

# Improving Accountability in Canadian Politics

Justice John H. Gomery  
Former Superior Court of Quebec Judge  
and Public Inquiry Commissioner  
January 15, 2016

9:00am-4:30pm

In this one-day workshop, Honourable John H. Gomery will review the laws and practices of Canadian Commissions of Inquiry and why governments use them so frequently; he will discuss the Commission of Inquiry which he headed, the impact it has had on government administration and the fate of some of its recommendations. Its final report deplored the concentration of power in the Prime Minister's office and the speaker hopes to provoke a discussion of the importance of this in a parliamentary system.

These issues are related to the increasing emphasis on the part of the public and journalists on transparency in government; are we witnessing a shift in power from the House of Commons to the media?

Required Readings (find these readings on course reserve: <http://reserves.concordia.ca/>)

1. Government of Canada. 2005. *Who is Responsible? Summary* Reference Cat. No: CP32-86/1-2005-1 [http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/003/008/099/003008-disclaimer.html?orig=/100/206/301/pco-bcp/commissions/sponsorship-ef/06-02-10/www.gomery.ca/en/phase1report/summary/es\\_full\\_v01.pdf](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/003/008/099/003008-disclaimer.html?orig=/100/206/301/pco-bcp/commissions/sponsorship-ef/06-02-10/www.gomery.ca/en/phase1report/summary/es_full_v01.pdf)
2. *Commissions of Inquiry: Praise or Reappraise*. Allan Manson & David Mullan, eds. Toronto: Irwin Law, 2003. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?144352AE>
3. Savoie, Donald J. 2003. "Introduction" in *Breaking the Bargain*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1441C261>
4. Savoie, Donald J. 1999. "Introduction" in *Governing from the Centre: The Concentration of Power in Canadian Politics*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1441B8FB>
5. "Transparency and Access to Information", a lecture by John H. Gomery. 2008. *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law* 4. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1440A9CC>

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1. *Commissions of Inquiry: Praise or Reappraise*. Allan Manson & David Mullan, eds. Toronto: Irwin Law, 2003.
2. Savoie, Donald J. 2003. *Breaking the Bargain*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
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