

Preface

Pierre Elliott Trudeau left a legacy not only for Canada, but for the world. Through its scholarship and fellowship programs, the Foundation seeks to encourage intellectual leadership in four areas so that, some day, Trudeau scholars and fellows, all leaders in their fields, can help Canada and thereby help the world. The Foundation's mentorship programs enable these people to connect with the world of public policy outside academia. Our public interaction program events are the link that brings the Trudeau community and the general public together. The four themes of the Trudeau Foundation — Human Rights and Dignity, Responsible Citizenship, Canada in the World, and People and Their Natural Environment — are fundamental to all of the Foundation's work.

When I examine our first theme, Human Rights and Dignity, I am encouraged that Western society has made great progress. I recently read two books on two seminal figures in human rights in the United States, Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon Johnson. Although I saw little change in society's attitude toward race when major policy change was undertaken in the 100 years between these two presidents, I am encouraged by the attitudinal change that has taken place with respect to this issue in the almost half-century since Johnson became president.

For our second theme, Responsible Citizenship, we need look no further than the Arab Spring for an outstanding example of citizens pushing for responsible government at a time of great inequities in their countries. The challenge is to develop government systems that maintain and support the passion of these citizens.

Our third theme, Canada and the World, is as important today as it was during the leadership of Pierre Trudeau. An encouraging sign is that Canadians themselves have taken leadership roles in international business, educational, and other institutions. We need to evaluate, however, whether Canada's policies are consistent with the long-term well-being of the world itself.

The last Trudeau Foundation theme, People and Their Environment, is perhaps the most important and yet one with respect to which Canada seems to be outside the world consensus, especially in terms of climate change forums. Although carbon dioxide emissions and their negative effect on global warming are less visible to the general public than the uprisings of the Arab Spring, their importance cannot be understated. The work of Trudeau Foundation scholars, fellows, and mentors, it is hoped, will return Canada's role to one of leadership in the years to come.

This year, my first year as chair of the Trudeau Foundation, I am determined to ensure that its work remains relevant to Canada's future leadership needs.

JOHN H. MCCALL MACBAIN

Geneva, Switzerland

Chairman, The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation

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