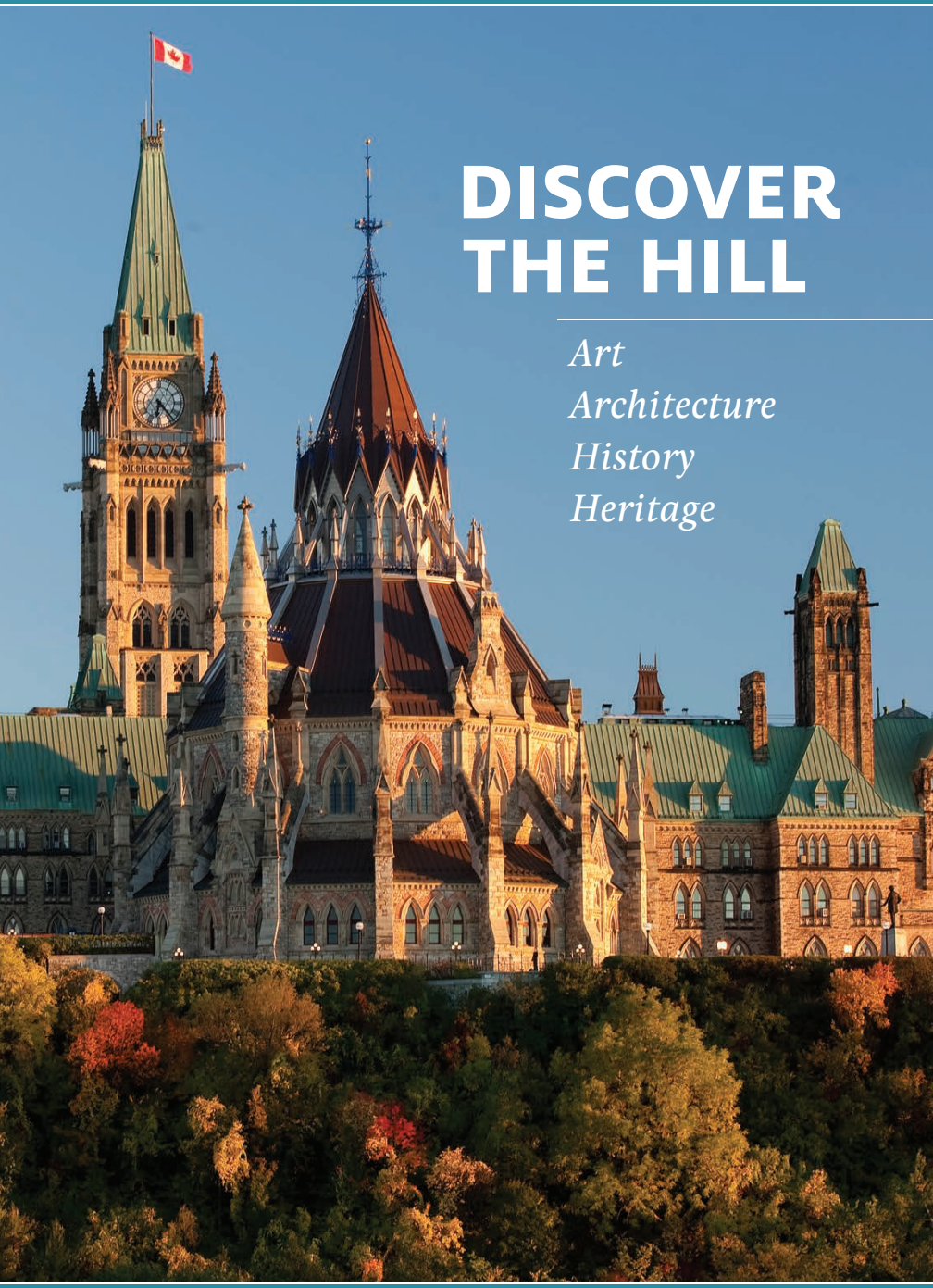
OUTDOOR SELF-GUIDING BOOKLET



DISCOVER THE HILL

Art
Architecture
History
Heritage

Canadian Heritage | Patrimoine canadien

Canada



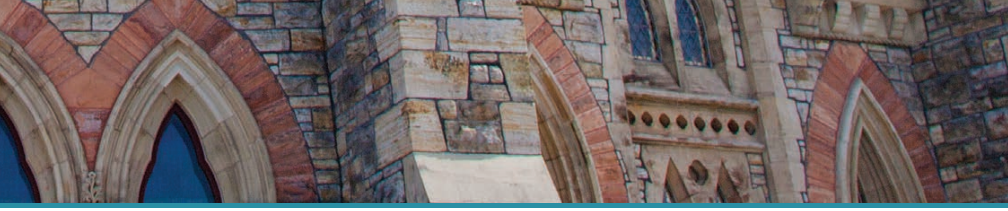
Welcome to Parliament Hill

Parliament Hill is the home of Canadian democracy and a symbol of national pride. It is the heart of Canada's federal government, where elected members of Parliament and appointed senators from across the country meet to make laws that affect the lives of every Canadian. And it is much more! Parliament Hill is where you can explore figures, events and achievements that have shaped the country's past and will influence its present and future. Look closely and you can uncover a rich and fascinating image of Canada: its people, its history and its culture.

The planning and construction of the buildings, monuments and landscapes of Parliament Hill began in 1859. Since then, the Hill has evolved to reflect the needs of a growing and ever-changing country. When you're on the Hill, it's clear that the transformation continues. The evidence is all around you!

This self-guiding booklet will help you discover Parliament Hill. About 1.5 million visitors come each year to discover this unique site in the heart of the Capital. A place of work, a place to meet and a place of leisure, Parliament Hill has come to both symbolize and celebrate the great nation it serves.

Canadian Heritage acknowledges that Parliament Hill is located on traditional Algonquin territory.



