

Supreme Court has become an important influence on public policy since the entrenchment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. This report outlines a major project on agenda setting in Canada's Supreme Court that is designed to do two things: (1) establish a systematic empirical explanation for how Canada's Court selects cases for review, and (2) to replicate the American research to determine whether agenda setting in the Supreme Court is similar to that in the U.S. Supreme Court.

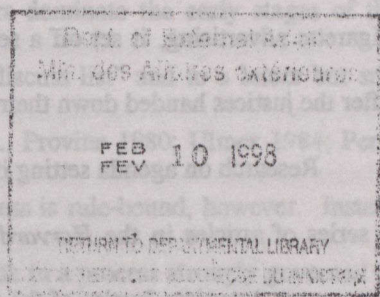
AGENDA SETTING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA: A REPORT AND OVERVIEW OF A PROJECT IN PROGRESS

The evolution of the Supreme Court of Canada has been a process of change. The Court's role in the development of Canadian law has grown significantly since the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was enacted in 1982. The Court's decisions have become a major source of law in Canada, and its role in the development of Canadian law has become increasingly important. This report outlines a major project on agenda setting in Canada's Supreme Court that is designed to do two things: (1) establish a systematic empirical explanation for how Canada's Court selects cases for review, and (2) to replicate the American research to determine whether agenda setting in the Supreme Court is similar to that in the U.S. Supreme Court.

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legal questions of import to society at large. Agenda setting thus becomes a significant set of political choices. The U.S. Supreme Court's agenda setting process is a complex one, involving a number of factors, including the Court's composition, the Court's precedents, and the Court's relationship to the other branches of government. This report outlines a major project on agenda setting in Canada's Supreme Court that is designed to do two things: (1) establish a systematic empirical explanation for how Canada's Court selects cases for review, and (2) to replicate the American research to determine whether agenda setting in the Supreme Court is similar to that in the U.S. Supreme Court.

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1 Useful sources of this research can be found in Frowde (1980) and in Perry (1991).