

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456209303321
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Titolo	Law, rhetoric and irony in the formation of Canadian civil culture // Michael Dorland and Maurice Charland
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2002 ©2002
ISBN	9786612028328 1-282-02832-4 1-4426-7660-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (374 p.)
Disciplina	971
Soggetti	Civil society - Canada Law - Canada - History Electronic books. Canada Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Envoi -- 1. Situating Canada's Civil Culture -- 2. 'Who Killed Canadian History?' The Uses and Abuses of Canadian Historiography -- 3. The Legitimacy of Conquest: Issues in the Transition of Legal Regimes, 1760s-1840s -- 4. Constituting Constitutions under the British Regime, 1763-1867 -- 5. The Limits of Law: The North-West, Riel, and the Expansion of Anglo-Canadian Institutions, 1869-1885 -- 6. 'Impious Civility': Woman's Suffrage and the Refiguration of Civil Culture, 1885-1929 -- 7. The Dialectic of Language, Law, and Translation: Manitoba and Quebec Revisited, 1969-1999 -- 8. Civility, Its Discontents, and the Performance of Social Appearance -- 9. The Figures of Authority in Canadian Civil Culture -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In Rhetoric, Irony, and Law in the Formation of Canadian Civil Culture, Michael Dorland and Maurice Charland examine how, over the roughly 400-year period since the encounter of First Peoples with Europeans in

North America, rhetorical or discursive fields took form in politics and constitution-making, in the formation of a public sphere, and in education and language. The study looks at how these fields changed over time within the French regime, the British regime, and in Canada since 1867, and how they converged through trial and error into a Canadian civil culture. The authors establish a triangulation of fields of discourse formed by law (as a technical discourse system), rhetoric (as a public discourse system), and irony (as a means of accessing the public realm as the key pillars upon which a civil culture in Canada took form) in order to scrutinize the process of creating a civil culture. By presenting case studies ranging from the legal implications of the transition from French to English law to the continued importance of the Louis Riel case and trial, the authors provide detailed analyses of how communication practices form a common institutional culture. As scholars of communication and rhetoric, Dorland and Charland have written a challenging examination of the history of Canadian governance and the central role played by legal and other discourses in the formation of civil culture.
