The Criminal Code is a federal statute that defines and regulates criminal offenses in Canada. It is a comprehensive legislative guide to criminal matters and is considered the definitive document on the subject of criminal law in Canada.

The Criminal Code is also known as the Criminal Code Act, an Act Respecting the Criminal Law. It is a code because it “codifies” most criminal offences and procedures in Canada. In legal terms, this means collecting and restating the law of a jurisdiction in certain areas, usually by subject, forming a legal code.

The Criminal Code was first created in 1892 and is updated regularly to reflect changes in society. It is available in four formats: HTML, XML, PDF, and Braille. It is 300,000 words long and is divided into multiple parts and covers various topics including:

- Offences against the person
- Offences against property
- Offences against the administration of law and justice
- Sexual offences
- Terrorism offences
- Hate propaganda offences

The Criminal Code defines misconduct that constitutes criminal offences, sets out rules for how people can be found guilty of crimes, including conduct that corporations and other organizations may be found guilty of, establishes the kind and degree of punishment that may be imposed on someone convicted of an offence, and describes the powers and procedures to be followed for investigation and prosecution of an offence.

To find the latest version of the Criminal Code and more information about it, visit JUSTICE.GC.CA.