

Discover the Hill

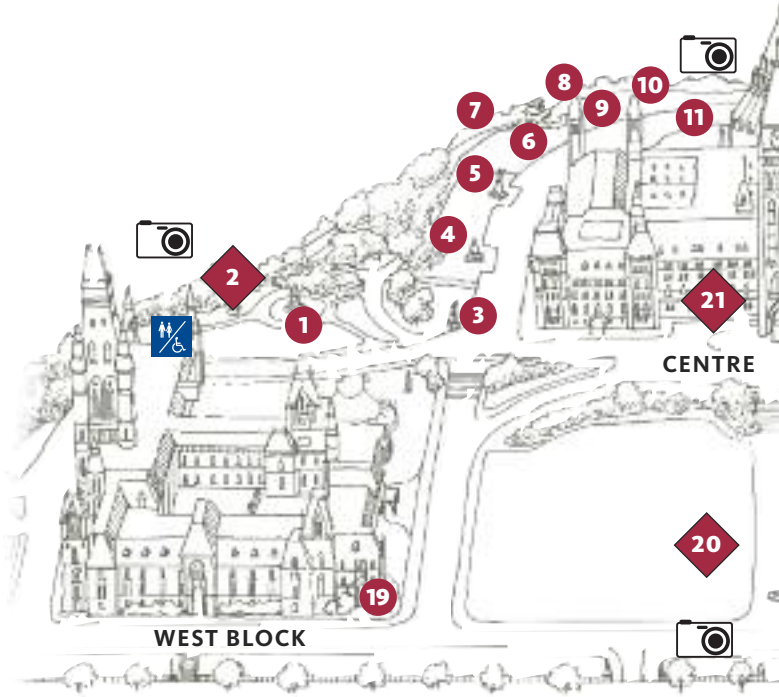
Outdoor Self-Guiding Booklet



CANADA'S CAPITAL REGION: CANADIAN, JUST LIKE YOU.

Capitale 

The Symbolic Heart of Canada



Supreme Court of Canada

Early May to the end of August:
on a continuous basis.
September to April: by appointment only.
See the advertisement on the
back cover.



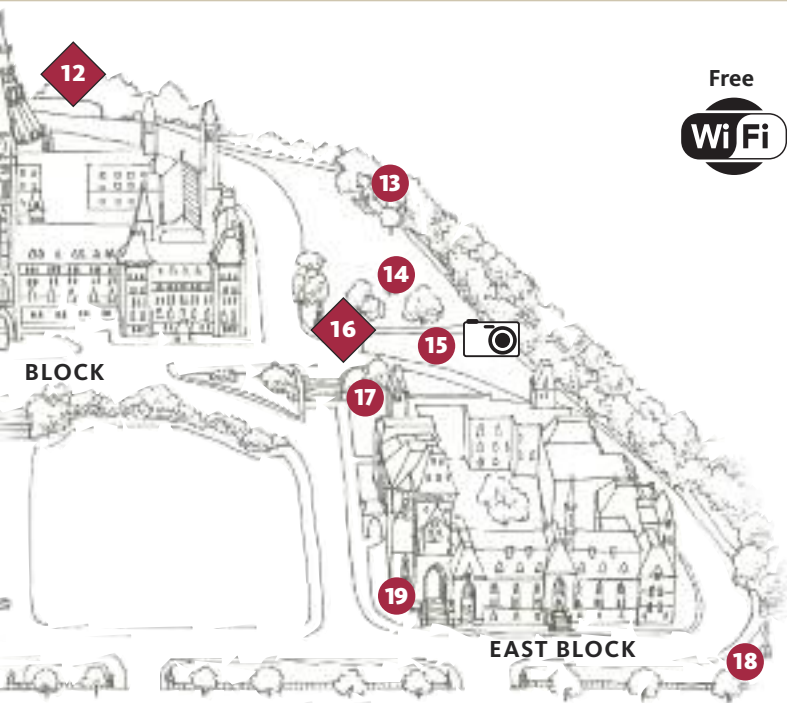
Washrooms

(universal access)

