

Preface

Voltaire once said that “Liberty of thought is the life of the soul.” The Trudeau Foundation fosters creative thinkers and investigators who explore the world in search of new ideas and opportunities to improve the lives of Canadians and humanity at large. We are surrounded by some of the brightest minds and influential opinion leaders in the country.

Each year, the Foundation selects five Fellows—outstanding researchers and scholars in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences—who have demonstrated the potential to make a difference. These individuals are gifted thinkers and recognized leaders in their respective fields who have set themselves apart through their pioneering research, creativity, and the conscientious attention they pay to the needs of society. Fellows are chosen because they have proven that they can imagine and promote new solutions to major contemporary issues.

Trudeau Fellows focus their research on four key themes espoused by the late Pierre Trudeau—Human Rights and Dignity, Responsible Citizenship, Canada in the World, and People and Their Natural Environment. Despite its namesake, the Foundation has no political agenda. It is an independent and non-partisan Canadian charity. The Foundation’s only mission is to make sure that new and

essential knowledge finds its way to the public sphere—ultimately, through sound and progressive public policies. We want to marry innovative thinking with real-world practice, to bring global ideas to the community to address local needs.

In 2008, the Foundation initiated the Trudeau Lectures to permit the dissemination of the Fellows' ideas across the country and to spark further discussion among academics and policy makers. The publication of these lectures in the Trudeau Papers series is another important way to bring their ideas to a wider audience.

I am delighted that the Trudeau Foundation can serve as a catalyst for creative thinking, ensuring this wealth of knowledge leads to better inform citizens and offers heightened opportunities for democratic participation. In a world that finds itself confronted with more challenges than solutions, the generation and application of new ideas is of great importance for both Canadians and a global society.

ROY L. HEENAN, OC

Chairman, The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation

November 2011