



Queen Elizabeth signs the historic document while Prime Minister Trudeau (seated), Secretary of State Gerald Regan (left), Clerk of the Privy Council P.M. Pitfield and J.L. Kirby (right) look on.



Signatories to the proclamation (left to right): Registrar-General of Canada André Ouellet, Attorney-General of Canada Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

On the previous day, the Queen had also attended a number of functions, including a gala concert featuring Canadian performers at the National Arts Centre and a dinner for Canadian achievers at the Holiday Inn.

Among the performers at the concert were Edmonton's Ukrainian Shumka dancers, the foot-stomping Calgary fiddlers, comedian David Broadfoot, singers Edward Evanko, Maureen Forrester and Louis Quilico and his son Gino, ballet dancers Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine and the Halifax troupe *Meet the Navy*, a revival of the wartime Royal Canadian Navy entertainment.

Young people attend dinner

The dinner for Canadian achievers was attended by 282 people, most of them

young, selected by members of Parliament from their ridings.

Earlier in the day Prince Philip honoured 91 Canadians at the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh gold awards in Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence. The award is given to Canadians between the ages of 14 and 25 who excel in leisure activities of public service, exploration, hobbies or skills and fitness.

The Queen moved effortlessly through her taxing four-day Ottawa schedule, earning respect of everyone she met and charming most of them. She had a smile for each and every one of the hundreds of persons she met — from the Canadian establishment to the anonymous people in the crowd who stood in the rain on Parliament Hill.

The Queen's press secretary, Michael Shea said the Queen found her stay in Canada "an enormously successful, enjoyable and historic visit".

"The ceremony was second to none and it was a magnificent occasion," said the Queen.

BNA Act basis for Constitution

The Canadian Constitution consists of many laws as well as political conventions and judicial practices, but its main document is a British law, the British North America (BNA) Act of 1867, which defines the separation of powers in the federal system. At the time of the writing of the Act, the founding fathers of Canada took the attitude if future changes to the Act were needed, Canadians could simply ask the British Parliament to amend it. This has happened 23 times in 115 years, the last amendment being the passage of



Prime Minister Trudeau addresses the crowd before the signing.

legislation allowing the Constitution Act 1982 to come into force.

The Constitution Act 1982 puts an end to this anachronistic practice by which Canada, a fully sovereign nation, still had to ask a foreign Parliament, the British Parliament, to legislate changes to its Constitution. Since the 1920s and 1930s when Canada gained its full independence, Canadians have tried but have failed to agree among themselves on a procedure for making amendments to the BNA Act. Negotiations between the federal and provincial governments in 1927, 1931, 1935, 1949, 1960, 1964, 1971, 1978, 1979 and 1980 all ended in disagreement. An agreement between the federal and nine provincial governments in November 1981 on the contents of the



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip stand on the dais during the ceremony.