

An evening to honour progressive leadership
in Canada

Une soirée en l'honneur du leadership
progressiste au Canada



Progressive Leadership Gala Gala du leadership progressiste

May 14th, 2018 Le 14 mai 2018

Toronto, Canada Toronto, Canada

May 2018, Toronto
The Pearson Centre Progressive
Leadership Award

With Sandra Pupatello, Chair, Pearson Centre and MP
Celina Caesar-Chavannes



Mai 2018, Toronto
Le centre Pearson présent le prix
du leadership progressiste



Avec Sandra Pupatello, Chair, Pearson Centre et MP Celina
Caesar-Chavannes

The Pearson Centre Progressive Leadership Award is presented to outstanding leaders who advance progressive goals in the economic and social affairs of Canada, in response to the opportunities and challenges facing society. In so doing the Pearson Centre highlights innovative and forward-looking development. Award recipients will be invited to participate in a discussion among awardees at an annual event.

Ce prix est décerné à des leaders exceptionnels qui promeuvent des objectifs progressistes dans le domaine des affaires économiques et sociales du Canada, en réaction aux opportunités et défis auxquels est confrontée notre société. De la sorte, le Centre Pearson met en exergue le développement novateur et avant-gardiste. Les récipiendaires de ce prix seront invité(e)s à prendre part à une discussion à un événement annuel.

Honouring the Progressive Leadership of key leaders including....



Victor G. Dodig,
President and CEO,
CIBC



Julia Deans, CEO,
Canadian Children's
Literacy Foundation



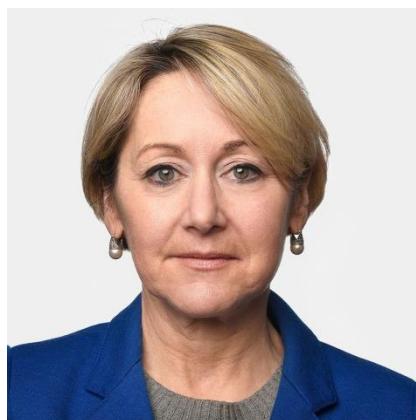
Bob Blakely, Canadian
Operating Officer, Canada's
Building Trades Unions



Bonnie Crombie,
Mayor of Mississauga



Roberta Jamieson,
President CEO, Inspire



With Moderator
Jane Taber













Report on discussion with Honourees

Progressive Leadership Awards

An evening that honoured progressive leadership in Canada hearing from some of Canada's most forward-thinking leaders

Progressive Leadership

What is progressive leadership?

Through the course of the conversation the panelists presented a number of characteristics and actions that defined progressive leadership for them. Progressive leadership means being ***authentic, bold*** and ***fearless***, demonstrating ***a strong moral compass, taking principled stands***, and ***remaining true to your progressive values***. This can also require ***pushing the envelope*** and trying to ***accomplish things in a short period of time***.

The panelists also pointed to the following ideas as being part of progressive leadership such as ***being comfortable with ambiguity, understanding intersectionality***, and ***no longer leading through “abuse”***. They felt that this type of progressive leadership is a function of ***a society that is welcoming and has a belief in the collective***, which leads to ***an “Us rather than Me” approach***.

A progressive leader also ***understands the current societal challenges*** and has the vision to see beyond them.

Progressive leadership also takes the form of ***mentoring*** and ***tapping into existing experience*** and knowledge of the things that really matter. As Bob Blakely pointed out, in the trades this can be as simple as telling apprentices to “buy gear not beer”.

Respect also plays an important role in progressive leadership – a ***respect that translates into appreciating the worker*** who successfully accomplishes things every day rather than being concerned with that person’s connections, social status or upbringing.

For a leader to create progressive change they need to know who they are – ***have self-awareness***, respect for themselves and the task at hand, know their strengths – and ***listen***.

But being a progressive leader also means demonstrating many of the leadership qualities that any situation demands. Leaders galvanise people towards a vision of where they want to go and a leader knows where that destination lies. It means seeing an opportunity to improve the world around you and making it happen. This involves marshalling the resources to achieve it (e.g. – people, money, support) and, most importantly, bringing people along with you. Together these attributes allow for exponential impact.

