



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

Groupe canadien
d'étude des parlements

**Conference
The Crown and Parliament**

Friday, May 23, 2014
From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Room B

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:05 a.m. **Historical Evolution of the Relationship
between the Crown and Parliament**

This presentation examines how the relationship between the Crown and Parliament developed over time, from the Magna Carta to today. Focussing on key events marking Parliament's supremacy over the Crown, this presentation traces the evolution of the United Kingdom Constitution and the Westminster-style parliamentary system.

André Émond, Professor
Laurentian University

David E. Smith, Distinguished Visiting Professor
Ryerson University

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. **The Crown and the Legislative Process:
Royal Assent, Royal Recommendation, Royal Consent**

The Queen is one of the three constituent elements of Parliament, and her representative, the Governor General, is directly involved in the legislative process by assenting to bills passed by both houses of Parliament. The Constitution and the rules of parliamentary procedure also provide the Crown with rights giving it control over the entire legislative process. This presentation looks at the origins and content of the various constitutional requirements and rules of procedure that guarantee the government its dominant role within Parliament.

John Mark Keyes, Professor
Faculty of law (Common Law Section)
University of Ottawa

Charles Robert, Principal Clerk
Chamber Operations and Procedure Office
Senate of Canada

Rob Walsh, former Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons

12:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch



1:00 p.m.

Consulting Parliament before exercising a Prerogative

For several years now, the House of Commons has been involved in decisions regarding the use of royal prerogatives, such as treaty prerogatives, military deployments and the appointment of Supreme Court justices and Officers of Parliament. This is seen as a natural and important development for Canada's democracy. Giving the House a voice on these issues lends greater legitimacy to decisions of the executive and gives MPs the opportunity to express the will of the people on highly important issues. However, some critics would argue that consulting the House before exercising prerogatives might diminish executive accountability and limit the government's flexibility and discretion.

Carissima Mathen, Associate Professor
Faculty of law (Common Law Section)
University of Ottawa

LCol Alexander Bolt, Director
Directorate of International and Operational Law
Office of the Judge Advocate General

Paul Benoit, Vice-Chairman
Canadian Royal Heritage Trust

2:20 p.m. Break

2:35 p.m.

The Crown and Canada's Constitution – Contemporary Issues

The Crown lies at the very heart of Canada's Constitution; the Queen or her federal or provincial representatives, the Governor General and lieutenant-governors, are at the apex of the executive and are a vital component of the federal parliament and provincial legislatures. Despite the Crown's omnipresence in Canadian institutions, its status and role remain a mystery for a large segment of the Canadian population. The expert panel will explore selected contemporary issues regarding the status and role of the Crown in Canada's parliamentary system.

Christopher McCreery, Private Secretary and Executive Director
Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Philippe Lagassé, Associate Professor
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Ottawa

Mark D. Walters, Professor
Faculty of Law
Queen's University

3:55 p.m. Concluding Remarks