

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

The status of significant legislation in the 34th Parliament

Bill C-62 Telecommunications Act

This Act brings regulatory control over the Canadian telecommunications industry into one omnibus statute for the first time. It does not apply to broadcast undertakings, and describes the powers awarded Cabinet, the minister of communications, and the CRTC.

House of Commons	1st reading:	Feb. 27/92
	2nd reading:	Apr. 20/93
	3rd reading:	Jun. 9/93
Senate	1st reading:	June 10/93
	2nd reading:	June 15/93
	3rd reading:	June 21/93

Royal assent: June 23/93

Bill C-93 Budget Implementation (Government Organizations Act) 1992

Agencies including the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council are to be amalgamated. Some agencies are scheduled to be eliminated, while three new tribunals are proposed dealing with procurement, intellectual property, and RCMP review.

House of Commons	1st reading:	Nov. 26/92
	2nd reading:	Feb. 16/93
	3rd reading:	Apr. 27/93
Senate	1st reading:	Apr. 28/93
	2nd reading:	May 6/93
	3rd reading:	June 10/93 (defeated)

Bill C-115 North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

This bill implements legislative changes to abide by the trade agreement concluded between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

House of Commons	1st reading:	Feb. 25/92
	2nd reading:	Mar. 31/93
	3rd reading:	May 27/93
Senate	1st reading:	May 27/93
	2nd reading:	June 3/93
	3rd reading:	June 23/93

Royal assent: June 23/93

July/August 1993

Bill C-116 Conflict of Interests of Public Office Holders Act

A formal scheme of conflict of interest regulations is proposed to apply to parliamentarians, as well as a creation of an investigatory/advisory commission and information repository.

House of Commons	1st reading:	Mar. 11/93
	2nd reading:	Mar. 30/93
	3rd reading:	
Senate	not yet introduced	

Bill C-126 An Act To Amend the Criminal Code and the Young Offenders Act

Legislation is proposed that makes it a criminal offence to "stalk" someone, and restricts the movements of sex offenders.

House of Commons	1st reading:	Apr. 27/93
	2nd reading:	May 6/93
	3rd reading:	June 10/93
Senate	1st reading:	June 14/93
	2nd reading:	June 17/93
	3rd reading:	June 23/93

Royal assent: June 23/93

Bill C-128 An Act To Amend the Criminal Code and the Customs Tariff (Child Pornography and Morals)

The possession and distribution of pornographic material depicting minors is defined and criminalized.

House of Commons	1st reading:	May 13/93
	2nd reading:	June 3/93
	3rd reading:	June 15/93
Senate	1st reading:	June 16/93
	2nd reading:	June 17/93
	3rd reading:	June 23/93

Royal assent: June 23/93

Bill C-132 Nunavut Act

The government and boundaries of a new northern territory are defined.

House of Commons	1st reading:	May 28/93
	2nd reading:	June 4/93
	3rd reading:	June 4/93
Senate	1st reading:	June 8/93
	2nd reading:	June 8/93
	3rd reading:	June 10/93

Royal assent: June 10/93

Bill C-133 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act

An Act to settle land claims within the new northern territory of Nunavut.

House of Commons	1st reading:	May 28/93
	2nd reading:	June 4/93
	3rd reading:	June 4/93
Senate	1st reading:	June 8/93
	2nd reading:	June 8/93
	3rd reading:	June 10/93

Royal assent: June 10/93

Note: The House of Commons recessed on June 16 until Monday, September 20.

Canada Watch welcomes submissions on issues of current national interest. Submissions should be a maximum of 1,000 words. The deadline for consideration in our September issue is Monday, August 30. Write or fax us at:

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"Wishing Away the Question," continued from page 3.

of Jean-Jacques Bertrand. For his part, Gilles Loiselle was the Quebec government's London representative in the early 1980s; he was remarkably effective in his efforts to warn British parliamentarians off the Trudeau constitutional package. Tutoring by Masse and Loiselle was reflected both in Campbell's attempts to project empathy for Quebec's constitutional positions, citing her own roots in British Columbia's historical estrangement from national politics, and in her attempt to avoid taking a position on the Quebec government's notorious Bill 178.

Nonetheless, Quebec nationalists will not have as privileged a position within the new Campbell government. Marcel Masse is gone. More important, authority over all matters dealing with Quebec has now shifted to the new deputy prime minister, Jean Charest. For his part, Charest has a vision of Canada that is closely reminiscent of Jean Chrétien's spiritual ancestor, Pierre Trudeau. After all, Charest comes from a similarly bicultural background. His hand was clearly revealed in his leadership of a parlia-

mentary committee that was charged with re-examining the Meech Lake accord during its final few months. Through a variety of changes, the Charest committee was so successful in recasting the Meech Lake accord in pan-Canadian terms that many of the accord's Quebec supporters were up in arms and the Mulroney government had to ignore the report. By the same token, when

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the question of Bill 178 came up during the PC leadership debates, Charest launched into a spirited defence of minority language rights.

In the nature of things, a PQ government would have little interest in exploring routes for accommodating Quebec within the federal system. The leadership for defining an alternative to Quebec sovereignty would have to come from within the federal government. But with Jean Chrétien

leading the Liberal party and Jean Charest setting the tone for the Conservative's stance on Quebec, and the constitution in general, such leadership seems highly unlikely.

Once again, Ottawa's response to any resurgence of Quebec nationalism is likely to be defined by Quebec Francophones who are fundamentally hostile to this sentiment. In this they will have the firm support of most English Canadians. The Bloc Québécois MPs will argue for a different approach to the Quebec question, but they will be lone voices in Parliament. Next time around, the constitutional lines will be very tightly drawn indeed.

Kenneth McRoberts is Director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies and Professor of Political Science at York University.