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## CANADIAN YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION – **A CHRONOLOGY**

- **1908 *Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA)***  
The JDA created a separate youth justice system based on a child welfare approach that included informal procedures and significant judicial discretion.
- **1984 *Young Offenders Act (YOA)***  
Replacing the JDA, the YOA provided a criminal justice approach with more emphasis on youth responsibility and the special rights of youth.
- **1986 Amendments to the YOA**  
Technical amendments relating to custodial placements were made.
- **1992 Amendments to the YOA**  
The amendments increased the maximum length of sentences in youth court from three years to five years for murder and clarified rules for transferring youth to adult court.
- **1995 Amendments to the YOA**  
The amendments increased the maximum youth sentence for murder to ten years, made further changes regarding transfer to adult court, and allowed victim impact statements in youth court.
- **1996 Report of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Task Force on Youth Justice**  
The FPT Task Force undertook a comprehensive review of the YOA that resulted in wide-ranging recommendations for legislative reform.
- **1997 *Renewing Youth Justice: Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs***  
The Committee's report included a number of recommendations for legislative reform.
- **1998 Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice**  
The Government response to calls for youth justice reform included the development of a new statute to replace the YOA.
- **2003 *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)***  
First introduced in 1999, the YCJA came into force on April 1, 2003.
- **2008 YCJA Review**  
On the fifth anniversary of the coming into force of the YCJA, the Minister of Justice launched a review and held a series of cross-country roundtables, many of which were co-chaired by provincial and territorial ministers, in order to hear about possible improvements to the Act.
- **2008 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. D.B.***  
The Supreme Court of Canada found the "presumptive offence" provisions of the YCJA unconstitutional insofar as they placed a reverse onus on young persons. The Court held that it is a principle of fundamental justice that young persons are entitled to a presumption of diminished moral blameworthiness or culpability.
- **2010 Bill C-4**  
Bill C-4, which proposed amendments to the YCJA, was introduced in Parliament in March 2010 but died when a federal election was called a year later.
- **2011 Bill C-10**  
Bill C-10, the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*, included amendments to the YCJA that were previously proposed in Bill C-4. It was introduced in September 2011 and received Royal Assent in March 2012.
- **2012 YCJA amendments in force**  
The amendments to the YCJA in Bill C-10 came into force on October 23, 2012. For information regarding the 2012 amendments, please see the fact sheet "Recent Changes to Canada's Youth Justice System."

