Constitutional Democracy under Stress
A Time for Heroic Citizenship

A Conference on the Existential Threat to our Democracy and How we Might Redeem It

October 5 & 6, 2019
The Ted Rogers School of Management
Ryerson University
55 Dundas St W, Toronto
Liberal constitutional democracy has failed to deliver on some of its core promises and is now everywhere under siege. The values that underpin freedom and democracy are being undermined and repudiated throughout the world.

SECTION 1 and MOSAIC PRESS present an extraordinary conference on the fundamentals of constitutional democracy and how we can best guard against further backsliding towards illiberalism, engage constructively across partisan and ideological divides and rehabilitate democratic governance through enlightened and responsible citizenship.

- Peter L. Biro and Howard Aster, Co-Chairs
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1

8:30 a.m. – Registration / Coffee

9:15 a.m. 1st Session:
Setting the table – The Gold Standard and the Retreat of Liberal Democracy

PETER L. BIRO AND HOWARD ASTER – Welcome from the Co-Chairs
PETER L. BIRO – The Retreat of Liberal Constitutional Democracy and the Urgent Need for Heroic Citizenship
NATHALIE DES ROSIERS – Section 1 as an Accountability Forum (What a constitutional democracy calls for)
THOMAS AXWORTHY – Coping with the Populist Surge: The Politics of Inclusion versus the Politics of Fear

11:00 a.m. 2nd Session:
Free Expression as Litmus Test for Constitutional Democracy

SYDNEY GOLDENBERG - Freedom of Expression in a Free and Democratic Society
DAVE SEGLINS – Free Press in a Constitutional Democracy
FAISAL KUTTY – Apostasy is not a Crime in a Constitutional Democracy: On Blasphemy and Free Speech

12:15 p.m. – LUNCH BREAK

1:30 p.m. 3rd Session:
Democracy in Action: Citizen Activism as Civic Engagement

AUBE GIROUX - Food Democracy in an Era of Regulatory Capture
RACHEL PARENT - Young People are Citizens too – Kids’ Right to Know!

3:15 p.m. 4th Session:
Data and Democratic Decision-Making

JEAN-PIERRE KINGSLEY – What Do Elections Have to Do with Democracy?
DAVID BERLIN - The Next Big Thing: Building a Better Ballot
HENRY LOTIN - Evidence-Based Policy-Making: A Threat From Within
GARY SAARENVIRTA - The Big Misconception about A.I. and Big Data: Lessons from the World of Retail

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS FOR THE DAY
## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### DAY 2

### 8:30 a.m. – Registration / Coffee

### 9:15 a.m. 1st Session: The Engaged Judiciary and the Rule of Law

**JUSTICE ALISON HARVISON YOUNG** - Transformative Encounters with an Independent Judiciary: Experiencing Citizenship

**ASHER HONICKMAN** - Between Activism and Abdication: The Judicial Function and the Rule of Law

### 10:30 a.m. 2nd Session: On Citizenship and Basic Human Rights

**IRWIN COTLER** (via video-conference) - The Resurgent Global Authoritarianism, Assault on Human Rights and Retreat of Democracies: Through the Looking Glass of Political Prisoners

**MARY JO LEDDY** - The Common Ground of Citizenship: Insiders and Outsiders

**MARIO SILVA** - Personal Privacy and Security: The Inescapable Tensions in a Constitutional Democracy

**KAREN MOCK** - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in a Pluralistic Society – Core Canadian Values to Counter Xenophobia and Hate

### 12:15 p.m. – LUNCH BREAK

### 1:30 p.m. 3rd Session: On the Democratic Attitude and the Democratic Mind

**HOWARD ASTER** – Democracy, Literacy and the Damaged Brain in a Damaged Planet

**DOUG BLANDY** – Art, Art Education and the Preparation of Democratic Citizens

**DANIEL YUDKIN** (via video-conference) - The Social Psychology of Citizenship: How an Understanding of Core Beliefs can Help Heal a Fractured Society

