

# Canada Weekly

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## Canadian Constitution comes home to ceremony and celebration

The proclamation bringing Canada's new Constitution Act of 1982 into law and ending Britain's technical say in Canadian constitutional matters was signed by Queen Elizabeth in a historic ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, April 17.

"After 50 years of discussion we have finally decided to retrieve what is properly ours. It is with happy hearts, and with gratitude for the patience displayed by Great Britain, that we are preparing to acquire today our complete national-sovereignty," said Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the ceremony proclaiming the act.

### Goodwill extended to Canadians

After the proclamation had been signed, messages of congratulations were received from heads-of-state of a number of countries.

In a message to the Queen, United States President Ronald Reagan said, "An occasion such as this reminds us of our shared heritage and values and close ties of friendship that link us and have

made us allies in pursuing common purposes in the world. It is with great happiness and satisfaction that all Americans join me...in assuring all Canadians of our deep and lasting good will."

In Cuba, President Fidel Castro attended a reception at the Canadian embassy in Havana in honour of the event. "I am happy because the Canadian people are happy," he told his host, ambassador James Bartleman. "I sincerely share the felicity of the Canadian people on this day."

Approximately 32 000 people attended the outdoor ceremonies on Parliament Hill in Ottawa which were the highlight of the four-day celebration commencing with the Queen's arrival on April 15.

Mr. Trudeau, Governor General Edward Schreyer and Mrs. Schreyer greeted the Queen on her arrival. Other dignitaries including members of Parliament and ministers, the premiers, Conservative leader Joe Clark and New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent were also on hand to welcome the Queen.



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrive on Parliament Hill in horse-drawn landau.



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