



## RSS

**RSS** stands for **Rich Site Summary** or **Real Simple Syndication**. It is an XML-based format for content distribution in real time. RSS is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content, which users can subscribe to.

An RSS document, which is called a "**feed**," "**Web feed**," or "**channel**," contains either a summary of content from an associated Web site or the full text. RSS helps people stay up-to-date with their favourite Web sites in an automated manner instead of checking each one of them manually.

RSS content can be read using software called an "**RSS reader**," "**feed reader**" or an "**aggregator**." The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed's link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that begins the subscription process. The reader checks the user's subscribed feeds often for new content, downloading any updates that it finds.

### Examples and Resources

#### Government of Canada

- Canada News Centre  
<http://news.gc.ca/web/view/en/index.jsp?categoryid=12>
- Natural Resources Canada – News Room  
<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/media/rss-eng.php>
- Environment Canada – Canadian Hurricane Centre  
[http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/weather/hurricane/rss\\_e.html](http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/weather/hurricane/rss_e.html)
- National Research Council Canada – News and Highlights  
[http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/newsroom/help-rss\\_e.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/newsroom/help-rss_e.html)

#### Other

- RSS Specifications  
<http://www.rss-specifications.com/>
- News on feeds: Web-based aggregators  
<http://www.newsonfeeds.com/faq/aggregators>
- Radio Canada  
<http://www.radio-canada.ca/rss/index.asp>
- CBC  
<http://www.cbc.ca/rss/>

Note: All departments and agencies who choose to use social media tools should first contact their departmental experts regarding policy compliance, legal considerations, Official Languages, etc.