**AVNER LEVIN** – Social Media and Technology Monopolies: A call to Action

### 3:30 p.m. 4th Session: Some Advice for Twenty-First Century Democracies

**AKAASH MAHARAJ** - Passion and Reason: The Battle Between Emotion and Fact in Twenty-first Century Democracies

**IRVIN STUDIN** - Democracy in the 21st Century Cannot Succeed Without More Western Humility, Curiosity and, Yes, Humour

### 4:30 p.m. – Closing Remarks and Thanks from the Co-Chairs

**CONFERENCE ENDS**
Howard Aster is a publisher, scholar, professor and political consultant. He has taught at McMaster University, Carleton University and McGill University in the Department of Political Science, has served as a consultant to numerous government departments and cultural organizations in Canada and abroad, has served on several public and private boards, is the author or editor of twelve books and over 100 articles and is a founder, principal and the CEO of Mosaic Press. Together with his wife, Jeanette, Howard founded and co-manages La Roche d’Hys-Domaine Des Arts in Burgundy, France.

Thomas Sidney Axworthy, OC, has had a distinguished career in government, academia, and philanthropy. He served as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and he was a key strategist on repatriation of the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He was appointed Secretary-General of the InterAction Council, a think tank of former world leaders, in 2011. He has taught at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and was subsequently appointed Chair of the Centre for the Study of Democracy, School of Policy Studies, Queen’s University. He is currently a distinguished fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and Chair of Public Policy at Massey College, University of Toronto. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and is the author of numerous books and articles of which the best known is Towards a Just Society, co-authored with Pierre Trudeau.

David Berlin is an acclaimed Canadian editor, author, politician and educator, best known for being the co-founder and first editor of The Walrus from 2003 to 2004 and former editor and owner of the Literary Review of Canada from 1998 to 2001. He is the founder of the Bridge Party of Canada and a pioneer and champion of a more democratic voting system which he calls the “People’s Platform”. David’s most recent book is The Moral Lives of Israelis: Reinventing the Dream State (Vintage Canada, 2011).

Peter L. Biro is the Founder of SECTION 1, a lawyer, the President and CEO of Newcon Optik and Past Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute (Global). He is a passionate advocate for civics education, civil liberties, human rights, wildlife conservation and animal welfare. He is Chair of the Advisory Board of tech start-up AVAIL and was a Governor of the University of Haifa and President of Canadian Friends of Haifa University. He was for two decades a leading member of the litigation and employment bars in Ontario prior to joining the business world. He has written and lectured frequently on law, government and political theory and appears in the media to comment on developments in the law and politics. He is the Editor of CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY UNDER STRESS – A Time For Heroic Citizenship, forthcoming from MOSAIC PRESS.
Doug Blandy is the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Oregon and former Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, former Program Director in the Arts and Administration Program, and former Director of the Center for Community Arts and Cultural Policy at the University of Oregon. As director of the Center, he inaugurated the on-line advisory CultureWork. In addition, he teaches and advise students at both the graduate and undergraduate level who have an interest in arts administration and community arts. His research attends to community arts, civil society, program accessibility, and art education. He provides service to professional organizations internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally. He has published numerous volumes, chapters and scholarly articles on art, art criticism and the role of art education in the formation of democratic citizens.

Irwin Cotler, PC, OC, OQ, is the Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, an Emeritus Professor of Law at McGill University, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and long-time Member of Parliament, and one of the world’s most respected international human rights lawyers. A constitutional and comparative law scholar, Professor Cotler is the author of numerous publications and seminal legal articles and has written upon and intervened in landmark Charter of Rights cases in the areas of free speech, freedom of religion, minority rights, peace law and war crimes justice. A leading Parliamentarian on the global stage, he has been Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in Iran; Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Justice for Sergei Magnitsky; Chair of the All-Party Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition; Chair, Canadian section, of the Parliamentarians for Global Action and Member of its international council. His honours, awards and accolades are too numerous to list herein!

