



New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada are united in a federal state, the Dominion of Canada, by the British North America Act on 1 July 1867. The province of Canada was divided into Ontario and Quebec.

Front cover: Drawing taken from a stamp designed by Vancouver artist Friedrich Peter. It represents an open book symbolizing the history and traditions of Canada – past, present and future. The coat of arms is a reminder of the country's origins; the flag denotes its more recent history; and the words 'Constitution 1982', evoke a new step for Canada and the hope it brings for the future.

The Canadian federation was created by the British North America Act of 1867. However, the power to make any subsequent changes in the Act remained the responsibility of the British parliament, which meant in effect that one country, Canada, had to ask another country, Britain, every time it wanted to amend its own constitution, an embarrassing situation for both countries.

A nation lives by its laws and is sustained by its symbols. This issue examines the tumultuous events which culminated in 'bringing home' Canada's constitution and the significance of this action for Canada's future.