Proposed Tour Route

1. Queen Victoria	p. 4	7. Police and Peace Officers' Memorial	p. 10
2. Lester B. Pearson	p. 6	8. The Summer Pavilion	p. 11
3. Sir George-Étienne Cartier	p. 7	9. Sir Robert Borden	p. 12
4. Alexander Mackenzie	p. 8	10. The Victoria Bell	p. 13
5. George Brown	p. 9	11. Thomas D'Arcy McGee	p. 13
6. John G. Diefenbaker	p. 9	12. The Library of Parliament	p. 14

Feel free to wander at your leisure. The numbers identify the



Must See

Have only 30 minutes to discover Parliament Hill? We suggest visiting these five essential stops.

Photo Ops

The Hill is filled with great places to take photographs. These are some of the best.

- 13. Robert Baldwin and Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine p. 16
- 14. Queen Elizabeth II p. 17
- 15. *Women Are Persons!* p. 18
- 16. Sir John A. Macdonald p. 19
- 17. William Lyon Mackenzie King p. 20
- 18. Sir Wilfrid Laurier p. 21

- 19. The East Block and West Block p. 22
- 20. The Centennial Flame p. 23
- 21. The Centre Block and the Peace Tower p. 25

PHOTO CREDIT: (COVER) SARAH O'NEILL
ALL PHOTOS USED IN THE BOOKLET ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE NCC, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

many statues and points of interest found on the Hill. Enjoy!

A Capital Tour at Your Fingertips!

Download the free
mobile application.

CAPITAL TOURS

iOS • BlackBerry • Android

canadascapital.gc.ca/mobile



Capitale 

CANADA'S CAPITAL REGION
LA RÉGION DE LA CAPITALE DU CANADA



Welcome to Parliament Hill

Parliament Hill is the home of Canadian democracy and a proud national symbol. It is the heart of Canada's federal government, where representatives 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 continue to influence its present and future. Look closely and you can uncover an image of Canada, its people, history and culture.

The planning and construction of the buildings, monuments and landscapes of Parliament Hill began in 1859. Since then, the Hill has changed and evolved to reflect the needs of a growing and modern country. The Hill is home to Canada's federal government and, today, welcomes close to one and a half million visitors each year. A place of work, a place to meet and a place of leisure, Canada's Parliament Hill has come to both symbolize and celebrate the great nation it serves.

This self-guiding booklet is designed to help you discover Parliament Hill. From mid-May to Labour Day, you might also come across guide-interpreters. They will be happy to chat with you to help further your discovery. You can also go to **canadascapital.gc.ca/mobile** and download our free guided tour app for Parliament Hill.



1 **Queen Victoria** (1819–1901): Reigned 1837–1901

During Queen Victoria's long reign, the nation of Canada was created, grew and flourished, with a capital at Ottawa 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.

ALLEGORICAL FIGURES

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 monument to Queen Victoria, a young woman with windswept clothes presents a laurel wreath. Upon her head is a crown bearing the coats of arms of the provinces. This allegorical figure symbolizes the fledgling country of Canada. The figure of the lion standing next to her was included by the sculptor, Louis-Philippe Hébert, as a symbol of strength, guarding Canada, the flag and our national honour.

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.



LOOK INTO THE PAST

Imagine that it is the year 1826. Parliament Hill is a military camp called Barrack Hill. It is occupied by Colonel John By and the Royal Engineers, who are building the Rideau Canal. This is how the Hill likely appeared when Ottawa was chosen as capital in 1857.



2

Lester B. Pearson (1897–1972):
14th Prime Minister of Canada,
1963–1968

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.

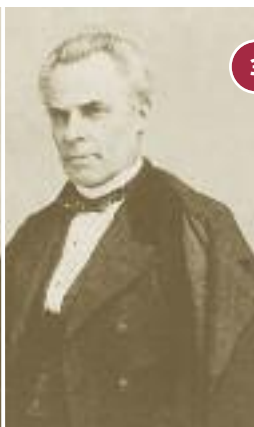
His abilities as a leader and moderator enabled his minority government to establish the Canada Pension Plan, universal health care, and commissions to explore bilingualism, biculturalism and the status of women. This monument captures Pearson's casual and friendly nature. Go ahead and rub his left shoe for good luck. Notice how this tradition has made it shinier than the rest of the monument.



