



2016 - 2017

# Annual Report

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## ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

The Centre for Constitutional Studies (CCS) is the hub for constitutional research and public legal education in Canada, connecting leading Canadian and international scholars, contributing to constitutional debate through our academic journals (*Review of Constitutional Studies* and *Constitutional Forum*), and creating resources that educate the public about the Constitution. The Centre works to bring the Constitution to the public so that Canadians understand its importance to the democratic workings of our nation.

The Centre is generously funded by the Alberta Law Foundation (ALF) through an annual operating grant.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

### Research

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 3 issues of *Review of Constitutional Studies* published.
- 4 issues of *Constitutional Forum* published.

### Public Legal Education

#### **EVENTS**

- 13 events hosted, including 7 Downtown Charter Series talks
- 1184 attendees

#### **STUDENT OUTREACH**

- 6 U-School workshops on the Canadian Constitution presented to a total of 120-125 elementary students reached

### Online Engagement

#### **CENTRE WEBSITE**

- 24 articles written and published by student researchers
- 188,631 visits
- 222,941 page views

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**



- 829 Twitter Followers
- 155 Facebook Likes
- 104 YouTube Subscribers
- 13,352 YouTube video views

# PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

DOWNTOWN CHARTER SERIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since its creation and launch in March 2016, the Downtown Charter Series has become a popular public event. The Centre hosted <b>seven sessions</b> from April 2016 – March 2017, featuring University of Alberta law professors who engaged the public on sections from the <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> such as equality rights, the right against self-incrimination, free expression, freedom of religion, the right to counsel, and the right to life, liberty, and security of the person.</li> </ul>
PUBLIC EVENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Centre hosted <b>six public lectures</b> on issues such as policing, gay-straight alliances and religious schools, the challenges to the free press in Canada, and topics related to pre- and post-Confederation Canada. Our most popular and highly-attended event was a lecture by journalist Chantal Hébert in March 2017.</li> <li>For Law Day (April 2016), the Centre presented a constitutional appeal on cell phone searches in the context of section 8 of the <i>Charter</i>.</li> </ul>
U-SCHOOL – STUDENT OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Centre offers a workshop about the Canadian Constitution as part of the University of Alberta’s U-School Program. Volunteer law students teach visiting grade 5 &amp; 6 students about constitutional basics and engage them in hands-on activities (including a trip to the moot courtroom). In 2016-17, the Centre presented <b>six sessions</b> and reached approximately <b>120 – 125 students</b>.</li> </ul>
PATRIATION INTERACTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project is a multi-year collaboration between the Centre and National Film Board to produce a web-based, interactive resource for the general public and 16-24 year olds on the patriation of Canada’s Constitution. The project will be accessible via the web and is scheduled for release in Spring 2018.</li> </ul>
ONLINE PLE RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Centre’s website is a rich resource for public legal education materials related to the Constitution and constitutional issues. The website attracts users from across Canada, but also the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, Australia, Hong Kong, and other countries.</li> <li>The Centre hired three law students to write plain-language articles for the website. In summer 2016, the students wrote <b>24 articles</b> and assisted with a comprehensive review of website content.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The quarterly e-newsletter <i>Constitutional Currents</i> is aimed at the general public and educators, linking readers to our web articles and information on upcoming events and recent publications.</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Twitter &amp; Facebook</b> - The Centre tweets and updates Facebook with regular, consistent information about the Constitution and constitutional developments, including the latest court decisions, and information about our upcoming speakers and events.</li> <li>▪ <b>YouTube</b> – Our YouTube channel features videos of most public speaker events hosted by the Centre. This year, we uploaded <b>seven new videos</b> from our events.</li> </ul>

