

Preface

This fourth edition of *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy* examines the same three questions raised by the three earlier editions. How well are the institutions and processes of Canadian federalism performing? Are they effective in addressing substantive problems? And are they seen as legitimate by the various communities and constituencies that make up Canada? In addition, there is continuity with earlier editions insofar as most of the policy sectors and institutions under scrutiny in the previous editions are also the subjects of the chapters in this fourth edition.

There are also important changes in this edition that go beyond updating chapter material to take account of developments in Canadian federalism since the last edition, eight years ago. We have several new authors: indeed, 40 per cent of the authors of chapters in this collection are new to this edition. Many of the new authors are also in the early stages of their careers, a feature that we believe attests to the intergenerational interest that Canadian federalism evokes among political scientists in our Country. Adding new authors has also enabled us to include, for the first time, chapters on two important topics. One is Dennis Baker's chapter on criminal justice and criminal law: the sole subject matter in Canada's Constitution that assigns responsibility for legislating and administering a subject matter to the two different orders of government. The other is Jörg Broschek's chapter on comparative federalism, which highlights how the Canadian emphasis on interstate and jurisdictional federalism distinguishes Canada from most other federations.

This fourth edition is possible only because of the efforts of many people. We are extremely grateful to the authors of the chapters that appear herein. We also thank our publisher, the University of Toronto Press, and, in particular, Mat Buntin and Marilyn McCormack. Mat managed the early stages of the publication of this text and Marilyn managed the review and publishing process. We also thank the anonymous reviewers commissioned by UTP who found merit in this collection and whose comments saved us and the other authors from errors.

As we write this note in early April 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit Europe and North America with full force. It comes at a time when this text is in its final stages of publication. While there can be little doubt of the enormous impact of the pandemic on Canadians' health and social and economic well-being, its transformative effects on Canadian federalism will not be fully evident for some time. To date, there appears to have been a very welcome degree of collaboration among the senior leaders of our provincial, territorial, and federal governments in tackling the crisis. Whether this "we're all in this together" spirit will endure remains to be seen. So do the consequences for intergovernmental relations of the fiscal policies being undertaken by our governments to mitigate the economic fallout for Canadians. Once the pandemic crisis is behind us, we hope that the conceptual and analytical tools used in this book will prove helpful in assessing the performance of Canadian governments, as well as the effectiveness and legitimacy of their responses to this unprecedented challenge to our country and, indeed, the world.

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