Pìjàshig Wàbishkìwe Onàkonigewogamigong Pasàbikahigan Pikwadinàng

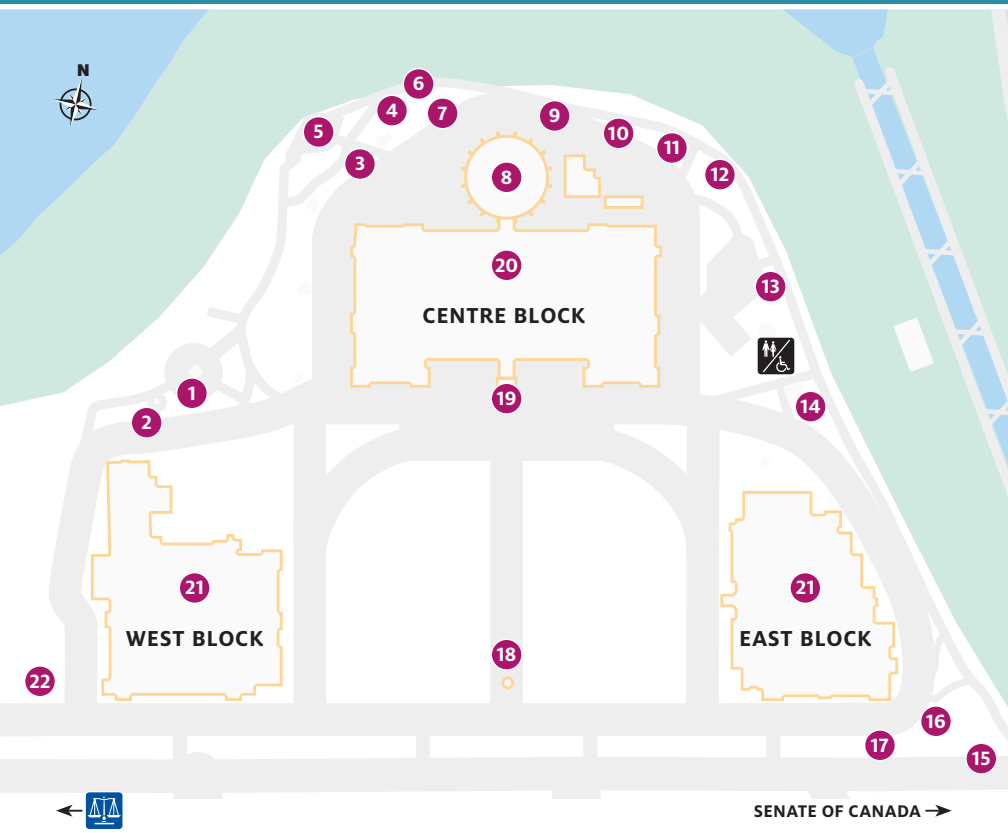
Wàbishkìwe onàkonigewogamig Pasàbikahiganing eji tewàdj Kanadà pemàdizidjig ojigìjwe inàkonigewin kechi apìtenindàgwak. Mì indaje eji nìgànì odeyiwang wàbishkìwe ogimà onàkonigewin, ogog kà asiganiwidjig kidji nìgànigàbawiwàdj kakina Kanadàng, màmandoseg kidji ojitòwàdj tibahigewini inàkonigewinan ondje kakina pemàdizidjig Kanadàng. Kaye awashamenj! Indaje Pasàbikahiganing anòdj kegon kidà wàbandàn pìyàbiko keshàwàdjichiganan tànàsàb igodj, pimàdizìg, enikamigak, kaye ijichigewinan kà bi ijiwebag kaye ke wìdokàgemagak nongom ashidj ke bi ijiwebag nìgàn. Wewenind kagijigàbandaman kiminwàbandàn wayànidizì Kanada: weshkad kàbì ijiwebag ànikeyàdjimowining kaye pimàdjiwowining.

Iye inagòdàwewin kidji ombàkwanigàdeg kichi wìgiwàman, keshàwàdjichiganan kaye akì tedibàhì kidji kwenàdjichigàdeg Pasàbikahigani Pikwadin kì màdji ondamitànàniwan 1859 kichà agindàsowin. Eko tash iyà apìch iye Pikwadinàng kakina kà bi màdjìshkàn inàkonigewinan kàgige ani àndjise ked ani minobideg ondje pemàdizidjig ondaje tanakìwining. Apìch taniziyen indaje Pikwadinàng, nàgwad wewenind àndjisewin. Kakina wàkàhì nàgwad!

Iyo mazinahigàns kiga wìdokàgon kidji mawadishiwen Pasàbikahiganing. Kedjishk 1.5 ayàndaso mìn mewadishiwedjig tagoshinog endaso pibòng kidji pi wàbandamowàdj menonàgwak eji odeyiwang nìgànì Kichi Odenaw. Odamitànàniwan, nagishkodàdiwin. Pasàbikahigan Pikwadin minowànigozìmagad ondje kakina eji wìdokàzowemagak.

Kanada Mànewayagizìg ogì kenindànawà ondaje Pasàbikahiganing Pikwadin ate Kichi weshkad Anishinàbewakì, Anishinàbewakìwang.





PROPOSED TOUR ROUTE

Feel free to wander at your leisure. The numbers identify the many statues and points of interest found on the Hill. Enjoy!

Due to construction work, statues may be relocated and some points of interest may be temporarily inaccessible.

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
Early May to the end of August:
on a continuing basis.
September to April:
by appointment only.

WASHROOMS
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PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Canada's Parliament Buildings have served this country for a century and a half. A major construction project is now under way to rehabilitate and upgrade these national treasures so they may continue to serve for the next 150 years.



Public Services and Procurement Canada

The rehabilitation of the Centre Block.

RENEWAL OF PARLIAMENT HILL

At the heart of the activity is the Centre Block, the permanent home of the Senate and the House of Commons. This building is being rehabilitated to preserve its outstanding heritage elements, modernize outdated systems and ensure it remains secure and accessible to all.

Although the Centre Block is closed to the public, Parliament Hill remains open and Parliament continues to function. The Senate has moved to the newly restored and reopened Senate of Canada Building on Rideau Street. Members of Parliament now meet in a soaring, glass-roofed interim House of Commons, newly built within the West Block's inner courtyard. Both areas are open to the public for guided tours.

The West Block has been beautifully restored, inside and out, and its multicoloured stonework has been returned to its original splendour. Across the lawn, work has begun on the East Block. Its unique heritage elements, stone walls, towers and chimneys are also being restored, and its interior systems upgraded.

A new underground Visitor Welcome Centre connects the Centre Block and the West Block, providing a seamless, fully accessible and secure entryway to Parliament. In the coming years, the Visitor Welcome Centre will extend to the East Block.

Copper-Topped

The roofs of the Parliament Buildings were originally covered with multicoloured slate tiles. When the time came to replace them, more resistant copper panels were used. The green colour is the result of a chemical reaction caused by the copper coming into contact with oxygen and other weathering agents, such as rain and pollution. The metal turns slowly from bright copper, to brown, to a distinctive green.



Public Services and Procurement Canada

To learn more, visit canada.ca/parliamentary-precinct.

1 QUEEN VICTORIA (1819–1901): REIGNED 1837–1901

Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1901

During Queen Victoria's long reign, the nation of Canada was created, grew and flourished, with Ottawa as the capital that she had proclaimed. Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837, the same year that violent rebellions broke out in Upper and Lower Canada (today's Ontario and Quebec), with demands for a more democratic and responsible form of government. These rebellions prompted numerous reforms, including the unification of Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada. In 1857, a permanent capital for the province was needed, and Ottawa was chosen. Ten years later, Queen Victoria signed the *British North America Act* to create the Dominion of Canada, a self-governing nation within the British Empire, established through peaceful accord and negotiation.