# RESEARCH

<p><b>PUBLICATIONS</b></p>	<p><b><i>Review of Constitutional Studies</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <i>Review</i> is a print, subscriber-based journal and Canada’s only peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journals dedicated to constitutional law and theory.</li> <li>▪ The Centre published three issues in this fiscal year – two of which were special issues: <i>Politics and the Constitution: A Comparative Approach</i> (Vol 21.1) and <i>The Harper Legacy</i> (Vol 21.2).</li> </ul>  <p><b><i>Constitutional Forum</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <i>Forum</i> is an online, open access journal featuring short articles written by academics, lawyers, and students that are designed to generate constitutional dialogue and debate.</li> <li>▪ This year, the Centre published <b>four issues</b> – two of which were special issues – one flowing from the Centre’s 2015 Constitutional Symposium and the other from a jointly hosted symposium with the David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights on “The State of Canada’s Constitutional Democracy”.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>RESEARCH PROJECTS &amp; EVENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Patriation Digitization and Archive Project –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This purpose of this project is to digitize video and print archival information flowing from the patriation of Canada’s Constitution in 1982.</li> <li>▪ Video footage recorded at the Centre’s Patriation Negotiations Conference in 2011 and in interviews with participants such as the Honourable Peter Lougheed, Peter Meekison, Howard Leeson, Eddie Goldenberg, and other key figures in the patriation negotiations process will be digitized, as will handwritten notes from Howard Leeson written during that time. Digitization of video materials to be done in 2017-2018.</li> </ul>

	<p>The Centre is working with the Arts Resource Centre and with the U of A digitization team on this project.</p> <p><b>Reconciliation   <i>Wahkohtowin</i> Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To acknowledge Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Centre participated in the planning for 3 conferences across the country with the University of Ottawa and the Université de Montreal. These conferences were on Confederation, Patriation, and Reconciliation – looking back and looking forward.</li> <li>▪ The Centre and the University of Alberta began the planning and organization for the Reconciliation:<i>Wahkohtowin</i> conference. A Call for Papers was issued and some 30 scholars across the country were selected to present at the conference which will be held in September 2017. The conference will ask whether and how Indigenous law can be constitutionalized.</li> </ul> <p><b>Constitution in the Insolvency Toolbox – Symposium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This Symposium was in collaboration with the Legal Education Society of Alberta and the Faculty of Law, focusing on the use of the Constitution for lawyers who practice in insolvency.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kule Connect Café - Contextualizing Constitutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Centre organized this Café in February 2017 with the Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) at the University of Alberta as an opportunity for academics from disciplines across the University to meet each other and to discuss opportunities for collaboration on constitutional issues.</li> </ul>
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# ADVISORY BOARD

## BOARD

The Advisory Board of the Centre is responsible for advising on its strategic direction. It is interdisciplinary and comprised of professors representing at least three faculties at the University as well as community members, including representatives from the government, the judiciary, the legal community, and the non-profit and private sectors:

- Chair - The Honourable Justice Kevin Feehan (Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta)
- Vice-Chair - Barbara Billingsley (Faculty of Law, University of Alberta)
- Catherine Bell (Faculty of Law, University of Alberta)
- Dominique Clément (Department of Sociology, University of Alberta)
- Lise Gotell (Women & Gender's Studies, University of Alberta)
- Nathalie Kermoal (Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta)
- James Muir (Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta)
- Donald Padget (Alberta Justice, Constitutional Law Section)
- Judy Piercey (Pen and Lens Communications)
- The Honourable Madam Justice June Ross (Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta)
- Linda Trimble (Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)
- Matthew Woodley (Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP, Edmonton)

# ADMINISTRATION

## STAFF

The Centre has three staff members: the Executive Director (Patricia Paradis), Education and Communications Coordinator (Tasneem Karbani), and Administrator (Adam Draeger).

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Centre relies on exceptional law student volunteers to teach and facilitate the U-School Constitution Workshop. Students from law and other faculties assist with work on our two



publications as footnote editors and copy editors. In the summer, the Centre employs three law students who work full-time as student researchers and write content for our website.

## FINANCES

Funding from the Alberta Law Foundation constitutes 95% of the total budget for the Centre. It applies annually for an operating grant from the Foundation and any unspent funds are returned at the year-end. Revenue from publications constitutes 5% of the Centre budget and that revenue is used to publish the *Review of Constitutional Studies*. The Centre has available for use the interest accrued from the endowment to the Faculty of Law (the McDonald Endowment) to host the Annual McDonald Lecture in Constitutional Studies. This amount varies yearly depending on interest rates. External funding from grants and/or sponsors is required for conferences, symposia, and specific projects.

### Funding 2016/2017

Revenue	Amount
Operating Grant from Alberta Law Foundation (2016-2017)	\$355,909.00
Opening Balance of Publication Budget (2016-2017)	\$17,311.45
Publication Budget Revenue, via subscriptions and royalties (2016-2017)	\$10,482.00
Reserve Fund	\$30,364.00
Expenditures	Amount
Total ALF Expenses (2016-2017)	\$339,084.00
Total Publications Expenses (2016-2017)	\$15,864.00
Returned to ALF as unspent	\$23,545.00