



## Honorary Protestants: The Jewish School Question in Montreal, 1867-1997 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History)

By David Fraser

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When the Constitution Act of 1867 was enacted, section 93 guaranteed certain educational rights to Catholics and Protestants in Quebec, but not to any others. Over the course of the next century, the Jewish community in Montreal carved out an often tenuous arrangement for public schooling as “honorary Protestants,” based on complex negotiations with the Protestant and Catholic school boards, the provincial government, and individual municipalities. In the face of the constitution’s exclusionary language, all parties gave their compromise a legal form which was frankly unconstitutional, but unavoidable if Jewish children were to have access to public schools. Bargaining in the shadow of the law, they made their own constitution long before the formal constitutional amendment of 1997 finally put an end to the issue.

In *Honorary Protestants*, David Fraser presents the first legal history of the Jewish school question in Montreal. Based on extensive archival research, it highlights the complex evolution of concepts of rights, citizenship, and identity, negotiated outside the strict legal boundaries of the constitution.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

‘With the appearance of Fraser’s *Honorary Protestants*, I can refer to a full legal history of the topic that is exhaustive in its attention to detail. The book is extensively researched and forcefully argued.’

(Roderick MacLeod *Canadian Jewish Studies* vol 24:2016)

### Review

“The story of the ‘Jewish School Question’ has never before been told in such compelling detail, nor within the context of a learned discussion of ‘rights,’ ‘citizenship,’ and ‘identity.’ *Honorary Protestants* constitutes an exceedingly important contribution to the history of Canadian education, the social politics of the Montreal Jewish community, and the relationships between the Jewish, Protestant, and Roman Catholic constituencies in the province of Quebec.”

(Gerald Tulchinsky, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Queen's University)

“*Honorary Protestants*’ presents an important corrective to the twentieth-century focus of much of the history of civil liberties in Quebec and Canada. As David Fraser demonstrates, fundamental rights and liberties were being debated already in the nineteenth century, long before conscription crises, the Red Scares, and Duplessis’s *guerre sans merci* of the 1930s and 1940s.”

(Eric H. Reiter, Department of History, Concordia University)

### About the Author

**David Fraser** is a professor in the School of Law at the University of Nottingham.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gayle Collins:**

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**Mark Clark:**

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**Tracy Laflamme:**

This Honorary Protestants: The Jewish School Question in Montreal, 1867-1997 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History) is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Honorary Protestants: The Jewish School Question in Montreal, 1867-1997 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History) in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no e-book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

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