Archives of Ontario, C 335-0-0-0-5, Royal Portraits Collection, ca.1860 ▶

Allegorical figures adorn many of the monuments found on Parliament Hill. These figures represent abstract ideas related to the achievements, character or principles of the person whom the monument commemorates. At the base of the monument to Queen Victoria, a young woman with windswept clothing presents a laurel wreath. Upon her head is a crown bearing the coats of arms of the provinces. This figure symbolizes the fledgling country of Canada. The figure of the lion standing next to her was included by the sculptor as a symbol of strength, guarding Canada, the flag and our national honour.





Library and Archives Canada, C-011047 (detail)

This is how the Hill likely appeared when Ottawa was chosen as capital in 1857.

CANADA'S CAPITAL

Ottawa was not always the beautiful city it is today. It was once a rough lumber town, where shanty houses lined the muddy streets. However, the city had distinct geographical advantages. It sat on the border between Canada East (Quebec) and Canada West (Ontario) and was home to both English- and French-speaking people. It was also reasonably far from the United States, against whom the British colonies in North America had fought in the War of 1812. Declared the capital of the Province of Canada in 1857, Ottawa was retained as a national capital after Confederation, 10 years later.



Library and Archives Canada, C-073703 (detail)

Lieutenant-Colonel John By surveys the construction of the Rideau Canal in 1826.



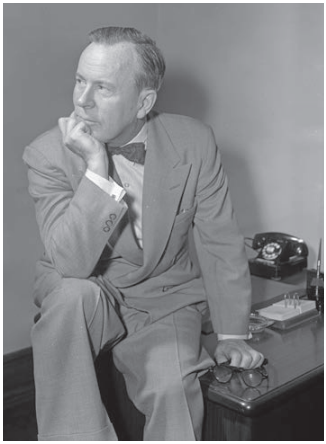
Topley Studio; Library and Archives Canada, C-001288

Looking west from Parliament Hill, ca. 1872–1874.

2 LESTER B. PEARSON (1897–1972): 14TH PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1963–1968

Danek Mozdzenski, 1990

Canada's image as a peaceful and compassionate nation was fostered at home and abroad by Lester B. Pearson. Prior to becoming prime minister, Pearson was an architect of the United Nations (UN) as well as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 1957, he won a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to create the UN peacekeeping force. His abilities as a leader and moderator enabled his minority government to establish the Canada Pension Plan, universal health care, and Royal Commissions to explore bilingualism, biculturalism and the status of women.



Library and Archives Canada, e007150486 ◀

This monument captures Pearson's casual and friendly nature.

The design of Canada's flag is linked to Canadian history and culture. Red and white were proclaimed Canada's national colours by King George V in 1921. The maple leaf has served as a symbol of Canada since the 1700s, and a red maple leaf has been used to identify Canadian Olympic athletes since 1904.

A Flag of Our Own



Duncan Cameron; Library and Archives Canada, PA-142624 ▼

Since the arrival of the first explorers from France in the 16th century, many different flags have been used to represent Canada. As the centennial of Confederation (1967) approached, Parliament increased its efforts to choose a new, distinctly Canadian flag. After years of debate and more than 300 passionate speeches in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Pearson rallied support for a flag — on February 15, 1965, the Maple Leaf was officially unfurled. Over the last 50 plus years, that flag has become a recognizable symbol throughout the world.

3 SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD (1815–1891): A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION, 1ST PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1867–1873 AND 1878–1891

Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1895

Sir John A. Macdonald was one of the driving forces behind Confederation in Canada, and served as the country's first prime minister.

Having entered politics in his early 20s, Macdonald was one of the leading politicians in the Province of Canada by the 1850s. Polarized and divided between Canada East (Quebec) and Canada West (Ontario), the province was caught in a political deadlock. Macdonald helped to break this stalemate with a vision of uniting British North America to encourage growth and development, protect French institutions, and keep the colonies safe from outside threats.

Macdonald campaigned tirelessly for Confederation and, when it came about, he was the natural choice to lead the nation. Under his government, Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island entered Confederation, and the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway's transcontinental line was hammered into the ground.



Library and Archives Canada, C-021604 (detail) ◀



This monument depicts Macdonald as if in response to another's presence, ready to engage in a spirited debate. Spectacles in one hand and notes in another, he conveys in his relaxed pose the swift mind, dazzling sense of humour and personal warmth for which he was known. At his feet lies a stack of documents, upon one of which is written "Consolidation of British America." Below him sits a youthful woman symbolizing Confederation. She holds the coat of arms attributed to Canada. Compare it with today's coat of arms, found here.



Alexander Ross; Library and Archives Canada, C-003693 (detail) ▶



David R. Spencer, 1986; Creative Commons ◀

In the construction of the transcontinental western line, the Rocky Mountains posed a formidable obstacle. At the Kicking Horse Pass in British Columbia, spiral tunnels were constructed to reduce the gradient of the descent — the railway looped through the mountain, doubled back, and emerged, running beneath itself. Trains over 85 cars long can therefore pass under themselves, as seen in this picture.



City of Ottawa Archives, CA-001350 ◀

The Dual Role of the Hill

From the outset, Parliament Hill was designed not just as a workplace for parliamentarians, but also as a place where everyone could come to meet, talk or just relax in a beautiful outdoor setting. Typical of the public gardens of the Victorian era, the grounds were furnished with benches, the ornamental Summer Pavilion, a gazebo and lookouts. At one time, the secluded Lovers' Walk hugged the cliffs of Parliament Hill. This popular path was eventually replaced by the scenic promenade that now follows the shoreline of the Ottawa River.

The contrast between the groomed landscape and the wild periphery remains an important characteristic of Parliament Hill, emphasizing its dual role as the seat of government and a public park.

4 SUMMER PAVILION



The Summer Pavilion forms part of the monument to Canadian police and peace officers. This ornamental summer house was originally constructed in 1877 by Thomas Seaton Scott, the first chief architect of Canada. It was intended for use as a summer retreat for the Speaker of the House of Commons and his family. In 1956, the building was demolished because of its poor condition. Almost 40 years later, a replica of the original summer house was built at the same location, thanks to a contribution from the Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, in memory of their fallen colleagues.

5 VICTORIA TOWER BELL





Library and Archives Canada, PA-173105 (detail) ▲

Shortly after striking midnight on the morning of February 4, 1916, the Victoria Tower Bell came crashing down into the inferno that had engulfed the Centre Block. All of the Centre Block was destroyed, with the exception of the Library of Parliament, saved in part by its heavy iron fire doors. The bell was later recovered from the ruins and put on display. The bell is mounted on an angle to symbolize its position when it came crashing down.

