



**CANADA'S LEGAL PASTS:
Looking Forward, Looking Back**
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This work will appeal to a broad range of scholars working at the intersections of law and history. Featuring both established scholars and newer voices in the field, this volume introduces the “how” of legal history and illustrates the deepening political commitment of scholars who seek to challenge the structures of inequality in Canadian society by interrogating legal history as an avenue toward change.

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Canada’s Legal Pasts presents new essays on a range of topics and episodes in Canadian legal history, provides an introduction to legal methodologies, shows researchers newer to the field how to locate and use a variety of sources, and includes a combined bibliography arranged to demonstrate best practices in gathering and listing primary sources. It is an essential welcome for scholars who wish to learn about Canada’s legal past—and why we study it.

In fascinating accounts that include the story of a fishing vessel that became the subject of an extraordinarily long diplomatic dispute, young Northwest Mounted Police constables subject to an odd mixture of police discipline and criminal procedure, and more, this book illuminates the vibrant evolution of Canada’s legal tradition. Explorations of primary sources, including provincial archive records that suggest how Quebec courts have been used in interfamilial conflict, newspaper records that disclose the details of bigamy cases, and penitentiary records that reveal the details of the lives and legal entanglements of Canada’s most marginalized people, show the many different ways of researching and understanding legal history.

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