



LIBRARY *of* PARLIAMENT

BIBLIOTHÈQUE *du* PARLEMENT

Informing Citizens About Democracy: The Role of Canada's Library of Parliament

Presentation to IFLA by Catherine MacLeod

Assistant Parliamentary Librarian

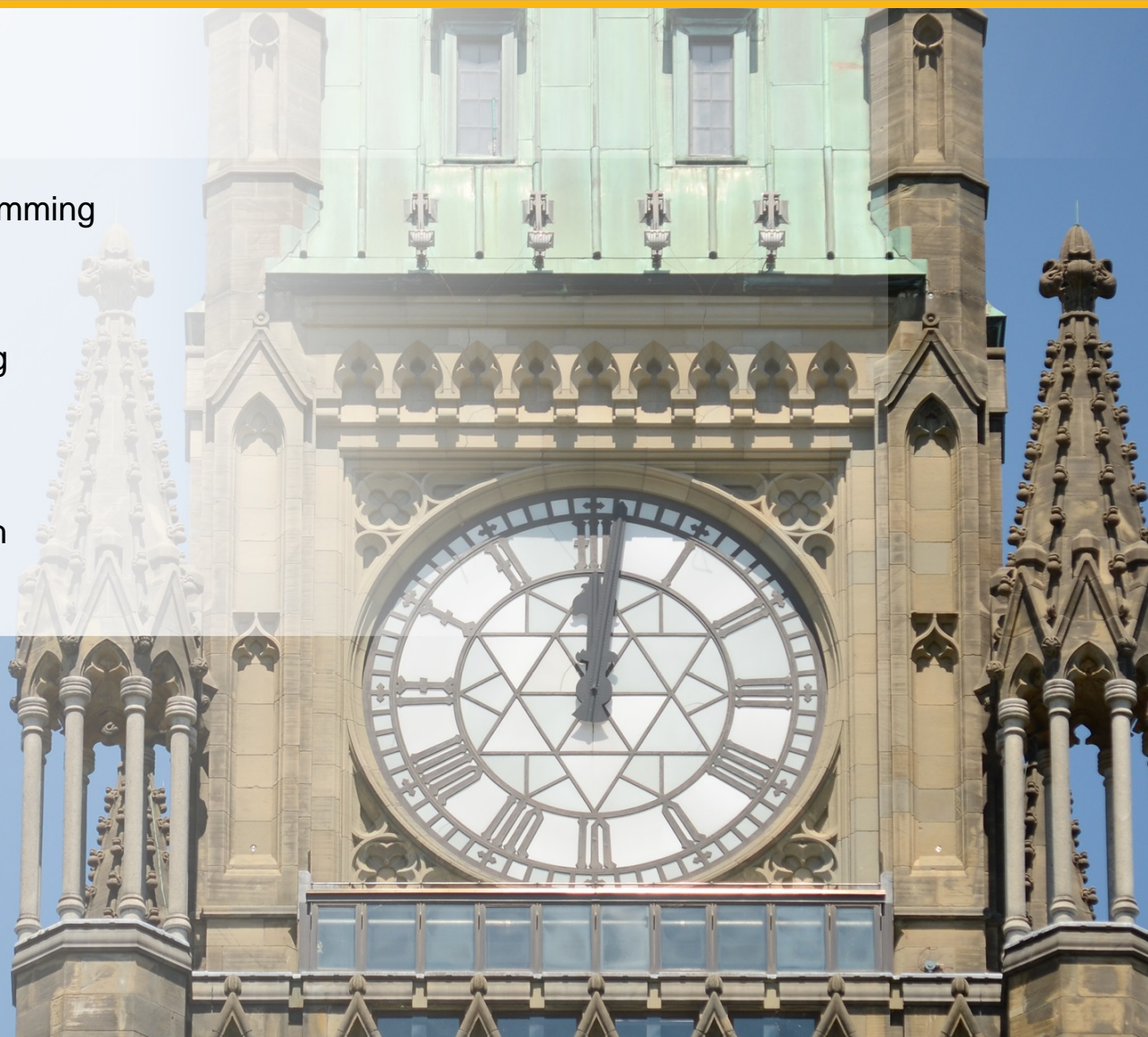
Library of Parliament, Canada

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Overview

- Responsible for public programming on behalf of Parliament and parliamentarians
- Two key vehicles for informing citizens about democracy:
 1. Onsite visitor services
 2. Targeted national outreach





Public Programming Objective

To provide opportunities for Canadians to access, engage with and be informed about their Parliament



Greater citizen engagement
in democracy





1. Access to Parliament: Visitor Services

- Providing access to Canada's Parliament
- Engaging university students
- Informing Canadians about citizenship and democracy