A FLAG OF OUR OWN — February 15, 1965

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. In 1965, after years of debate, and more than 300 passionate speeches in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Pearson rallied support for a flag that has become a recognizable symbol the world over.

The design of Canada's flag is linked to Canadian history and culture. Red and white were proclaimed as 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. The 11-point design of the Canadian flag's maple leaf was chosen because the points of the leaf seem to multiply as the wind increases. If a more realistic 23-point leaf was used, it would become an unrecognizable red blur in the wind.

**3**

Sir George-Étienne Cartier

(1814–1873): A Father of Confederation

Sir George-Étienne Cartier was a champion of Confederation in Canada, helping to shape the country we know today. He acted as a co-premier of the coalition government that led up to the adoption of Confederation, and was instrumental in promoting the federal system in Quebec. He later assisted in bringing Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories into Canada. In this monument, Cartier gestures to a document inscribed with words from a speech he delivered in Québec

City in 1865. This was the first monument erected on Parliament Hill in 1885.

**4**

Alexander Mackenzie

(1822–1892): 2nd Prime Minister of Canada, 1873–1878

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. Look at what is written on her scroll: "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.



CONFEDERATION

On July 1, 1867, the Dominion of Canada was created; at the time, it was made up of four provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. This act of confederation came about after years of debate and negotiation by colonial leaders,

which culminated in a series of conferences held in Charlottetown, Québec City and London (England). The laws and procedures created by these Fathers of Confederation, supplemented by subsequent Acts of Parliament, including the *Constitution Act* of 1982, form the basis of Canada's constitution today. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories entered Confederation in 1870 (the Arctic islands were transferred by Great Britain in 1880 and annexed to Canada as part of the Northwest Territories), British Columbia in 1871, Prince Edward Island in 1873, Yukon in 1898, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905, Newfoundland in 1949, and Nunavut in 1999.



5

George Brown (1818–1880): A Father of Confederation

An editor and politician, George Brown helped to bring about Confederation in Canada. In 1844, he founded a newspaper in Toronto to advocate for responsible government. Today, it is one of Canada's most important dailies: *The Globe and Mail*. 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. His scroll is engraved with the ideals that Brown fought to achieve and which, to this day, help to define Canada: “government by the people, free institutions, religious liberty and equality, unity, and progress of Confederation.”

PHOTO CREDITS: (TOP LEFT) W. J. L. GIBBONS, LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT, PAI-001;
(BOTTOM LEFT) HUNTER & CO., LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-009553;
(TOP RIGHT) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-010434



6

John G. Diefenbaker (1895–1979):
13th Prime Minister of Canada, 1957–1963

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. Diefenbaker, popularly known as “the Chief,” strides toward the city, head turned to keep a close watch over Parliament.

RECOGNITION AND DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

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.

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



7

Police and Peace Officers' Memorial

The 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 two stainless steel panels at the memorial site includes the words: "They are our heroes. We shall not forget them."

On September 24, 1998, the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday in September of 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.

8

The 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 Seton 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.



NATURAL CONNECTIONS

Parliament Hill sits at the heart of Canada's Capital, overlooking a river that reflects many histories. To the *Kichesippirini* (Algonquin peoples) who inhabit the region, it was, and still is,

known as *Kitchissippi*, 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. With the arrival of English-speaking loggers and farmers, the name was anglicized to "Ottawa."

Take a few moments to enjoy the view from the Summer Pavilion and imagine the natural landscape as it might have appeared centuries ago: the lush Gatineau Hills, the majestic Ottawa River and the roaring Chaudières Falls.



FOR NATURE LOVERS

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 provided 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 which 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.



9

Sir Robert Borden (1854–1937): 8th Prime Minister of Canada, 1911–1920

With energy and determination, Sir Robert Borden led Canada through the First World War, and ensured a more autonomous role for the nation afterwards. His term as prime minister was not an easy one. Canada's war effort would eventually commit approximately 620,000 men and women for military service, necessitate the introduction of personal income tax, and bring about military conscription.

