

The fourth formula covers changes in the executive government of Canada or in the Senate and House of Commons (other than those covered by the first two formulas). These amendments can be made by an ordinary act of the Parliament of Canada.

Entrenchment

The second big change made by the *Constitution Act, 1982*, is that the first three amending formulas "entrench" certain parts of the written Constitution; that is, place them beyond the power of Parliament or any provincial legislature to touch.

For example, the monarchy cannot now be touched except with the unanimous consent of the provinces. Nor can the governor generalship, nor the lieutenant-governorships, nor the composition of the Supreme Court of Canada (nine justices, of whom three must be from Quebec; all of them appointed by the federal government and removable only by address of the Senate and the House of Commons), nor the right of a province to at least as many members of the Commons as it has senators, nor the amending formulas themselves. On all of these, any single province can impose a veto. Matters coming under the second formula can be changed only with the consent of seven provinces with at least half the population of the ten.

The guarantees for the English and French languages in New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba cannot be changed except with the consent both of the provincial legislatures concerned and the Senate and House of Commons (or the Commons alone, under the 180-day provision). The guarantees for denominational schools in Newfoundland cannot be changed except with the consent of the legislature of Newfoundland; nor can the Labrador boundary.

The amending process under the first three formulas can be initiated by the Senate, or the House of Commons, or a provincial legislature. The ordinary act of Parliament required by the fourth formula can, of course, be initiated by either house.

Rights and freedoms

Third, the new *Constitution Act* sets out a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that neither Parliament nor any provincial legislature acting alone can change. Any such changes come under the second formula (or, where they apply only to one or more, but not all, provinces, the third formula).