

Parliament Hill district

Shaping Canada's Destiny

Parliament Hill is the place visited by almost all who come to the Capital, a familiar image that Canadians see during a ceremonial event or a national celebration such as Canada Day, or while watching the news. The Parliament buildings, the statues and commemorations, and the pageantry of ceremonial functions bring our democracy to life. On Parliament Hill, visitors walk among the heroes and the institutions of our government, exploring and learning about the political centre of our country. This site has been witness for more than a hundred years to Canadians that gather to celebrate, honour, demonstrate, mourn and express their collective feelings. While Parliament Hill must be a secure workplace, it must also remain open to the public and security must not detract from its value as symbol and Capital destination.



We all have a role in shaping Canada's destiny.



Artist's concept of west side of Centre Block

Future programming for the Parliament Hill district

- Pageantry late in the day balances the morning Changing the Guard Ceremony. This could be related to the setting of the sun and the lowering of the flag, or to another traditional ceremonial event.
- Visitors might begin their exploration of the Hill at a dynamic visitor centre. Such a centre would deepen their appreciation of democracy and provide high quality visitor services.
- A new promenade — Canada's Promenade — offers spectacular views of the Ottawa River Valley, the Gatineau Hills and a highly significant cultural landscape containing Canada's most important political institutions. This promenade connects the parliamentary and judicial precincts, adjacent to one of the most important complexes of neo-gothic buildings in the world.
- Sculptures, monuments and national symbols along the promenade open new chapters of Canada's history to visitors, complementing those already on the Hill.
- Following their exploration of the Hill, visitors can easily follow new pedestrian links and stairways to adjacent districts, or they can move to farther destinations on readily available public transportation such as water taxis and shuttle buses.