

Preface to the Fourth Edition

This edition continues our efforts to make *Canadian Constitutional Law* a truly national project--one that benefits from an editorial team rich with regional, linguistic, and scholarly diversity. The fourth edition remains true to the structure and purposes of previous editions, and especially to our shared commitment to the idea that understanding constitutional history is critical to comprehending the present and future of Canadian constitutional law. Like its predecessor, this edition reaches back in time to the earliest colonial encounters between Aboriginal peoples and European colonies, and to conflicts between European empires over territorial and sovereign control of the continent. We have made significant changes to several chapters, including Chapter 8, Interpreting the Division of Powers; Chapter 9, Peace, Order, and Good Government; Chapter 14, Aboriginal Peoples and the Constitution; Chapter 19, Freedom of Religion; Chapter 22, Life, Liberty, and Security of the Person; and Chapter 23, Equality Rights. Other chapters have been updated thoroughly to reflect recent developments in constitutional jurisprudence and scholarship.

Despite its commitment to constitutional history, this edition continues to have a flexible design, so that different teachers can use it to teach constitutional law in different ways. Each part is designed to be relatively free-standing; the book can operate as a reader for a course on any combination of issues relating to federalism, Aboriginal rights, and the Charter. Those who wish to underscore the historical dimensions of the field (and have the hours to do so!) may want to follow the order of the chapters; others can bypass the early chapters and commence with contemporary issues and approaches.

We wish to thank our publisher, Paul Emond, and his staff, especially Peggy Buchan, Nancy Ennis, and Cindy Fujimoto, for their institutional dexterity in publishing this edition so quickly. We also wish to thank our academic colleagues and student readers for their constructive comments on the previous edition.