



PARLEMENT | PARLIAMENT
CANADA

General Rules for the Use of Parliament Hill

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General Information

Parliament Hill is a focal point of public life in Canada where individuals are free to visit and express their views. These general rules apply to organized activities and events on Parliament Hill.

The objectives of these General Rules are to:

- Support the Committee in the effective management of the use of Parliament Hill;
- Provide guidance to the public and event organisers so that they may gather to express their political views in the form of peaceful demonstration or otherwise hold events;
- Preserve Parliament Hill as a safe and dignified space where parliamentarians and other participants in parliamentary business, or those on their way to such business, will not be obstructed; and
- Provide all users of Parliament Hill with the information they need to assist in preserving the physical integrity, historical value and the parliamentary prestige that this property is owed.

Organizing Events on Parliament Hill

Parliamentarians, government departments and agencies as well as members of the public must apply for a permit to hold an event on Parliament Hill by completing and submitting the [online application form](#). It is recommended that the form be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the date of the event. Greater notice is required for more complex events.

Permits for the use of Parliament Hill are issued by the Committee on the Use of Parliament Hill, a multi-jurisdictional group composed of key stakeholders from the Parliament of Canada and the Government of Canada.

Permits for events recurring daily may be issued for a maximum of 3 months to individuals or groups no greater than 20.

The Committee may contact event organizers seeking further clarification of their application.

The Committee will notify the event organizer in writing with respect to the status of the application, with authorizations granted or denied.

The Committee on the Use of Parliament Hill reserves the right to change the conditions included in the authorization at any time and without prior notice. It can also cancel all activities for security reasons. The Parliament of Canada is not liable for any loss or inconvenience which may result from any changes or cancellation.

The following are key considerations for event organizers on Parliament Hill.

Hours of operation

Events on Parliament Hill are to be held between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including set-up and tear-down times.

Noise levels

Noise levels may not exceed 87 dBA in compliance with the Canada Labour Code, Part II (R.S.C. 1985, c. L-2).

Use of amplifiers during the Changing of the Guard (during the summer time, daily, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) or during the Dominion Carillonneur musical concert (from September through June, Monday to Friday, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. and in July and August, Monday to Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) is prohibited.

Litter

It is the responsibility of the event organizer to ensure that any litter generated as a result of the event is picked up.

Positioning

Events may only be held within the confines of the main walkway between the Centennial Flame and the base of the main stairs so as not to block pedestrian traffic.

For events with a large number of participants, the Committee on the use of Parliament Hill ("Committee") may grant access to the grassed areas of the East and West lawns of the forecourt.

Activities wishing to be held on the front steps leading up to the Peace Tower must be pre-authorized by the Committee.

A map of Parliament Hill is provided in Attachment A.

Signs

In order to protect the safety and security of visitors to the Hill, protect the integrity of the lawns, and maintain line of sight for security personnel, certain restrictions apply to the use of signs.

All signs must be hand-held and may not be left on Parliament Hill unattended.

Signs or banners, other than plastic foam core signs, must be made of cardboard or cloth/nylon. Plastic foam core signs must be limited to 1.0 cm (0.4 in) in thickness, 41.0 cm (16.1 in) in width, and 61.0 cm (24 in) in length.

All types of signs or banners must be supported by cardboard or softwood supports no larger than 2.5 cm by 2.5 cm (1 in x 1 in). These supports must not exceed 2.0 m (78.7 in) in length. In The ends of the supports must not be pointed or sharp.

Messages that are obscene, offensive, or that promote hatred are prohibited.

Flags may be hand-held but may not be affixed to any structure or mast or planted in the ground.

Structures

In order to preserve the integrity of the lawns and maintain line of sight for security personnel, structures of any kind, including tents, shelters, stages, platforms, podiums, screening apparatus, bridges, and games or any other structure must be pre-authorized by the, Committee.

Props

For security reasons and to preserve the physical integrity of the buildings and lawns, props such as backdrops, billboards or other such displays are restricted. All props must be pre-authorized by the Committee.