Borden fought to ensure that Canada's outstanding contribution during the First World War brought international recognition. The scroll he holds represents the brief he carried to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, where he won a voice for Canada, both as a part of the British Empire, and as an independent country.

PHOTO CREDITS: (TOP LEFT) CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES, CA-1350;
(BOTTOM LEFT) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-028128;
(TOP RIGHT) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-173105;
(BOTTOM RIGHT) WILLIAM NOTMAN, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-16749

10

The Victoria Bell

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

— The Deputy Minister
of Public Works, 1916

Shortly after striking midnight on the morning of February 4, 1916, the Victoria Bell came crashing down into the inferno which 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 Victoria Bell was later recovered from the ruins and put on display. Restored in spring 2001, the bell is now mounted on an angle to symbolize the position it was in when it came crashing down.

11

Thomas D'Arcy McGee

(1825–1868): A Father of Confederation

*Freedom! A nursling of the North,
Rock'd in the arms of stormy pines,
On fond adventure wander'd forth
Where south the sun superbly shines;
The prospect shone so bright and fair,
She dreamt her home was there, was there.*

—From “Freedom’s Journey,” *The Poems of Thomas D’Arcy McGee*, D. & J. Sadlier, London, 1869.

Thomas D’Arcy McGee used his eloquent words and inspirational speeches to help forge Confederation in Canada. A consummate writer of prose and poetry, he supported the cause of Irish immigrants in North America and spoke out against the Fenians, a group of Irish Americans who tried to invade Canada in the 1860s. While returning to his Sparks Street residence in Ottawa on the night of April 7, 1868, McGee was shot and killed, likely by a member of this group. This monument portrays McGee in the act of making a speech, with an allegorical figure representing Memory listening below. Look at the scroll on her lap. It is inscribed with the word “Confederation.”

12

The 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 of Parliament is more than a collection alone; it contributes to Canadian parliamentary democracy by creating and delivering non-partisan, reliable and relevant information to and about Parliament.

Constructed between 1859 and 1876, the Library is one of the most extraordinary examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Canada. A major restoration to rehabilitate, conserve and upgrade the Library was carried out from 2002 to 2006. This restoration extended the building's life by at least 50 years, while keeping all interventions as minimal as possible. The

work was carried out by Thomas Fuller Construction Co. Limited of Ottawa, a firm owned by descendants of one of the original architects of the Library, Thomas Fuller. More than 600 tradespeople lent their skills to complete the work, including specialized stonemasons, wood conservators, rock excavators and metal fabricators. The incredible talent of these artisans is apparent in the exquisite features of the restored structure — from the intricate weather vane adorning the very top of its copper roof, to the wonderful, multicoloured masonry, for which each stone was individually assessed for cleaning or repair.



PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

A significant undertaking is under way on Parliament Hill to preserve some of Canada's most important heritage buildings. The construction work currently visible is part of a long-term rehabilitation plan to ensure that the democratic heart of Canada continues to beat smoothly.

WORK IS PROGRESSING ACCORDING TO PLAN

The three core Parliament Buildings — the West, East and Centre blocks — are the focus of extensive rehabilitation work.

The West Block, built between 1859 and 1865, is the first of the three buildings to be fully rehabilitated. Its asphalt-covered courtyard is being transformed and permanently enclosed to serve as the home of the House of Commons Chamber during the rehabilitation of the Centre Block. This Gothic revival building will reopen in 2017.

The East Block, also built between 1859 and 1865, is currently undergoing work to repair the 19th century stone walls that have been damaged by freeze-thaw weathering.

The Centre Block was built between 1916 and 1927. Planning for its future rehabilitation is under way.

Public Works and Government Services Canada, working with its parliamentary partners — the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament — is leading the long-term rehabilitation of Parliament Hill and adjacent buildings.

To follow the progress of the 21st century plan for this century-old site, visit parliamenthill.gc.ca.