"The fire raged fiercely for hours. The main tower was not touched until about 11 p.m. and one of the most pathetic incidents of the night, which moved spectators, was the striking of the midnight hour by the old tower clock. There seemed almost a human touch as its familiar tones boomed out from the mass of flames."

—Deputy Minister of Public Works, 1916



Tom Alföldi

6 OTTAWA RIVER

Parliament Hill sits at the heart of Canada's Capital, overlooking a river that reflects many histories. To the Kichesipirini (an Algonquin people) who inhabit the region, it was, and still is, known as Kichi Zibi, meaning the Great River. The fur traders called it *la Grande Rivière du Nord* or the Great River of the North. Jesuit missionaries referred to it as *Outaouak*, *Outauas* or *Outaouais*, after the name of a local Algonquin people.



Courtesy of Toronto Public Library, JRR 1405

Take a few moments to imagine how the natural landscape might have appeared centuries ago: the lush Gatineau Hills, the majestic Ottawa River and the roaring Chaudière Falls.

7 THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE (1825–1868): A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION

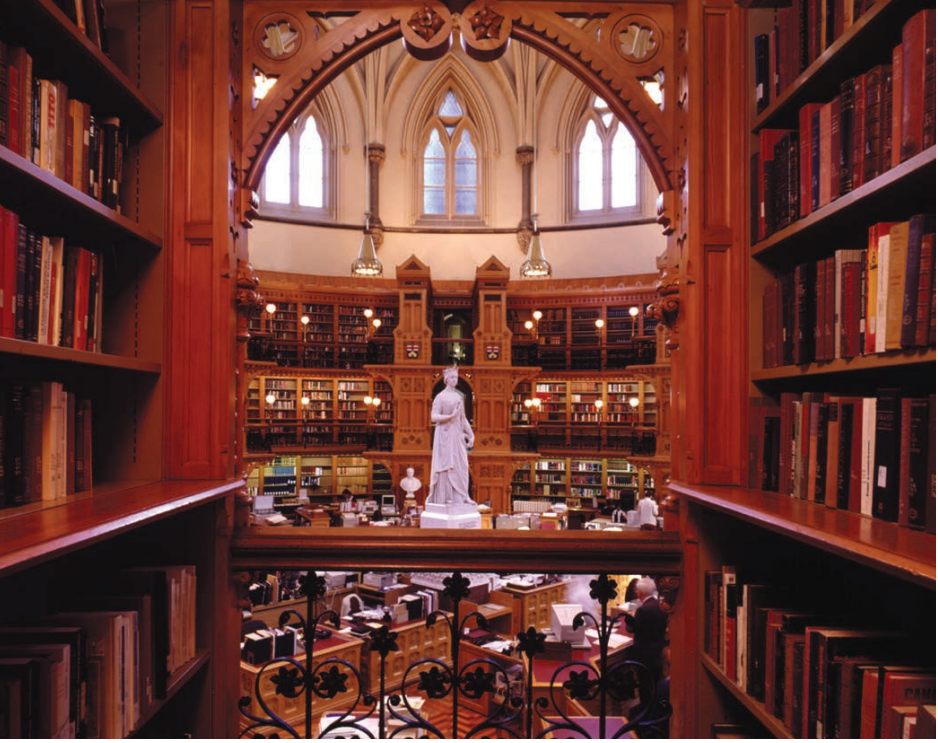
George William Hill, 1922

Author, poet and Father of Confederation Thomas D'Arcy McGee used his pen and his talent for public speaking to represent the interests of Irish Catholics and to help forge Confederation in Canada. McGee spoke out passionately against the Fenians, a group of Irish revolutionaries who would unsuccessfully invade Canada in 1866 and again in 1870. While returning to his Sparks Street lodgings in Ottawa in the early morning of April 7, 1868, McGee was shot and killed, likely by members of that group.



William Notman; Library and Archives Canada, C-016749

This monument portrays McGee delivering a speech, while an allegorical figure representing Memory listens below. Look at the scroll on her lap. It is inscribed with the word "Confederation."



Doug Millar, ©Library of Parliament

8 LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

The Library of Parliament preserves and protects Canada's legislative past. It ensures that senators and members of Parliament have immediate access to over half a million books and documents that will help to inform them on all matters of parliamentary concern. However, the library is more than a collection: it contributes to Canadian parliamentary democracy by creating and delivering non-partisan, reliable and relevant information to and about Parliament. During the renovations of the Centre Block, the Library's functions have been moved to other locations around the Capital.



Library and Archives Canada, PA-138522

Built between 1859 and 1876, the Library of Parliament is one of Canada's most extraordinary examples of Gothic Revival architecture. The Library underwent a major restoration from 2002 to 2006. The work, which affected both the interior and exterior of the building, was carried out by a firm owned by descendants of Thomas Fuller, one of the original architects of the Library.

9 SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER (1814–1873): A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION

Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1885

Sir George-Étienne Cartier was a champion of Confederation in Canada, helping to shape the country we know today. He attended the three pre-Confederation conferences in Charlottetown (1864), Québec City (1864) and London, England (1866), where he represented the interests of French Canadians in Quebec, winning them important rights, including the protection of their language and religion. Cartier promoted the federal system in Quebec and, after Confederation, assisted in bringing Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories into Canada.



This monument, unveiled in 1885, was the first erected on Parliament Hill. It shows Cartier holding a document inscribed with words from a speech he delivered in 1865, declaring the necessity of Confederation.

When Cartier died, his long-time political ally, Sir John A. Macdonald, wept when he announced his friend's death in the House of Commons.

Confederation



Artist: W.J.L. Gibbons, Library of Parliament, PA-001 ▲

On July 1, 1867, the Dominion of Canada was created when Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Province of Canada (today's Ontario and Quebec) joined to form a new country. The union, or Confederation, was debated and planned at a series of conferences held in Charlottetown and Québec City (1864) and in London, England (1866). The division of power and responsibilities agreed to by the men who attended these conferences, known as Fathers of Confederation, are set out in the British North America Act, *a foundational document of Canada's Constitution.*

Since 1867, the country has grown with the addition of new provinces and territories, beginning with Manitoba and the Northwest Territories in 1870 and concluding with Nunavut in 1999.

10 JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER (1895–1979): 13TH PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1957–1963

Leo Mol, 1986

In this monument, John G. Diefenbaker carries a folio bearing the inscription of his great legacy: the Canadian Bill of Rights. This document outlines the fundamental rights of individual Canadians and led to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is enshrined in today's Canadian Constitution.

