



Canadian Centre for
Policy Studies

Free Speech and Liberty Symposium

Ottawa, Ontario - December 7, 2009

AGENDA

- 09:00-09:15 Welcome
- 09:15-09:50 **Not by Accident**
Richard Bastien explores the ideological roots of the movement to limit free speech and explains how the erosion of liberty is inevitable in a society dominated by the ideas of post-modern liberalism.
- 09:50-10:40 **Conformity in the Name of Diversity**
John Robson and Peter Stockland discuss how centrally controlled "diversity by design" is inducing cultural, intellectual and behavioural conformity in society.
- 10:40-10:50 **Break**
- 10:50-11:25 **Suppressing Dissent**
Gerry Nicholls discusses election gag rules and how they suppress open and legitimate debate at the very moment when such debate is supposed to occur - during election periods.
- 11:25-12:00 **Rethinking the Lessons of the Holocaust**
Joseph C. Ben-Ami discusses how the suppression of dissent, not the promotion of hate, was essential to the Nazis' successful rise to power in Germany and the implementation of their racist agenda.
- 12:00-13:15 Lunch - Keynote Address
True North Strong and Free: Why Canada's founders thought freedom mattered
Re-discover Canada's tradition of freedom with *Brian Lee Crowley*, author of book *Fearful Symmetry: The Fall and Rise of Canada's Founding Values*, and learn how liberty must and can be restored to its rightful place as the seminal Canadian value.
- 13:15-13:50 **Human Rights Commissions and the Subversion of Law**
Constitutional expert *Robert Martin* discusses how and why human rights laws and the commissions created to enforce them have evolved into instruments of oppression and offers suggestions on what can be done to reverse the trend.
- 13:50-14:30 **"Human Rights Chill" and its effect on Press Freedom**
Barbara Kay and Bjorn Larsen survey of the status of press freedom in Canada and abroad, how human rights laws are impacting the ability of the press to operate freely and implication of the suppression of press freedom for free society.
- 14:30-15:10 **Surveying the Litigation Landscape**
Karen Selick looks at the current litigation scene on issues pertaining to freedom of speech and expression and discusses what opportunities there may be for using the courts to effectively defend and promote individual liberty in Canada.
- 15:10-16:00 **Prospects for Political Action**
A panel of political experts (*panelists TBA*) discussing the prospects for legislative and policy change in Canada, and what can be done by organizations and private individuals to help bring these changes about.