13

Robert Baldwin (1804–1858) and Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine (1807–1864)



Through the spirit of cooperation, Robert Baldwin and Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine helped to establish responsible government in 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 elections 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 to 1851), when the two men spearheaded the adoption of responsible government. The figures of Upper Canada, seated upon a plough, and Lower Canada, portrayed next to the prow of a ship, face each other on opposite ends of the pedestal known as the “whispering wall.” With one person standing at the carved mace (the symbol of government) on one side, and another at the sword (the symbol of justice), you can face the wall and talk to each other in nothing more than a whisper.



14

Queen Elizabeth II

(1926–):

Reigning 1952–Present

Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's reigning monarch who, in 1982, signed the *Constitution Act* to complete Canada's peaceful march to full national independence. Prior to this act, any amendment to the Canadian constitution required a bill to be passed by the British Parliament. This was Canada's last legislative tie to Great Britain. The *Constitution Act* of 1982 includes an amending formula, allowing for changes to be made by Parliament,

with the support of varying numbers of provincial legislatures, depending on the motion introduced. The Act also contains the renamed *British North America Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In this monument, Queen Elizabeth is depicted on her horse Centenial, a gift by the RCMP in 1977 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of her reign.

Centenial was named in honour of the RCMP's 100th anniversary, which was in 1973. From an original troop of just 150, the RCMP have become Canada's national police service, with a force of over 26,000 men and women active in every province and territory of the country. Famous for their scarlet red coat, Stetson hat and tall leather boots, members of this force are more likely to be found on the Hill in less ceremonial attire, including navy blue jackets, vests and pants with a yellow stripe. If you are visiting between July and the first week of September, you can meet a Mountie, along with a majestic RCMP horse here on Parliament Hill.



15 *Women Are Persons!*

This monument celebrates the joint efforts of five women who won a legal challenge to have women considered “persons” under the *British North America Act*, making them eligible for appointment to the Senate. The “Persons” Case of 1929 was a landmark step in Canadian women’s struggle for equality, helping to pave the way for women to participate fully in all aspects of public life. Go ahead and join Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung and Irene Parlby as they rejoice over their celebratory tea. Look for their signatures, identifying each of these women, at the base of each statue.

Other women trailblazers in Canadian politics include Agnes MacPhail, first female member of Parliament; Ellen Fairclough, first female cabinet minister; Cairine Wilson, first female senator; Jeanne Sauvé, first female speaker of the House of Commons and first female governor general of Canada; Muriel McQueen Fergusson, the first female speaker of the Senate; and Kim Campbell, Canada’s first female prime minister.





16

Sir John A. Macdonald

(1815–1891): A Father of Confederation,
1st Prime Minister of Canada,
1867–1873 and 1878–1891

Sir John A. Macdonald was one of the driving forces behind Confederation in Canada, and served as the country's first prime minister. Perhaps more than any other, he can be considered as the father of Canada. Having entered politics in his early twenties, 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

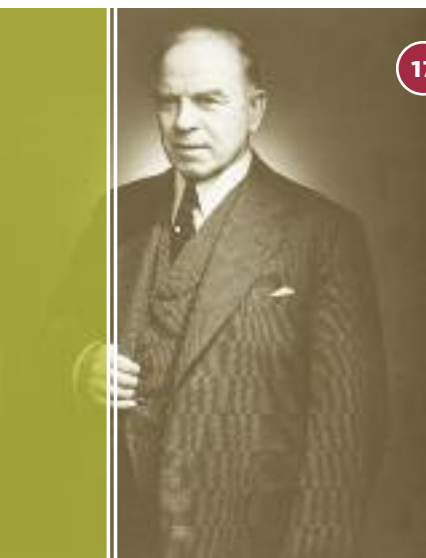
was caught in a state of political deadlock. Macdonald helped to break this stalemate with a vision of uniting British North America to encourage growth and development, protect French institutions, and keep the colonies safe from outside threats. Macdonald campaigned tirelessly for Confederation and, when it came about, he was the natural choice to lead the nation. Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island all entered Confederation under his government, while the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway's transcontinental line was hammered into the ground.



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, his relaxed pose conveys the swift mind, dazzling sense of humour and personal warmth for which he was known. At his feet lie 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 of Canada as it was when Macdonald was alive. Compare it with today's coat of arms, found here.