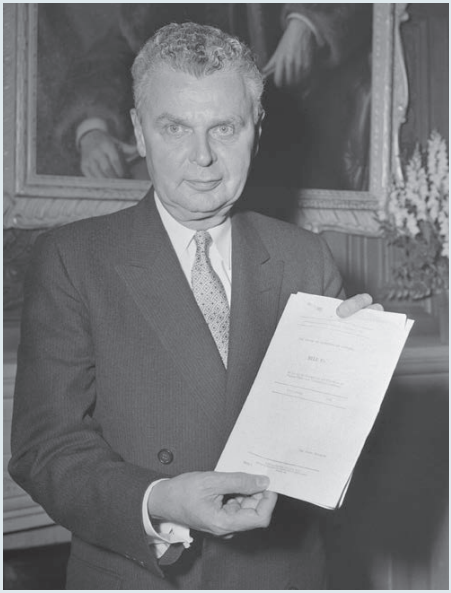




Louis Jaques, Library and Archives Canada, C-080883 ◀

Diefenbaker speaking in the House of Commons in 1948. He sat as a member of Parliament from 1940 until his death in 1979.

Our Rights and Freedoms



Duncan Cameron, Library and Archives Canada, PA-112659 ▶

It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely,

a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;
b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law;
c) freedom of religion;
d) freedom of speech;
e) freedom of assembly and association; and
f) freedom of the press.

—Canadian Bill of Rights, 1960, c. 44, Part I.

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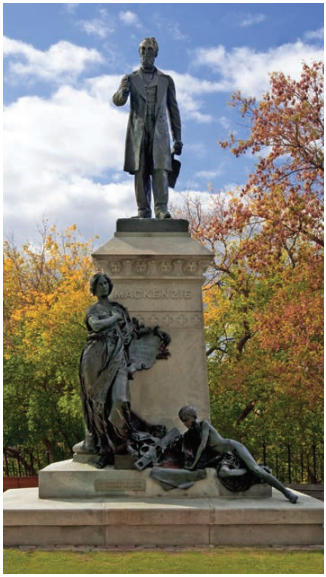
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Canada

11 ALEXANDER MACKENZIE (1822–1892): 2ND PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1873–1878

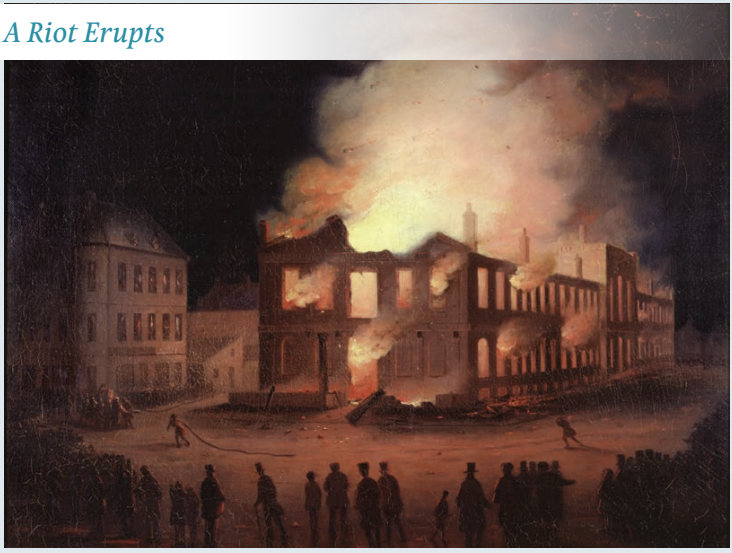
Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1901



Canada's second prime minister, Alexander Mackenzie, established the Supreme Court of Canada and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, and gave Canadians the right to a secret ballot.

This monument casts Mackenzie as a statesman and orator, holding a parchment and notebook in his left hand. A figure representing Probity, meaning honesty and integrity, stands below him. Her scroll reads: "Duty was his Law, and Conscience his Ruler." The figure of a youth is using a compass, in reference to Mackenzie's original vocation: he was trained as a stonemason, and was a builder and contractor before entering politics.

A Riot Erupts



The Burning of the Parliament Building in Montreal, McCord Museum, M11588 ▲

The Rebellion Losses Bill of 1849 was the first real test of responsible government. When it passed, rioters in Montréal, then the capital of the Province of Canada, set fire to the parliament building.

12 ROBERT BALDWIN (1804–1858) AND SIR LOUIS-HIPPOLYTE LAFONTAINE (1807–1864)

Walter S. Allward, 1914

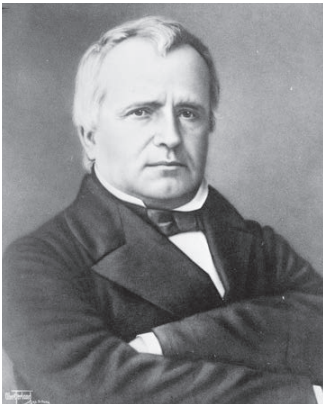
Through the spirit of co-operation, Robert Baldwin and Sir Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine helped to establish responsible government in Upper and Lower Canada. This principle is a pillar of Canadian democracy, requiring the government to have the support of the elected assembly (House of Commons) on all the bills it proposes. Without this support, the government must resign. Another political party, or coalition, would then be asked to form the government, or a general election would be called.

In this monument, Baldwin and LaFontaine are engaged in an intimate discussion. Carved below are the dates of their "Great Ministry" (1848–1851), when the two men spearheaded the adoption of responsible government.



Library and Archives Canada, C-031493

Robert Baldwin



Library and Archives Canada, C-005961

Sir Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine

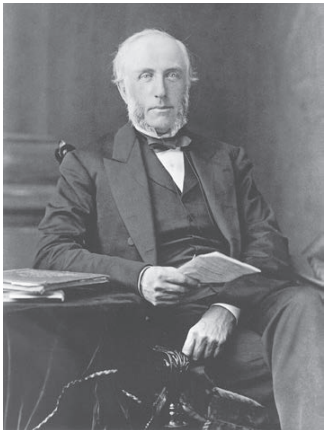
The figures of Upper Canada (left) and Lower Canada (right) face each other from opposite ends of the pedestal known as the "whispering wall." With one person at the carved mace (the symbol for government) on one side, and another at the sword (the symbol for justice), you can face the wall and talk to each other in nothing more than a whisper.



13 GEORGE BROWN (1818–1880): A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION

George William Hill, 1913

Father of Confederation George Brown was a newspaper editor and politician. In Toronto, he founded a newspaper advocating responsible government. The *Globe* (known today as *The Globe and Mail*) became one of Canada's most important dailies. During the 1860s, Brown dedicated himself to the cause of Confederation. He played an important role during the pre-Confederation conferences, addressing delegates in Charlottetown and Québec City about the judiciary and the roles of provincial and federal governments.



Hunter & Co., Library and Archives Canada, C-009553

In this monument, Brown appears as a debater, with all the vigour and determination that characterized his career. The figure of a workman, symbolizing public affection, sits below and holds a sword above a ballot box and a scroll. This scroll is engraved with the ideals that Brown fought to achieve and that, to this day, help define Canada: "government by the people, free institutions, religious liberty and equality, unity, and progress of Confederation."

