The Queen Proclaims

Most Excellent Maiestu.

Most Gracious Sovereign:

We Nour Majerty's loyal subjects the House of Commons of Conada in Parlament assembled respectfully approach Your Majerty requesting that you may graciously be pieroed to cause to be liaid before the Parlament of the Mitted Mingdom a measure occutaining the recitals and clauses hereinafter set forth

An Act to give effect to a request by the Gerale and House of Commons of Carada

Whereas Canada has requested and consented to the enactment of an Act of the Parliament of the United Thingation Live gave effect to the provisions hereinafter set forth and the Jenate and the flower Commons of Canada in Farliament assembled have Smitted an address to Her Majesty requesting that

To the Oncen's A Sa Tres Excellente Majesté la Reine,

Tres Gracieuse Sonveraine :

Nous omembres de la Chambre des ammunes du Eurada viuns en Partement fidèles sujets de Votre Majesté demandons respectueurement à Votre Jos Graceuse Majesté de bien water fair déprés devant le Partement du Boyaume Univer projet de devant le Partement du Boyaume Univer projet de

et de la Chambre des communes du

Ja Très Excellente Majeste la Preire

qu'à la demarce à ave l'hoyaume Abri est Canada de Garlemert du Phoyaume Abri est invité à adopter une loi mant à donner effet aux

Parliament's petition to Westminster

Cover Photo: The Painted Flag #31, by Charles Pachter

On April 17 Canada's Queen proclaimed the patriation of Canada's Constitution.

It has been legally under the control of the British Parliament in Westminster. It is now wholly in Canadian hands.

Some points may need clarification.

The Constitution is not new. Its principal ingredient is still the British North America Act of 1867, which will now be called the Constitution Act, 1867.

There has been, however, a significant addition to Canada's basic body of law—the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Though most Canadians have enjoyed basic rights since the beginning, there have been occasional breaches. These rights are now entrenched in its Constitution and this is of great significance, legally and symbolically.

A nation lives by its laws and is sustained by its symbols. In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we examine the process by which all this came about.