PHOTO CREDITS: (ABOVE) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-3201



17

William Lyon Mackenzie King
(1874–1950): 10th Prime Minister
of Canada, 1921–1926, 1926–1930
and 1935–1948

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. Family allowance, the old age pension and unemployment insurance were all created under King. In 1947, he initiated the *Canadian Citizenship Act*. Prior to this act, Canadian residents were considered to be British subjects, both in Canada and abroad. This act helped to define a truly national identity by con-

ferring a common Canadian citizenship on all Canadians. At a historic ceremony at the Supreme Court of Canada, Prime Minister King received the first Canadian citizenship certificate, alongside 26 other men and women, including the renowned Armenian-born photographer Yousuf Karsh. Today, citizenship is granted each year to approximately 240,000 new Canadians who come to Canada from countries all over the world.

King had been active in federal politics for almost 50 years, and spent most of the 1920s, '30s and '40s as prime minister. Instead of choosing to depict King at one specific time, this monument is more figurative, to convey King's strength of character and resilience. Look closely at his tie. He is wearing one of his favourite pins, which can be seen today at his former Ottawa home, the Laurier House National Historic Site.

PHOTO CREDITS: (ABOVE) YOUSUF KARSH, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-027650;
(TOP RIGHT) UNKNOWN;
(BOTTOM RIGHT) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-034379, CA. 1920

18

Sir Wilfrid Laurier**(1841–1919): 7th Prime Minister of Canada, 1896–1911**

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 of the United States. I think we can claim that Canada will fill the twentieth century.

— Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1904

Sir Wilfrid Laurier casts his gaze from Parliament Hill onto the modern Canada and capital that 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.



A CAPITAL IN THE MAKING

Imagine this view in Laurier's time. A jumbled series of train tracks lead to Union Station (now the Government Conference Centre) and the Château Laurier (where he was the first guest in 1912). Sir Wilfrid 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. Today, the National Capital Commission continues to fulfill this mandate with pride, in a capital region that includes both sides of the Ottawa River.

19

The East Block and West 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 this space. The space required for senators and members of Parliament, as well as their staffs, 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.

FOR THE ARCHITECTURE BUFF

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. The outer walls of the Parliament Buildings are made primarily of local Nepean sandstone, a porous, mineral-rich stone that reacts with the pollution in the air. Once a pale beige colour, the stones have turned black over the years. Go ahead and touch them — you can feel their sponge-like quality.



SALAMANDER BOSS



GROTESQUE



GROTESQUE

(ABOVE) ALISTAIR WILLIAMSON



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 (like rain, pollution and so on). The copper turns slowly from brown to a distinctive green.



20

The Centennial Flame

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson ignited the Centennial Flame at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1967, to commemorate Canada's 100th anniversary of Confederation. Its light is a symbolic guide for the country, leading it into a second full century of nationhood. Alberta natural gas feeds the flame, which dances above the flowing water. Divided into 12 segments, the Centennial Flame includes bronze shields of each of the provinces and

territories that existed in 1967, as well as their floral symbol and the date that the province or territory joined Confederation.

A NEW TERRITORY

On April 1, 1999, the newest territory, Nunavut, was created. You can see the flag of this territory, along with the flags of all of Canada's provinces and territories, at the back of this booklet. The shape in the middle of the flag is called an inukshuk. The Inuktitut term "*inukshuk*" (pronounced ee-nook-shook) means "to act in the capacity of a human." Inuksuit (plural of "inukshuk") are used as indicators, warnings, geographical markers, hunting and navigational aids, message centres and sometimes just as signs to show that humans have passed through the area. Like an inukshuk, the Centennial Flame is also a marker of a time gone by, as well as a message centre. The various dates and symbols offer us a glimpse of the entire nation as it was in 1967.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

Take a close look at this picture and compare it with Parliament Hill today. It certainly has changed since this 1879 illustration. Although this site may look different, Canadians still gather here, as they have for over 140 years, to discuss, debate, define, decide and celebrate.



