



AGENDA

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA: 150TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

April 10-11, 2025

Supreme Court of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
301 Wellington Street
Tel.: (613) 995-4330

Start Time: 4:15 PM, Thursday, April 10, 2025
Conclusion: 9:30 PM, Friday, April 11, 2025

DESCRIPTION

This Symposium marking the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada will examine the role the Court plays in today's justice system. The Symposium will address the challenges faced not only by the Supreme Court of Canada but also by other apex courts around the world, exploring how these courts take up their responsibilities while promoting the rule of law and public confidence in the justice system. These issues will be considered while attending to the bilingual character of the Supreme Court's work as well as interactions between common law and civil law traditions and the place of Indigenous legal orders in Canada and in other legal systems.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

4:15 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration

Grand Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Opening Reception

Courtroom and
Grand Hall

Welcoming Remarks

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner P.C., Chief Justice of Canada
Supreme Court of Canada
Ottawa, ON

Guest of Honour

**Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M.,
C.O.M., O.Q., C.D.**
Governor General of Canada
Ottawa, ON

Note: Welcoming remarks will be delivered in the courtroom. The doors will close promptly at 5:15pm, after which access will not be possible. The reception will follow in the Grand Hall.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Registration

Grand Hall

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Introduction

Courtroom

Co-Chairs

The Honourable Justice Andromache Karakatsanis
Supreme Court of Canada
Ottawa, ON

The Honourable Justice Nicholas Kasirer
Supreme Court of Canada
Ottawa, ON

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

APEX COURTS: ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, CHALLENGES

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **The Role of an Apex Court in a Constitutional Democracy**

Moderator

The Honourable Justice Georgina R. Jackson

Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan

Regina, SK

Panel

The Honourable Albie Sachs

Retired Justice

South African Constitutional Court

Braamfontein, SA

Stephen J. Toope

President and CEO

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

Toronto, ON

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **Health Break**

Grand Hall

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **Indigenous Peoples and Apex Courts**

Moderator

The Honourable Justice Sébastien Grammond

Federal Court

Ottawa, ON

Panel

The Honourable Justice Joe Williams

Supreme Court of New Zealand

Wellington, NZ

Professor Naiomi Metallic

Assistant Professor; Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy

Dalhousie University, Schulich School of Law

Halifax, NS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Lunch with Members of the Supreme Court of Canada

Judges'
Chambers

Each member of the Court will host an informal luncheon in their chambers with a small group of symposium participants.

SPECIAL ISSUES FOR THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Federalism at the Supreme Court of Canada

Courtroom

Moderator

Dean Marie-Eve Sylvestre

Dean and Full Professor

University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law - Civil Law Section
Ottawa, ON

Panel

The Honourable Yves de Montigny, Chief Justice

Federal Court of Appeal

Ottawa, ON

Professor Jeremy Webber

University of Victoria, Faculty of Law

Victoria, BC

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

Health Break

Grand Hall

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Dialogues on Private Law: Bijuralism at the Supreme Court of Canada

Moderator

Professor Shauna Van Praagh

President

Law Commission of Canada

Ottawa, ON

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

Panel

The Honourable Justice Audrey Bector

Superior Court of Québec

Montréal, QC

Professor Lionel Smith

Professor of Comparative Law

University of Oxford, Faculty of Law

Oxford, UK

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Health Break

Grand Hall

NEW HORIZONS

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Emerging Issues in a Cosmopolitan Legal World

Moderator

Hélène Buzzetti

Political columnist

Les Coops de l'information

Ottawa, ON

Panel

The Honourable Donal O'Donnell, Chief Justice

Supreme Court of Ireland

Dublin, IE

The Honourable Louise Arbour

Senior Counsel

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Montréal, QC

5:30 PM - 5:40 PM

Conclusion

Co-Chairs

The Honourable Justice Andromache Karakatsanis

The Honourable Justice Nicholas Kasirer

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

5:40 PM - 5:45 PM

Closure of the Symposium

Closing Remarks

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner P.C., Chief Justice of Canada

5:45 PM - 9:30 PM

Reception and Dinner

Grand Hall