2. Informing Citizens: Targeted National Outreach

- Teachers and students
- General public
- Youth
 - Citizens who are engaged early in life are more inclined to stay involved in the democratic process





Current Canadian Context

Two main challenges:

1. Youth democratic engagement
2. Changing technologies





1. Current Context: Youth Democratic Engagement in Canada

- 18–24-year-old voter turnout less than 40% in last federal election
- Less likely to participate in conventional political actions
- Social isolation due to new technologies
- Decline in civics education and belief in civic duty





2. Current Context: Changing Technologies

Engaging young Canadians with Parliament:

- Interactive web resources
 - Canadians are heavy Internet users (45 hours/person/month)
- Youth-friendly videos
 - Preferred digital media for young Canadians
- Social media
 - YouTube is premiere search engine for young Canadians
 - 75% of Canadian youth on Facebook





Looking Ahead: Future Challenges for Public Access

Canada's Parliament undergoing major renovations:

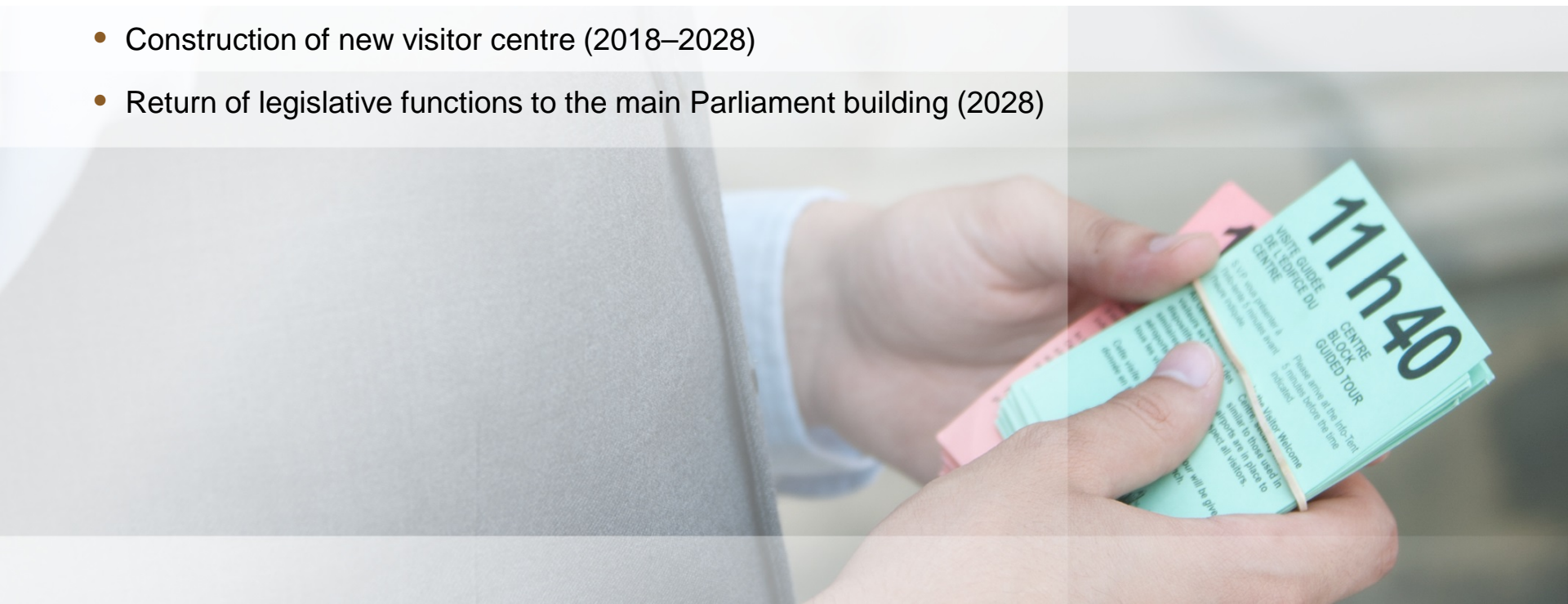
- Main building will close for 10 years
 - Heritage building in urgent need of rehabilitation
 - Requirements for modern systems and infrastructure





Planning for the Next Decade

- Preparing for the relocation of two legislative chambers (2014–2018)
- Renovation of the main Parliament building (2018–2028)
- Public access and guided tours at multiple locations (2018–2028)
- Construction of new visitor centre (2018–2028)
- Return of legislative functions to the main Parliament building (2028)





Conclusion

Canada's Library of Parliament is using:

- advancements in technology
- a new visitor's experience

and

- new methods to reach Canadians

... to modernize
and transform
our programs
moving forward