(ABOVE) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, C-000947, CA. 1879



21 The Centre Block

The Centre Block is home to the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament. It is where national issues are considered and examined, and where legislation is introduced, debated and passed into law. Rebuilt after the fire of 1916 to be larger and more functional, the new structure stands one storey higher than the original, while providing almost 50 percent more floor space. It was opened in 1920. The Senate Chamber is located in the east half of the Centre Block, and the House of Commons Chamber is in the west half. Here, 105 senators and 308 elected members of Parliament represent the different concerns and perspectives of all Canadians from across the country. The Hall of Honour stretches through the centre of the building, and links all the elements of the Centre Block together. Containing memorials to the seven men and women who perished in the 1916 fire, and the nurses who died in the First World War, the Hall is a fitting setting for national commemorations and ceremonies.



The Peace Tower

The Peace Tower was built from 1919 to 1927 and dedicated to the more than 65,000 Canadian soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War. Standing 92.2 metres (302 feet, 6 inches) 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 freestanding 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 10,160 kilograms (22,400 pounds) — that’s roughly the weight of three adult African elephants! The smallest bell weighs a mere 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds). Musical expression in sounding the bells of the carillon is controlled by variation in touch. 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.



PHOTO CREDITS: (BOTTOM LEFT) LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-143969

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	Mid-May to Canada Day Weekdays: 9 am to 7:20 pm Weekends: 9 am to 4:20 pm July 2 to Labour Day Daily: 9 am to 4:20 pm	September 3, 2013 to mid-May 2014 Daily: 9 am to 3:20 pm <i>Subject to change without notice.</i>
Outdoor Guided Tours	June 29 to Labour Day	—
Carillon concert by the Dominion Carillonneur	Weekdays only May and June 2013: noon to 12:15 pm July and August 2013: 11 am to noon	Weekdays only September 2013 to April 2014 Noon to 12:15 pm
Public galleries of the Senate and House of Commons	When Parliament is sitting	When Parliament is sitting
Changing the Guard ceremony	June 24 to August 24, 2013	—
Memorial Chamber and observation deck of the Peace Tower	Mid-May to Canada Day Weekdays: 9 am to 7:30 pm Weekends: 9 am to 4:30 pm July 2 to Labour Day Daily: 9 am to 4:30 pm	September 3, 2013 to mid-May 2014 Daily: 9 am to 3:30 pm <i>Subject to change without notice.</i>
Christmas Lights	—	December 5, 2013 to January 6, 2014
Canada Day celebrations	July 1, 2013	—
Meet a member of the RCMP in ceremonial dress	Weekdays only July and August 2013	—
<i>Mosaika: Sound and Light Show</i>	July 10 to September 7, 2013	—



National, Provincial and Territorial Flags of Canada



CANADA



NEWFOUNDLAND AND
LABRADOR



NOVA SCOTIA



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



NEW BRUNSWICK



QUEBEC



ONTARIO



MANITOBA



SASKATCHEWAN



ALBERTA



BRITISH COLUMBIA



NUNAVUT



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



YUKON TERRITORY

Information

Visits to the Parliament Buildings are subject to change without notice. For more information and to plan your visit, go to parl.gc.ca/vis or call 1-866-599-4999.

For general information, drop by the Capital Information Kiosk (111 Albert Street), call the NCC at 613-239-5000 or 613-239-5090 (TTY), or visit the NCC website at canadascapital.gc.ca.

To download a mobile tour app for Parliament Hill and Confederation Boulevard, go to canadascapital.gc.ca/mobile.

Today, I toured Canada by bike!



On the Capital's pathway network, I travelled through woods and green spaces, along historic waterways and past famous institutions. It seemed like everywhere I looked I saw a different part of Canada, our heroes and our history. I had a great day exploring our capital!

canadascapital.gc.ca

CANADA'S CAPITAL REGION: CANADIAN, JUST LIKE YOU.

Capitale 

THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, OUR COUNTRY'S HIGHEST COURT

PHOTO: PHILIPPE LANDREVILLE



LEARN ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THE CANADIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- ❖ Tours of the Court ❖ Educational resources ❖
- ❖ All free of charge ❖

301 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J1

www.scc-csc.gc.ca ❖ 613-995-5361 ❖ 1-866-360-1522

Facsimile: 613-941-5817 ❖ Email: tour-visite@scc-csc.ca