Parking and Vehicles

The presence of vehicles must be pre-authorized by the Committee. No parking is available.

Washrooms

Public washrooms are located behind East Block.

Accessibility

In order for arrangements to be made for mobility-impaired persons, the section "Additional Information" in the Form for the Use of Parliament Hill must be completed accordingly. Accessible washrooms are available.

Prohibitions and Restrictions

Admission Fees

Events that charge an admission fee are prohibited.

Advertising

Use of the grounds for commercial advertising is prohibited.

Alcohol

Selling, serving or consuming alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Animals

Persons with pets must comply with City of Ottawa Animal Care and Control By-law No. 2003-77.

Balloons

Balloons are restricted.

Barbecues

The use of barbecues or any other cooking equipment is restricted.

Blocking Passage

The use or set-up of furniture, displays or any other item in a manner that could hinder the passage of pedestrians or emergency vehicles is restricted.

Camping

The Public Works Nuisances Regulations prohibit residing, camping, and sleeping on Parliament Hill.

Commercial Operations/Transaction

Any trading by exchanging one commodity for another, monetary or otherwise is prohibited.

Drones

Drone use is restricted.

Fires

Fires are prohibited. Electric candles during vigils may be used.

Fixtures

For security reasons and in order to preserve the physical integrity of the buildings and lawns, affixing, hanging or attaching any item to the buildings, grounds, walkways, pillars, statues, monuments, trees, or other structures, or piercing the ground within the Hill Precinct, is restricted.

Food

The sale of food is prohibited. The distribution of food is restricted and must comply with the guidelines outlined in R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 562: FOOD PREMISES under the Ontario *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

Fundraising

Fundraising is restricted.

Sports

Organized sports such as baseball, football, soccer are restricted.

Weapons

Weapons and other devices dangerous to public peace are prohibited.

Weddings

Wedding ceremonies, and receptions are prohibited, but wedding photos may be taken.

Special Provisions

Drones

Parliament Hill is designated as restricted airspace by NAV Canada. Unless pre-authorized by the Committee, no person shall operate an aircraft, including model aircraft and drones, within 560 meters of the Peace Tower.

Drone-related inquiries may be addressed to:

Filming

Commercial or professional filming must be pre-authorized by the Committee. Filming for personal purposes is permitted.

Flags

Only the National Flag and the Flag of the Governor General of Canada are permitted to be raised on Parliament Hill.

Courtesy flags may be flown on the Courtesy Flagpoles on the East and West Lawns for special occasions such as visits of foreign dignitaries, or annual commemorative days. Decisions governing the use of the Courtesy Flagpoles are made by the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Illumination of the Peace Tower

Illumination of the Peace Tower is reserved for Parliamentary and governmental purposes. Applications from the public will not be considered.

Liability

All visitors to the Hill shall respect the Parliament Hill Precinct property in its entirety. Those failing to abide by these rules will be asked to leave the premises and may be removed in accordance with the Trespass to Property Act, R.S.O. 1990.

In the event of damage, the cost of repair, replacement, or cleaning (including excessive garbage, mislaid garbage (anything outside of designated receptacles) and property damages of any sort) shall be the responsibility of the individual or group to whom permission to use the Parliament Hill Precinct was granted, or the person who caused the damage.

The Parliament of Canada and its employees will not be held responsible for any injury, including death, or loss or physical damage incurred by the event organizer and participants or other persons by reason of such events.

The event organizer shall indemnify and save harmless the Parliament of Canada and its employees from any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, including reasonable solicitor/client fees; administrative fees and disbursements, and all claims, demands, actions and other proceedings made, sustained, brought, prosecuted, threatened to be brought or prosecuted in any manner based upon, occasioned by or attributable to any injury to or death of a person or environmental effect or damage to or loss of property arising directly or indirectly and whether by reason of anything done as a result of any willful or negligent act or delay on the part of the event organizer or the event organizer's employees or volunteers in the conduct of the event, except that the Parliament of Canada shall not claim indemnification under this section to the extent that the injury, death or damage has been caused by its employees.

Attachment A – Map of Parliament Hill

