

Reclaiming Canada Conference (May 27 - May 29)

In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a national conference in the provincial capital of British Columbia will be held to bring together a coalition to discuss the future of democracy in Canada.

Canada's democracy should be founded on the protection of individual rights and freedoms, however this notion has been undermined by a Government that disregards the rule of law, violates the sovereign status of its citizens as outlined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, foments discrimination and segregation in our nation and denies public discourse.

Our systems of governance, accountability and oversight must evolve and be reimagined to reflect recent changes in our world. With an unprecedented assault on individual rights and freedoms, these past years have proven that democracy is in peril.

The core distinction between the American Bill of Rights (now in its 230th Anniversary) and the Canadian Charter, is the existence of Section 1 limitations and the notwithstanding clause. In contrast, rights under the U.S. Bill of Rights are absolute.

The Canadian Charter was drafted to standardize divergent laws throughout the country in order to unify the nation under a single principle of liberty. To prevent continued abuse of power, it is necessary to form a Congress of Citizens to counsel Government and hold them accountable to the rule of law. In the absence of constitutional supremacy and public participation, anti-democratic power will be wielded by those who wish to test the limits of tyranny.

A Congress of Citizens will bring together Canadians from across the country to form a national strategy to advance our democracy and repair the damage that has stemmed from political and societal dissonance. The conference will be centered on the principles that embody fundamental individual liberties with a focus on action over rhetoric.

Items of Discussion

- Defining terms (democracy; debate; freedom; choice; consent)
- What are our guiding principles and values?
- Other models of governance
- What is the proper role of Government?
- How do we want to be governed?

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- How do we increase accountability?
- What replaces majority rule?
- The role of the media in a functioning democracy
- What lessons can we learn from the last two years?
- Translating principles into practical strategies

Conference Objectives

- Repair our democracy by promoting the values of truth, integrity, unity and love
- Create templates for all levels of Government that ensure transparency and accountability
- Design protections for the sovereign rights and freedoms of all Canadians
- Restore the Canadian Constitution as the supreme law of our nation
- Create systems of support that ensure the resilience of our democracy
- Educate Canadians on matters of governance and the responsibilities of civic engagement
- Explore various models of governance and potential enhancements
- Inspire and activate Canadians to take on roles of civic responsibility
- Outline strategies to reconcile the legal system with accountable judicial process

Conference Schedule

Participants will be invited to join a national dialogue with regions, sectors and organizations sending national delegates.

Friday, May 27, 2022

- Private evening networking event for key delegation members

Saturday, May 28, 2022

- Public event at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- Opening remarks that outline our vision for a new democracy
- Evening Q/A and panel discussion (TBD)

Sunday, May 29, 2022

- Full day private conference at the Victoria Edelweiss Club with presentations and discussion from delegation members