

Privilege

117. (1) Members of a provincial legislature and the province's permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces—
- (a) have freedom of speech in the legislature and in its committees, subject to its rules and orders; and
 - (b) are not liable to civil or criminal proceedings, arrest, imprisonment or damages for—
 - (i) anything that they have said in, produced before or submitted to the legislature or any of its committees; or
 - (ii) anything revealed as a result of anything that they have said in, produced before or submitted to the legislature or any of its committees.
- (2) Other privileges and immunities of a provincial legislature and its members may be prescribed by national legislation.
- (3) Salaries, allowances and benefits payable to members of a provincial legislature are a direct charge against the Provincial Revenue Fund.

Public access to and involvement in provincial legislatures

118. (1) A provincial legislature must—
- (a) facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature and its committees; and
 - (b) conduct its business in an open manner, and hold its sittings, and those of its committees, in public, but reasonable measures may be taken—
 - (i) to regulate public access, including access of the media, to the legislature and its committees; and
 - (ii) to provide for the searching of any person and, where appropriate, the refusal of entry to, or the removal of, any person.
- (2) A provincial legislature may not exclude the public, including the media, from a sitting of a committee unless it is reasonable and justifiable to do so in an open and democratic society.

Introduction of Bills

119. Only members of the Executive Council of a province or a committee or member of a provincial legislature may introduce a Bill in the legislature; but only the member of the Executive Council who is responsible for financial matters in the province may introduce a money Bill in the legislature.