Learning from mistakes

The panel was asked about learning from mistakes. Like any person even progressive leaders can ask themselves how they could have been so stupid. If there is a plan or strategy to implement then in the end **you either have to do it or not** and **either it works or it doesn't**. If what you were trying to accomplish doesn't work out then you have to **have the moral courage to admit the mistake** and take **responsibility**. But moral courage also means not giving up too easily or relenting in the face of peer pressure. You need to trust your gut, believe in your ability to accomplish the task and keep going forward.

Even when working in a collaborative process if a leader is too trusting they might not realise that back-room deals or side agreements have been made that undermine the final objective.

Progressive leaders need to **figure out how to serve diversity in society and role model their talk**. If equity training is required for staff then a leader needs to take it as well.

Victor Dodig gave the example of how he decided that CIBC would get rid of the printed calendar that is given to customers every January. The tellers and other front-line workers, and even his Mother told him that it was a bad idea and in the end he had to reverse his decision for the following years. It underlined for him the need to consult and listen to what the people on the ground have to say.

Personifiers of progressive leadership

The panel was asked for people who are examples of progressive leadership and all remarked on how there are amazing progressive leaders in every segment of society. They were able to provide very interesting and exciting names that moderator Jane Taber observed came from fields beyond many of the traditional areas such as business or politics or even without the type of c.v. as would have been seen in the past.

The wide-ranging list went from the past in **Terry Fox** who showed how to work hard and give of yourself to current examples like **50 young women** who are involved in talking to high school students about a future in the trades as part of the Build Together programme. They show how to think through a problem rather than just "getting a bigger tool" or hitting something harder. **Women running for office** at all levels of government were also cited.

There was also a wide range in ages of the people named, from 14 year old **Theland Kicknosway**, a young Indigenous man, the youngest to receive the Indspire cultural recognition award, to the many **Indigenous grandmothers** who are pushing for social justice for their communities.

Another young Indigenous person, **Kendall Netmaker** of the Sweetgrass First Nation, was mentioned. He started a company, Moose Meat Apparel, and was recognised with the Saskatchewan Student Entrepreneur Provincial Champion Award. He immediately wanted to give back to the community and bring others along with him.

Mayor Bonnie Crombie cited two examples from her municipality. **Samra Zafar** was able to save some money, get an education and then remove herself from an abusive marriage. She now speaks out to build awareness of the problem and empower others who might be in the same situation. Mayor

Crombie also named her predecessor **Hazel McCallion** who was fearless, bucked trends, and was a pioneer in sports, business, and politics.

An important point was underlined by Roberta Jamieson: There is an abundance of leaders in the Indigenous community but they are lacking a space of acceptance to be themselves in a leadership role. This is also something that could apply to those coming from other previously marginalised or excluded groups or communities.

The Economy

Challenges

The economy is undergoing massive change and yet it is too easy to be stuck observing one's own reality or "believing your press clippings". While Canada is a leader in the world through our political system and current standard of living, and measures like life expectancy there are many challenges such as **trade agreements being under siege** and **technological change** which is reconfiguring society and the economy, **causing people to be displaced**.

To maintain and improve our situation we need to prepare for this challenge. The economy has moved from natural resources to manufacturing and services but while workers have been displaced in older sectors there are technology jobs that are unfilled. Sectors like **banking and real estate continue to show strength** but **for natural resources the test is how to get products to market** but **stakeholder consent (Indigenous or other) is required for natural resources** and that has been affirmed in the Supreme Court.

If Canada is to make the next 150 years even better than the previous 150 then we must **be a destination for human and financial capital**.

Infrastructure and Innovation

Infrastructure such as roads, potable water, gas lines and power transmission etc., allows everything to happen in the country. It is estimated that there is an **approximately \$1 trillion infrastructure deficit**. If natural resources and human transportation needs are to be met then infrastructure will have to be built and **skilled tradespeople will be required** to do this.

