box is a "Search" button and the text "FRANÇAIS". Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with the following items: HOME, APPEAL PROCESS, PRACTICE DIRECTIONS & GUIDES, FORMS, E-FILING, ACCESSING OUR SERVICES, LEGAL & MEDICAL RESOURCES, and CONTACT US.

CanLII Operators

CanLII provides a chart of all of its operators. You can use these tools alone or combine them to use multiple operators at once.

Find	Operator (case sensitive)	Example
This exact phrase	""	"R. v. Douglas"
All these words	AND, and , no operator	permit hunting
Any of these words	OR, or	city or municipality
None of these unwanted words	NOT	custody NOT child
Words within the same paragraph	/p	levy /p probate
Words within the same sentence	/s	tax /s income
Words within n words	/n	letter /5 credit
Exclude plurals and derivatives	EXACT() , exact()	exact (translator)

Other Resources:

More information about how to search using CanLII can be found on CanLII's website:

<https://www.canlii.org/en/info/search.html>.

In addition, the National Self-Represented Litigants Project has a resource entitled "The CanLII Primer: Legal Research Principles and CanLII Navigation for Self-Represented Litigants, which can be found [here](#).

You can also contact the OWTL at owl@wst.gov.on.ca for research assistance.