Nathalie Des Rosiers, OC, OO, is the 6th Principal of Massey College at the University of Toronto. Most recently, she was the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier and served as Minister of Natural Resources in the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne. Prior to entering politics, she was Interim Vice President, Governance, for the University of Ottawa and Dean of the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, at the University of Ottawa. Her areas of expertise are constitutional law and women’s rights. She has been General Counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, (CCLA) and also President of the Law Commission of Canada. The Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario and two honorary doctorates are but a few of her many honours and awards.

Aube Giroux is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, organic gardener, and food blogger who works on food, agriculture, and sustainability issues. She previously directed two documentaries for the National Film Board of Canada and several independent productions. Her work has been shown on CBC and at international film festivals. Aube is the creator of Kitchen Vignettes, an acclaimed farm-to-table food blog and online cooking show on PBS. The show received the 2012 Saveur Magazine Best Food Blog Award and is a two-time James Beard Award nominee. MODIFIED is her first feature-length documentary.

Sydney Goldenberg practised law (civil litigation) in Toronto for 37 years, representing people from all walks of life in all manner of disputes. He is regarded as one of the most formidable litigators of his generation and was also an outstanding mentor to many young lawyers entering the profession. A passionate civil libertarian and scholar, he also taught philosophy of law part-time at Glendon College for some 15
years and took on cases for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, also serving on its Board. Though retired from his practice, he continues to teach his two passions, philosophy and law, to adult learners at the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto.

Jane Goodall, DBE  
is a world renowned primatologist, anthropologist, conservationist and humanitarian. Considered to be the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees, Goodall is best known for her over 55-year study of social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees since she first went to Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania in 1960. She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots programme, and she has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues. She has served on the board of the Nonhuman Rights Project since its founding in 1996. In April 2002, she was named a UN Messenger of Peace. Dr. Goodall is also honorary member of the World Future Council. She has written some 30 books and been the subject of more than 40 films. Her honours, awards and accolades, which include the Kyoto Prize, the Genesis Award and the DBE, are simply too numerous to list herein.

Justice Alison Harvison Young  
is a judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, appointed to that Court on August 31, 2018. Prior to her appointment as a judge, Harvison Young was a legal academic in family law. She was appointed as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario by the Canadian government on November 19, 2004. At the time of her appointment, she was the dean of the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. She has also taught at Faculty of Law at McGill University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Asher Honickman  
is a partner at Matthews Abogado LLP in Toronto. He has successfully represented his clients at all stages of litigation and has appeared at all levels of court in Ontario and before the Supreme Court of Canada. Asher has broad litigation expertise, including commercial disputes and defamation, constitutional litigation, insurance, personal injury, long term disability, employment law and professional misconduct. He is the founder of Advocates for the Rule of Law, a legal think tank, and is a co-founder and Board member of the Runnymede Society, a national law student group dedicated to promoting liberty and the rule of law.

Jean-Pierre Kingsley  
was Canada’s Chief Electoral Officer from 1990 to 2007. During his mandate, he instituted reforms aimed at assuring at respecting Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms and oversaw the modernization of Canada’s electoral system, including the 36-day electoral calendar, the digitization of electoral geographic systems, and the establishment of the National Register of Electors. After leaving the post of chief electoral officer, he served as president and CEO of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, leading international observer missions for elections in Iraq and Haiti, among others. Prior to joining the federal public service, Jean-Pierre was a hospital administrator and held positions in the private sector.

Faisal Kutty  
is a Founding Partner of KSM Law. He has prepared submissions and appeared in various courts, commissions and tribunals including United Nations Committees and Tribunals. He has advised and acted for a number of the leading Islamic Finance companies and charities in Canada. He has also acted on behalf of individuals and institutions caught up in anti-terrorism
investigations. He Associate Professor of law at Valparaiso University School of Law and serves as Adjunct Professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University. He currently is co-chair of the Islamic Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools and as an executive member of the International Human Rights Law Section.