The Partisan Press

Back in the days when Brown was chief editor of the Globe*, it was common for a newspaper to be directly affiliated with a political party. In the case of the* Globe*, it served as the voice of a new party of reformers, called the Clear Grits.*

This practice of a partisan press changed when the Canadian Press news service joined the Parliamentary Press Gallery in the 1900s, at which time it started to produce unbiased stories to sell to the media worldwide. Readers came to expect a certain level of objectivity from their press — although political bias can still be inferred in the editorials of most major Canadian news media.



Library and Archives Canada, C-072927

In 1880, a disgruntled former *Globe* employee, George Bennett, entered Brown's office and shot him in the leg during a struggle. The wound, thought to be minor, became infected and led to Brown's death.

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Canada



14 CANADIAN POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

The Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial commemorates Canadian law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty since 1804. This includes police officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), provincial and municipal police services, and peace officers from organizations such as Parks Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and other provincial or federal law enforcement officers. These brave men and women sacrificed their lives protecting Canada's communities, as well as its aquatic and natural life, its oceans, forests, borders, national parks and historic sites. The inscription on a stainless-steel panel at the memorial site includes the words: "They are our heroes. We shall not forget them."

A DAY TO HONOUR THEM

On September 24, 1998, the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday in September each year as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day. In announcing the commemorative day, the Solicitor General of Canada stated that "a formal, national Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police officers and peace officers, who make the ultimate, tragic sacrifice to keep our communities safe." On this day, thousands of police and peace officers and members of the public gather on Parliament Hill to pay their respects to colleagues and loved ones who died in service to Canada.

15 WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING (1874–1950): 10TH PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1921–1926, 1926–1930 AND 1935–1948

Raoul Hunter, 1968

Under Canada's longest-serving prime minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King, the nation came of age, with new social policies and a stronger national identity. King led Canada through the second half of the Great Depression and the Second World War, leaving a legacy that includes the family allowance, old age pensions and employment insurance. During the war, the country was transformed into a manufacturing powerhouse and a training ground for Commonwealth air forces. Some 1.1 million people, more than 10 per cent of the population, served in uniform.



Artist: Sir William Orpen; Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1996-116-35 ◄
William Lyon Mackenzie King Collection, Laurier House (detail)

King's career in politics spanned almost 50 years, with nearly 22 of those as prime minister. Because of this, the artist chose to convey in this monument King's strength of character and resilience, rather than depict him at one specific moment.

BIRTH OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

King also initiated the *Canadian Citizenship Act*, which came into force on January 1, 1947. Prior to this act, Canadians were considered British subjects. The act helped shape a more unified national identity by conferring a common Canadian citizenship on all Canadians.



Chris Lund, National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque, Library and Archives Canada, PA-197418 (detail) ►

At a historic ceremony held on January 3, 1947, in the Supreme Court of Canada, King received the first Canadian citizenship certificate. Today, citizenship is granted to approximately 160,000 new Canadians each year.

16 SIR WILFRID LAURIER (1841–1919): 7TH PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1896–1911

Joseph-Émile Brunet, 1927

Sir Wilfrid Laurier casts his gaze from Parliament Hill onto the modern Canada and Capital he helped to create. A gifted orator, Laurier inspired Canadians to believe in a distinguished future for the nation. His achievements included a vigorous immigration policy to help development in the west, agricultural and industrial progress, and the admission into Confederation of a new territory, Yukon, as well as two new provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan.



Library and Archives Canada, C-008103

"Canada has been modest in its history, although its history in my estimation is only commencing. It is commencing in this century. The nineteenth century was the century of the United States. I think we can claim that Canada will fill the twentieth century."
—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1904

A Capital in the Making

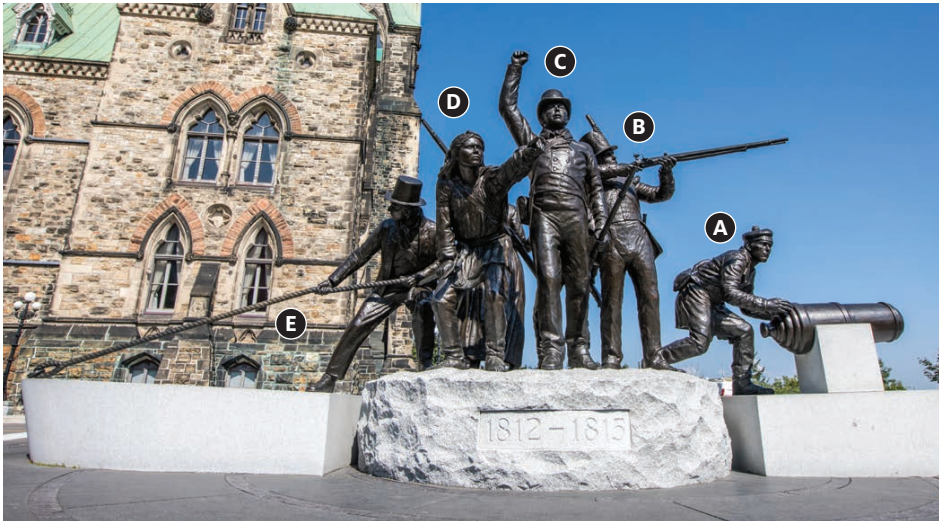


Library and Archives Canada, PA-139242

Imagine this view in Laurier's time. A jumbled series of train tracks leads to Union Station (now the Senate of Canada Building) and the Château Laurier. Laurier is responsible for making Ottawa a true capital that all Canadians can look upon with pride. He created the Ottawa Improvement Commission in 1899 to beautify and plan the Capital.

17 WAR OF 1812 MONUMENT, *TRIUMPH THROUGH DIVERSITY*

Adrienne Alison, 2014



The War of 1812 Monument is a lasting tribute to the courage and bravery of those who served their country and successfully defended their land from the American invasion.

The monument is named *Triumph Through Diversity* to underline the combined efforts of people from various walks of life who fought on land and water: a Métis fighter firing a cannon A, a British Army regular aiming a musket B, a Canadian militiaman raising his arm in triumph C, a First Nations warrior pointing to the distance D, a Royal Navy sailor pulling a rope E and a woman bandaging the arm of a Voltigeur F.

Notice the base on which the seven figures are standing. The rough-hewn plinth represents the ruggedness of the land in the 1800s. As for the two granite boat-shaped pieces, they recall the maritime theatre of war.





18 CENTENNIAL FLAME

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson ignited the Centennial Flame on the evening of December 31, 1966, to commemorate Canada's 100th anniversary of Confederation. Natural gas feeds the flame, which dances above the flowing water.

Surrounding the flame are the bronze shields of each of the provinces and territories, as well as their floral symbols and the date that the province or territory joined Confederation. To mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the symbols of Nunavut were added in 2017, and the flame was relit by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.



