

WERE CANADIANS CONSULTED ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION?

The Charlottetown Agreement is the result of one of the broadest public consultations in Canadian history.

- Over 700,000 Canadians from all walks of life and representatives of hundreds of concerned groups were listened to and heard.
- National and regional Aboriginal groups consulted Aboriginal peoples.
- In every province and territory, hundreds of public hearings were held.
- Numerous forums and think tanks were organized by universities across the country.

Key Public Forums and the extent of participation by Canadians

Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future (the Spicer Commission):

approximately 700,000 individuals contributed their input to the Forum.



Special Joint Committee on the Amending Process (Beaudoin-Edwards):

209 witnesses were heard and over 500 briefs were submitted by approximately 450 individuals and groups.



Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada (Beaudoin-Dobbie):

over 700 witnesses were heard and nearly 3,000 written submissions were received.



Federal Policy Conferences:

1,500 participants included interest groups, academics and Canadians. Conferences were held in Halifax, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa.



Letters responding to individuals and groups from the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs:

10,000 letters were sent in response.



Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have participated in these forums since 1990.

The Charlottetown Agreement is the result of federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal representatives listening to the input of Canadians just like you. It represents a unanimous agreement to change Canada's Constitution in a way that would include all parts of Canada and chart a course for our future together. These Constitutional proposals are designed to equip Canada with the structures and means to meet the economic and social challenges faced by us today and by those in generations to come.