Mary Jo Leddy, CM, is a Canadian writer, speaker, theologian and social activist. She is widely recognized for her work with refugees as Founder of Toronto’s Romero House. She was founding editor of the Catholic New Times. She is a founding member of Canadian Sanctuary Network since 1991 and National Co-Chair of Keep the Promise campaign to end Child Poverty. She is author of numerous highly acclaimed books and hundreds of articles. Her most recent book is, Why Are We Here? A Meditation on Canada (Novalis, 2019). She is a Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto, and past board member of PEN Canada and Massey College. Among her numerous honours and awards are the Human Relations Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Ontario Citizenship Award, and the Order of Canada.

Avner Levin is a Professor at Ryerson University’s Law & Business Department. He previously served as the Interim Dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management. He is the Founding Director of Ryerson University’s Law Research Centre and of the Privacy and Cyber Crime Institute. He has previously served as Ryerson University’s Interim Vice-Provost of Faculty Affairs and as Interim Assistant Vice-President of Human Resources. Professor Levin’s research interests include the legal profession, law and technology, privacy and cybercrime. He has been a recipient of funding from bodies such as SSHRC, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Public Safety Canada, Industry Canada and the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at Tel-Aviv University. He has published widely in leading journals and volumes and is the co-author, with Mr. Howard Simkevitz of the “The Law of Employee Use of Technology.”

Henry Lotin is an economist and recently retired Canadian diplomat based in Toronto. He served abroad at the Canadian Mission to the U.N. in New York, Canadian High Commission in New Delhi, and Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. For Global Affairs Canada and Industry Canada, he was engaged in trade policy and facilitation, economic and financial reporting, innovation policy, political, security, and non-permanent visa entry issues. He is also a former Executive Vice-President of the Canada-India Business Council. He is the Founder and principal of Integrative Trade and Economics, a research company that examines international trade in services, and the implications of demography, immigration, and non-permanent resident entry on economic growth and housing demand. He serves on the Executive of the Canadian International Council (Toronto Branch).

Akaash Maharaj is CEO of the Mosaic Institute, a Canadian charitable organisation that brings together people, communities, and nations, to foster mutual understanding and to resolve conflict. He also serves as Ambassador-at-Large for the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. He has addressed the United Nations on international prosecution of Crimes Against Humanity, and he has a special commitment to reconciliation in conflict states. Outside of his professional life, he was a triple gold medallist for Canada at the International Championships of Equestrian SkillatArms. He was the first overseas student elected President of the student government in the history of Oxford University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, of the Royal Asiatic Society, and of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.
Karen Rochelle Mock, CM, is an acclaimed human rights advocate and consultant, well known as a dynamic lecturer, workshop coordinator and facilitator. She was Executive Director and CEO of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation from 2001 to 2005 and prior to that was National Director of the League for Human Rights of B’nai Brith Canada for twelve years, as well as executive director of the League’s Human Rights Education and Training Centre, after several years as a teacher educator. Mock is a certified teacher and registered educational psychologist, specializing in human rights, hate crime and diversity issues and multicultural/anti-racist education. She has published widely in her field, and conducts many training programs in the public and private sectors. She has also been recognized by the Canadian courts and human rights tribunals as an expert on hate groups, hate group activity, discrimination, racism and antisemitism. Mock served as a member of the official Canadian Delegation to the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) held in Durban, South Africa in 2001. Among her many honours is her investiture as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Rachel Parent is an environmental youth activist, vocal advocate for safe food, social justice, animal rights, and responsible consumerism. She is the founder of Kids Right To Know and Gen-Earth.Org. For the past 8 years she has positioned herself as a strong proponent of mandatory GMO labeling, advocating for the right to know what’s in our food in Canada and the USA. At age 14, Rachel debated celebrity Host Kevin O’Leary and Amanda Lang on CBC Television. Rachel is an international speaker, including TEDxToronto 2014 and SXSW in Austin, TX, in addition to being a passionate blogger for the Huffington Post. She is currently studying journalism at Ryerson University’s School of Journalism. She is the recipient of numerous honours and awards for her leadership and service to the community.