19 PEACE TOWER

The Peace Tower was built from 1919 to 1927 and is dedicated to the more than 65,000 Canadian soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War. Standing 92.2 metres (over 302 feet) tall, it contains the Memorial Chamber, a commemoration to those who died in military service for Canada.

Unlike the Victoria Tower, which it replaced, the Peace Tower is a campanile, a free-standing bell tower. In addition to the bells that chime every quarter hour, it houses the carillon, a set of bells sounded from a keyboard found in a small room located midway up the tower. The 53 bells in the Peace Tower carillon are of all different sizes. The largest is called the "bourdon" and weighs 10,090 kilograms (22,245 pounds) — that's roughly the weight of three adult male African elephants! The smallest bell weighs a mere 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds).

The smaller bells are sounded from a keyboard struck with a lightly closed fist. The larger bells are controlled by the carillonneur's feet on a pedal board.



Library and Archives Canada, PA-043796 ▲



20 CENTRE BLOCK

The Centre Block is the traditional home of the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament. Since before Confederation, this is where national issues have been considered, and where legislation has been introduced, debated and passed into law. The building, which was rebuilt after the fire of 1916 to be larger and more functional, was reopened in 1920.

In 2019, the Centre Block closed for a major restoration and renovation project that will take several years to complete. This construction project is the largest to take place on Parliament Hill since 1920. During the closure, the House of Commons and the Senate are housed elsewhere, and the work of representing the concerns and perspectives of Canadians is happening in other buildings. The 338 members of Parliament now sit in the West Block, while the 105 senators gather off the Hill.



Marc Fowler; © Library of Parliament

Senate Chamber



Roy Grogan; © Library of Parliament

House of Commons



Karen Cooper; © Library of Parliament

Hall of Honour



Library and Archives Canada, C-003760

We've Come a Long Way

Take a close look at this picture and compare it with the Centre Block standing today. It certainly is different from the building shown in this photograph taken in 1880. Although the appearance of Parliament Hill may have changed, Canadians still gather here, as they have done for more than 150 years, to discuss, debate, define, decide and celebrate.



Ottawa Tourism ▲

A SHAMEFUL HISTORY, A NEW BEGINNING

Indian Residential Schools operated in Canada for more than 160 years, and over 150,000 children were forced to attend them. Run by churches, but supported and funded by the federal government, they were schools in name only. Their aim was to remove Indigenous children from their communities and assimilate them into Euro-Canadian society. The damage done to students and families caused deep wounds that have been passed from generation to generation.

The last residential school shut its doors in 1996. In 2008, then Prime Minister Stephen Harper stood in the House of Commons and, on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, apologized to former students of Indian Residential Schools. In his speech, the prime minister recognized the lasting harm done to Indigenous peoples. In 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau extended the apology to survivors in Newfoundland and Labrador.

TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

Following the apology, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) heard and recorded the stories of more than 6,000 witnesses. In 2015, the Commission issued a report of its findings. Included are 94 Calls to Action that lay the foundation for reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and Canadians.

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

Reconciliation is a process of moving towards a new and equal relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people that is based on mutual respect. It will empower Indigenous peoples to restore their languages and cultures. Indigenous peoples and Indigenous points of view will no longer be marginalized in Canada, but valued and respected.

To learn more about the TRC and the Calls to Action, visit trc.ca.

21 EAST BLOCK AND WEST BLOCK



East Block

The East and West blocks were initially built to house all of the ministries and federal public servants. However, the country expanded so rapidly that, by 1883, the government had already outgrown the buildings. The space required for senators and members of Parliament, as well as their staff, spread from the Centre Block to the East and West blocks, and further. The ministries in turn expanded to offices found all over Canada's Capital Region and beyond.

During the closure of the Centre Block, the West Block is the temporary home of the House of Commons.

The outer walls of the Parliament Buildings are made primarily of local Nepean sandstone, a porous stone that reacts with the pollution in the air. Once a pale beige colour, the stones have turned black over the years. Compare the stones of the restored West Block to the stones of the East Block.



Grotesque ▲▼



Salamander boss ▼



For Architecture Lovers

Notice the similarity in style between the East and West blocks. Both were constructed in the 1860s and are examples of High Victorian Gothic architecture. This style is characterized by multiple pointed arches, stones of irregular shape and tone, and intricate masonry and stone carvings.

The more you look at the Parliament Buildings, the more detail you can discover, including the wonderful decorative carvings of strange animals and forms, called grotesques, which stare right back at you.

22 SIR ROBERT BORDEN (1854–1937): 8TH PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, 1911–1920

Frances Loring, 1957

Sir Robert Borden led Canada through the First World War, and saw the country emerge more autonomous and with a new sense of nationhood. His term as prime minister was significant. Although conscription divided the country, nearly 620,000 men and women served during the war. Of those, more than 65,000 were killed. On the home front, the first personal income tax was levied and, for the first time, women were eligible to vote in a federal election.

Borden fought to ensure that Canada's outstanding contribution during the First World War brought international recognition.



In this monument, Borden is shown carrying a document to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, where he won a voice for Canada, both as a part of the British Empire and as an emerging nation in world affairs.



Library and Archives Canada, PA-002746

Canadian troops marching past Borden, in France, July 1918.

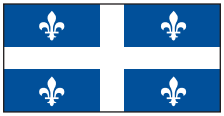
NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL FLAGS OF CANADA


Canada


New Brunswick (1867)


Nova Scotia (1867)


Ontario (1867)


Quebec (1867)


Manitoba (1870)


Northwest Territories (1870)


British Columbia (1871)


Prince Edward Island (1873)


Yukon (1898)


Alberta (1905)


Saskatchewan (1905)


Newfoundland and Labrador (1949)


Nunavut (1999)

Dates in parentheses represent the year the province or territory joined Confederation.

INFORMATION

For information about tours of the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada, and to reserve tour tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**.

For general information, drop by the Capital Information Kiosk (90 Wellington Street), call **1-844-878-8333** or **1-888-997-3123** (TTY), or visit the Canadian Heritage website at **canada.ca/capital-of-canada**.

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

CONTINUE YOUR DISCOVERY

Make exploring the grounds of Parliament Hill just the start of your discovery. Here's how!