Governments need to **deliver on social infrastructure** as well. **Income disparity is growing** even in areas with a growing economy. Allowing people to live in the community where they work requires **continued investment in social services**, incentivising developers to **build social housing** and **keep housing prices affordable**, and **providing the transportation infrastructure and public transit solutions** for everybody.

Investments also have to be made in innovation through **partnerships with post-secondary institutions** such as with Innovation Centres. This will allow young people to become "**futurepreneurs**" but that requires ensuring **literacy and communication skills** are maintained and enhanced to meet the needs of the knowledge and innovation economy.

Inclusion

A **healthy and vibrant economy is an inclusive economy** so all sectors and stakeholders must be involved. Julia Deans pointed out that a progressive leader needs to **make sure the best people are at the table**. If you see **a group is missing then speak up**.

To create a new and different Canada we need to **bring more and new people into the economy** but it's not an easy thing to do, even in an era of reconciliation. In a **country with an aging population** **Indigenous youth is the fastest growing demographic** yet they do not receive the same funding for K-12 education as non-Indigenous children. Support needs to be given once these kids graduate from high school so they can achieve their potential. Companies like CIBC do provide bursaries and other support and all sectors, whether business, public, or individuals can contribute so that everybody will benefit in this new, inclusive economy. We **cannot afford to squander this opportunity**.

Report written by Clarence Seunarine

Check out our YouTube channel for a video of the discussion!

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The Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy

The Pearson Centre addresses a wide range of policy issues of the future grouped under the following broad areas:

#Econ4Tmro

The Economy For Tomorrow series which seeks innovative solutions in key sectors and perspectives and puts forward innovative solutions and advances health and social services

Pursuing Justice

Advancing justice, diversity and inclusion in Canadian society

Democratic Participation

Reform of our institutions and facilitating greater citizen involvement

Canada and the World

Promoting multilateralism, development and global sustainability

Health and Social Policy

Given changing demographics, what do we need and what is sustainable in the decades ahead?

The priority research issues for the year ahead

- Canada-US Relations (NAFTA and Canadian tax policy)
- The Future of Work
- Combating Hate and Racism

Le Centre Pearson pour des politiques progressistes

Le Centre Pearson aborde une vaste gamme de questions d'ordre politique regroupées sous les thèmes suivants :

#Econ2demn

La série L'économie de demain a pour but de trouver puis de mettre en œuvre des solutions innovantes dans des secteurs clés, et de promouvoir les services sociaux et de santé.

En quête de justice

Promotion de la justice, de la diversité et de l'inclusion dans la société canadienne.

Participation démocratique

Réforme de nos institutions et promotion d'une plus grande participation des citoyens et citoyennes.

Le Canada et le monde

Promotion du multilatéralisme, du développement et de la durabilité à l'échelle mondiale.

Politique sanitaire et sociale

Confrontés à l'évolution des caractéristiques démographiques, de quoi avons-nous besoin et qu'est-ce qui est raisonnable en vue des prochaines décennies?

Principaux thèmes de recherche pour l'année à venir :

- Relations canado-américaines (ALENA et politique fiscale canadienne)
- Le travail de demain
- Combattre la haine et le racisme

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Thank you again for your support!

The Pearson Centre

Formed in 2013, the Pearson Centre is an independent think tank that addresses the pressing public policy issues of our time from a progressive and centrist perspective.

Pearson Centre Priorities:

The Centre's priorities include the Economy for Tomorrow, Canada and the World, Pursuing Justice, Health and Social Service and Democracy and Values.

Le Centre Pearson

Créé en 2013, le Centre Pearson se veut être un cercle de réflexion indépendant qui se penche sur les dossiers de politique d'intérêt public pressants de notre époque, sous un angle progressiste et centriste.

Les priorités du Centre Pearson

Ces priorités incluent notamment l'Économie de demain ; le Canada et le monde ; la Quête de justice ; les Services de santé et sociaux et la démocratie et ses valeurs.



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