

# Adam Dodek makes Canada's Constitution accessible to readers

By Pamela Rosenberg  
Soloway JCC

In his new book, *The Canadian Constitution*, University of Ottawa law professor Adam Dodek shines a new light on the defining document of our system of government and does it with fun facts and photographs, making it comprehensible for everyone.

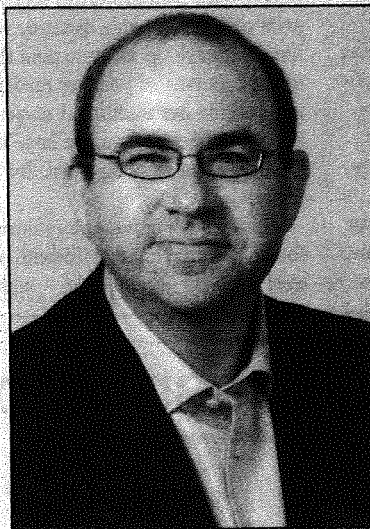
Dodek was inspired to write the book after perusing the shelves of American bookstores where he noticed much literature on the U.S. Constitution.

"Ordinary Americans identify with their constitution and can quote and connect with it on a personal basis more than Canadians do," said Dodek. "I was trying to write a book that is accessible, and to put the text of the constitution in Canadians' hands."

After graduating from McGill University and Harvard Law School, Dodek was a clerk at the Supreme Court of Israel where his job was to look at the constitutional law of other countries. He says Canada has had a strong influence on Israeli constitutional law.

Dodek dedicates *The Canadian Constitution* to his son, Ben, 11, a student at the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

"When my son was in Grade 3, he



Law professor Adam Dodek will speak about his new book, *The Canadian Constitution*, May 30 at SJCC.

had to read all kind of different genres of books. When he asked what genre I write in, I said non-fiction law. 'Can you write humour?' he asked, and I told him this is the best I can do," said Dodek.

A native of Vancouver, Dodek has called several places home. Following studies in Montreal and Boston, he received a Fulbright Scholarship, which brought him to Israel where he met his

wife, Nicole. He later practised law in San Francisco and clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena.

He returned to Canada to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and then practised law in Toronto. In 2003, he joined the staff of the Attorney General of Ontario, first as a senior policy adviser and then as director of policy and, from 2005 to 2006, as chief of staff.

Despite all the globetrotting, Dodek knew his keen interest in Canada's Constitution and government would bring him back to Ottawa. So, when the phone rang with the offer of a full-time teaching job at University of Ottawa, he "jumped at the chance."

After five years in Ottawa, the Dodek family is immersed in the community. Dodek sits on the board of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) where the family are active members. The family are also volunteers at Hillel Lodge.

Adam Dodek will speak about his book, *The Canadian Constitution*, in an author's talk presented by the Greenberg Families Library and the Bora Laskin Law Society, on Thursday, May 30, 7:00 pm at the Soloway JCC.