Gary (Kari) Saarenvirta is the Founder and CEO, Daisy Intelligence and a pre-eminent authority in artificial intelligence (AI) with over 25 years’ experience working with leading global corporations to deliver revenue and profit growth. He has brought autonomous machine intelligence to clients in retail, insurance and healthcare for hundreds of businesses, large and small. Daisy is revolutionizing optimization of merchandise planning for high volume retailers and fraud detection/risk management for insurance and banking. Using proprietary mathematical solutions and Daisy’s reinforcement learning A.I.-based simulation platform, Daisy analyzes trillions of the trade-offs inherent in any complex business question and provides timely, actionable decision recommendations to help corporate clients grow total sales, improve margins and reduce fraud. Gary is the former head of IBM Canada’s data mining and data warehousing practices. He was also at the helm of Loyalty Consulting Group, providing analytical services for one of the world’s most successful coalition loyalty programs, the AIR MILES® Reward Program.

Dave Seglins is one of Canada’s most respected investigative journalists. He is a Canadian radio, television and on-line journalist who has covered domestic and international affairs, policing, government and corporate corruption for many years. Between 2008 and 2010 he hosted the flagship weekend news program The World This Weekend on CBC Radio One. His recent work includes exposés on global ticket scalping, offshore tax avoidance and government surveillance. He covers a range of domestic and international issues, including rail safety, policing, government and corporate corruption.
Mario Silva is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Privacy and Cyber Crime Institute in the Institute for the Study of Corporate Social Responsibility at Ryerson University. He is a former Toronto City Councillor and federal Member of Parliament. He is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University. He served as the Official Opposition Critic for Foreign Affairs (Americas), Labour and Treasury Board as well as a member of the International Trade Committee. In 2013 he was appointed by Prime Minister of Canada to be the Canadian Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. He is the co-author of Hanging By A Thread: Afghan Women’s Rights and Security Threats (Mosaic Press, 2014) and of Tackling Hate: Combating Antisemitism (Mosaic Press, 2015 with Scott Reid). Among his honours are the Order of Merit of Portugal, The Order of Rio Branco from Brazil and the Ordre National de La Légion d’honneur from France.

Irvin Studin is the President of the Institute for 21st Century Questions, (a vision and strategy tank based in Toronto with activities around the world), and Editor-in-Chief & Publisher of Global Brief magazine. He has been called one of the leading international policy thinkers of his generation. Studin, a former Rhodes Scholar, is with the Chaire Raoul-Dandurand at the Université du Québec à Montreal (UQAM), and has been a professor in leading universities in North America, Asia and Europe. He is the co-founder of Ukraine’s Higher School of Public Administration (Kiev). He has been an advisor in Canada’s Privy Council Office and Australia’s Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. His latest book is Russia – Strategy, Policy and Administration (Palgrave-MacMillan), and his upcoming book is Ten Theses on Canada in the 21st Century.

Daniel Yudkin is the Associate Director of Research at More in Common and is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Social and Behavioural Science Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously he was a Fellow at Yale University and Harvard University. His research focuses on how people assess and influence their surroundings, including how they decide between right and wrong, compare themselves to others, and explore new spaces. He has been a contributing writer to the New York Times, The Guardian, and Scientific American. Daniel is interested in using insights from social science to understand and improve human behavior and society.
The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
- CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, SECTION 1.

Democracy is “a collage” of institutions . . . put together piece by piece, and can be taken apart the same way.
- NANCY BERMEO

Democracy Dies in Darkness
- THE WASHINGTON POST – MASTHEAD

Public education must prepare pupils for citizenship in the Republic
- U.S. SUPREME COURT, BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403 V. FRASER
Thanks to the following for their generous support and assistance:

Ira and Paula Kuchinsky  
Diane Chaperon-Lor  
David Bossin-Hardy  
Louise Lopes  
Alina Smirnova  
Anver Saloojee  
Aaron Landsberg  
Newcon Optik  
Ryerson University  
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