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Les négociations constitutionnelles des dernières décennies entre le fédéral et les provinces sont actuellement en veilleuse. Un amendement constitutionnel en profondeur qui demanderait l'unanimité sera très difficile à réaliser.

8 EST-CE LE MOMENT DE RÉFORMER NOTRE MODE DE SCRUTIN ?

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Pourquoi maintenant ? A-t-on atteint un moment de crise dans notre démocratie ? Est-ce que le « malaise démocratique », ce désengagement de la population à l'égard des institutions politiques traditionnelles, a atteint des proportions critiques ? Le cynisme et le manque de confiance sont-ils si généralisés que des changements radicaux soient nécessaires ?

10 PARTY DEMOCRACY TEN YEARS AFTER CHARLOTTETOWN

BY **William Cross and Lisa Young**

It is telling that during a period when Canadians were most frustrated with their political institutions and practices they focused their energies on reform of the party system. When the authors look back over the past decade they see this reform as the one area of political life that has sustained significant change.

13 TEN YEARS AFTER CHARLOTTETOWN: IS CANADA AT THE CROSSROADS?

BY **Howard Pawley**

Why was an Accord that was supported by the overwhelming majority of the Canadian political, economic and media elite turned down by a majority of the Canadian electorate? The author responds to this question and examines whether the Accord could have been useful in providing some assistance in contending with the circumstances that we are being confronted with today.

17 CONSTITUTION ET DÉMOCRATIE AU CANADA DEPUIS CHARLOTTETOWN

PAR **Stéphane Bernatchez**

La réflexion sur les processus constitutionnels n'a pas empêché complètement l'évolution du droit constitutionnel. Mais celle-ci a été largement confiée au pouvoir judiciaire. En ce sens, la démocratie constitutionnelle canadienne semble se caractériser par de nouvelles formes de démocratie, procédurale et continue, qui l'éloignent de la démocratie représentative chère au fédéralisme exécutif.

21 REINVIGORATING DEMOCRACY: DEALING WITH SEPTEMBER 11TH THROUGH MODERN TOWN HALL MEETINGS

BY **John Graham**

The author examines one means of possibly reversing the decline of the state of democracy in Canada – the 'reinvention' of the town hall meeting. He describes how it was used in New York City to deal with the aftermath of September 11th.

25 REFERENDUMS: REFLECTIONS ON THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE SINCE CHARLOTTETOWN

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The public may be willing to play a more direct role in political decision-making, but there is little consensus on when referendums should be held and under what types of rules referendum campaigns should be conducted.

30 DEMOGRAPHY IN ACTION: THE IMPACT OF FUTURE POPULATION CHANGES ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

BY **Jack Jedwab**

Much like in 1993 and 1997, the 2000 Liberal victory was largely attributable to the party's dominance in Ontario, combined with support in the larger urban centres of Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces. The future outcome of national elections will be determined by the changing demographic importance of Canada's regions. The intersection of demography and political representation is examined.

33 USA AND CANADA: THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NATIONAL DIVISION IN NORTH AMERICA

BY **Steven Hill**

The latest US election exposed a demographic trend already familiar to Canadian audiences, but new to observers of American politics – alarming levels of partisan balkanization based on geographic regions. Like in Canada, America's clunky eighteenth-century electoral system is supposed to act as the electoral filter that translates votes into political power. There may be cause for worry.

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BY **Alex Folkes**

It's not just Canada that struggles with issues of electoral reform. Democratic renewal is currently a hot item all over Europe as the established democracies look to the East and see far more representative systems being developed and outflanking them in the democracy stakes. The author concentrates on the developments in the UK where a whole raft of measures are being followed.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT / SOUS LES PROJECTEURS



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