ACTIVITIES	SPRING/SUMMER	FALL/WINTER
Guided tour of the Centre Block (West Block)	To view available tour times and to reserve tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**	To view available tour times and to reserve tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**
Guided tour of the East Block	To view available tour times and to reserve tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**	—
Guided tour of the Senate (Senate of Canada Building)	To view available tour times and to reserve tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**	To view available tour times and to reserve tickets, go to **visit.parl.ca**
Outdoor guided tour	June 22 to Labour Day	—
Carillon recital by the Dominion Carillonneur	**May and June** Weekdays only: noon to 12:15 p.m. **July and August** Weekdays only: 11 a.m. to noon	**September to April** Weekdays only: noon to 12:15 p.m.
Public galleries of the Senate and House of Commons	**When Parliament is sitting**	**When Parliament is sitting**
Changing the Guard ceremony	**End of June to end of August**	—
Canada Day celebrations	**July 1**	—
Northern Lights (sound and light show)	**July 9 to September 8**	—
Christmas Lights	—	**Beginning of December to beginning of January**

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Tom Thomson, The Jack Pine (detail), 1916–1917, NGC / MBAC, Ottawa

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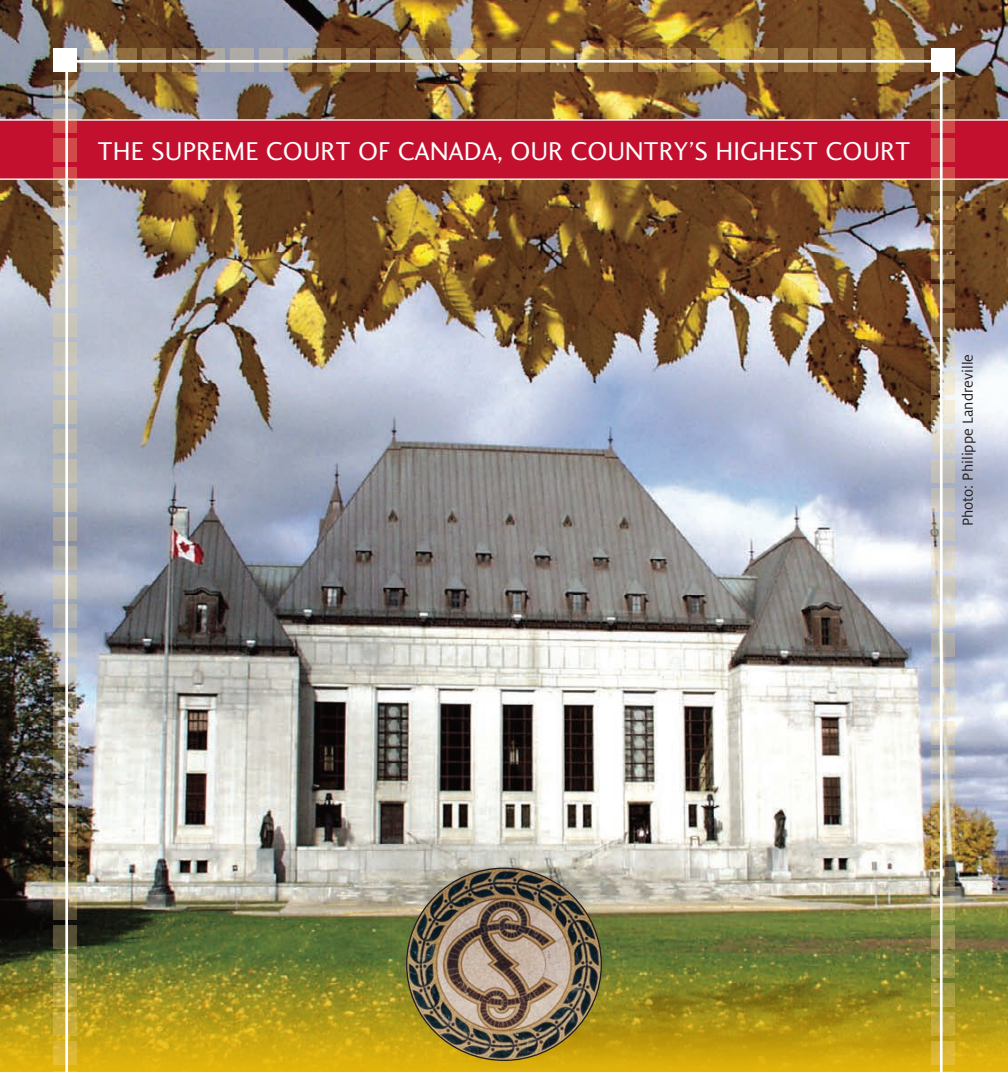


Photo: Philippe Landreville

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NORTHERN LIGHTS

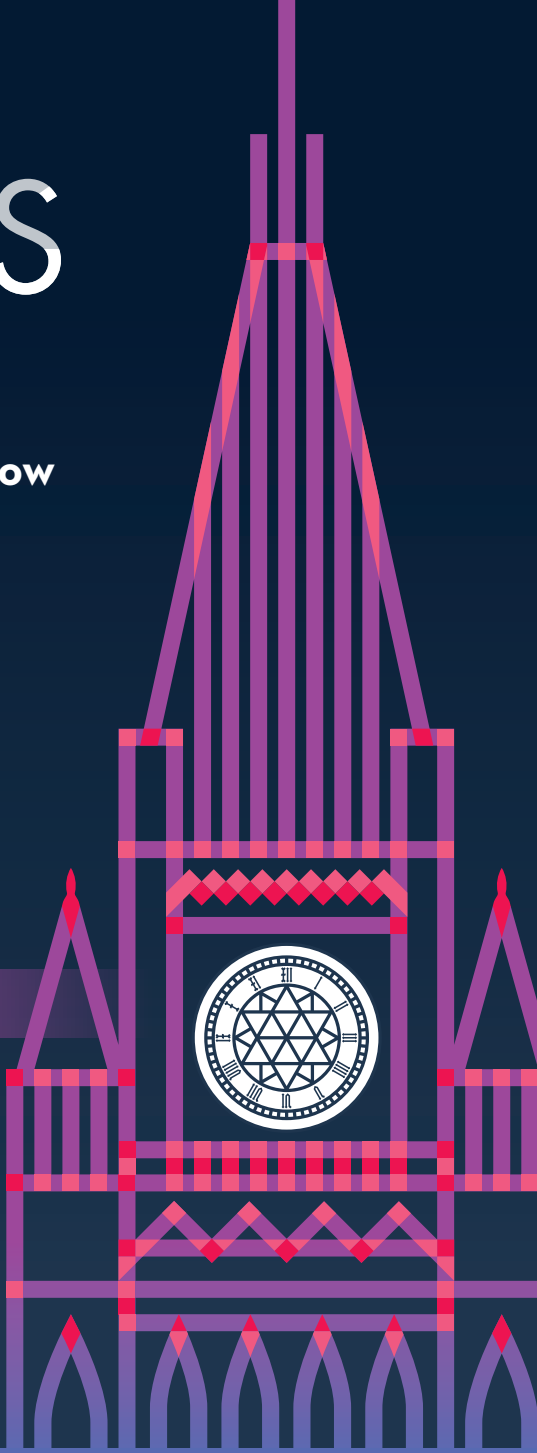
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