

Volume 30, Number 3 (Fall 1992)
Impact of the Charter on the Public Policy Process
A Symposium

Article 12

Impact of the Charter on the Public Policy Process: A Symposium

Anonymous

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ohlj>
Introduction

Citation Information

Anonymous. "Impact of the Charter on the Public Policy Process: A Symposium." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 30.3 (1992) : 499-500.
<http://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ohlj/vol30/iss3/12>

This Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Osgoode Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Osgoode Hall Law Journal by an authorized editor of Osgoode Digital Commons.

IMPACT OF THE CHARTER ON THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS: A SYMPOSIUM

PREFACE

The papers in this symposium were first prepared as contributions to a collaborative research project, which was designed to assess the extent to which government policy making has been affected over the last ten years by the enactment of the *Charter*. The papers were first presented at a conference on the *Charter of Rights* held at York University in November 1991. The participants at the conference included representatives from government, practising lawyers, scholars, representatives of interest groups, and journalists. The conference was jointly sponsored by the York University Centre for Public Law and Public Policy and the Osgoode Hall Law Journal.¹

The existing scholarship and analysis of the impact of the *Charter* has tended to focus on the results in individual cases or groups of cases, and the reasoning employed by judges in those cases. This focus on the work of courts provides only a partial and incomplete view of the impact that the *Charter* has had on the operations of government. The focus of the papers in this symposium is on the way that the *Charter* has affected the ongoing policy process within government, as well as the administration and enforcement of laws following their enactment.

The introductory paper by Patrick Monahan and Marie Finkelstein provides an overview of the major conclusions, which emerged from the papers and the discussions at the conference. The second paper examines the effect of the *Charter* on law enforcement and administration. The symposium then includes two sets of papers organized as round-table discussions. The first set is written by current

¹ The Journal symposium contains only a selection of papers presented at the conference, which have been revised for publication in the Journal. A complete set of original conference papers is forthcoming in P. Monahan & M. Finkelstein, eds., *The Impact of the Charter on the Public Policy Process* (North York, Ont.: York University Centre for Public Law and Public Policy, 1993).

or former policy makers within government, who reflect on the way in which the *Charter* has affected government policy making on a day-to-day basis. The second group of papers provides a perspective from commentators outside government and explores the impact of the *Charter* on Canadian political culture.

The overall direction of the research project was the responsibility of Marie Finkelstein. Peter Russell of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto provided very helpful advice and encouragement throughout the project. The November 1991 conference was coordinated by Chad Hutchinson. Denise Boissoneau, the Administrative Assistant of the York University Centre for Public Law and Public Policy, organized and managed the Conference and ensured that it was a success.

—The Board of Editors