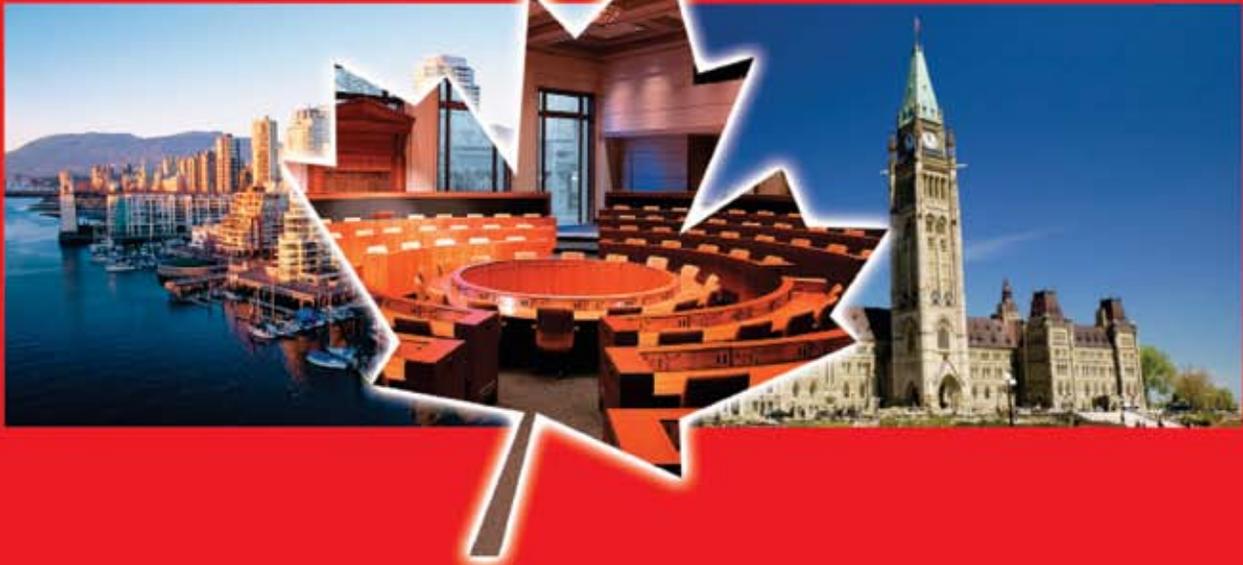


# ACTION CANADA

*Building Leadership  
for Canada's Future*

*Développer le Leadership  
pour l'Avenir du Canada*



in partnership with

MORRIS J. WOSK  
*Centre for Dialogue™*  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Canada 

**Annual Report  
2005-2006**

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## INTRODUCTION

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### Building Canada's Future—One Group of Leaders at a Time

Imagine a network of outstanding young Canadian leaders, from all regions of the country, from varied ethnic backgrounds and professions, all with knowledge of Canada's public policy issues and a passion to act.

That is the unique premise behind Action Canada, a powerful initiative from the west that is proving highly successful at building leadership for the future of Canada.

As Canadians, we want our country to be the finest in the world, the best place to live and work. We want Canada to play a role as a strong global citizen. Canada needs outstanding leadership to achieve and sustain these aspirations. Working in partnership with the Government of Canada, Action Canada's leadership development program addresses this need.

Action Canada selects annually up to 20 of Canada's most inspiring young adults in their early career years for its fellowship program. Fellows learn about the requirements and responsibilities of leadership in public service, elected office and executive positions in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. They participate in three eight-day working conferences in selected Canadian cities to improve their understanding of the major policy issues facing our country and how diverse sectors work to address these issues. The Fellows receive guidance from Canadian leaders in government, academia,

industry and NGOs, and work in teams to address a public policy issue they identify. Above all, they enhance their abilities to make a difference in Canada.

Action Canada has created a network of 55 extraordinary young Canadian leaders over the past three years, with 15 selected for the upcoming 2006/2007 fellowship year. Alumni agree that Action Canada has been a life-altering experience for them and for the benefit of Canada.

These have been groundbreaking years for the Fellows and the Action Canada team. I am pleased to present this report on the third year and look forward to continuing to build the Action Canada network.

*Cathy Beehan, CEO*



*Co-Founder Sam Belzberg,  
CEO Cathy Beehan,  
Co-Founder Jack Blaney*

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

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As we enter Action Canada's fourth year, I am gratified to see how far we have come in achieving our goal—to build leadership for Canada's future.

Over the past three years, our Fellows have met an extraordinary number of Canadian leaders from all sectors. This year's theme, *Canada in the Global Community*, saw our Fellows meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and with ambassadors to Canada from around the world.

A focus on northern Canada in these early years has been invaluable for enhancing the Fellows' understanding of the country's diversity, a goal of the program. This past fellowship year featured a visit to Canada's newest territory, where the Fellows met with Nunavut leaders to discuss the important issue of Arctic sovereignty. They also visited Alert, the most northern, permanently inhabited settlement in the world.

For the coming year, I'm pleased to announce that the fellowship theme is *Enterprise in Canada*. The working conferences will focus on business, economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

As we build the Action Canada alumni network, our Fellows will continue to share a wealth of diverse Canadian experiences and a passion for our country that will assist them all in making a difference to Canada.

*Sam Belzberg, OC*

## FOUNDERS AND BOARD

Action Canada was founded in 2002 by two eminent Canadians, philanthropist businessman **Sam Belzberg** and Simon Fraser University president emeritus **Jack Blaney**. Together, they envisioned a national organization based in Vancouver that would identify exceptional young Canadians who were actively taking a leadership role in their chosen fields. The organization would nurture this emerging potential for leadership and inspire the will to turn ideas into action. Participants would learn through engagement with current critical issues, encouragement and guidance in the analysis and implementation of public policy, and by forging connections with a unique web of mentors, role models and peers.

Sam and Jack selected **Cathy Beehan**, a recipient of the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in the Public Service, as the leader to implement this precedent-setting initiative.

A small but active board of directors includes Co-Founders **Samuel Belzberg**, OC, Chair, and **Jack Blaney**, OBC, Secretary Treasurer. **Clay Horner**, Co-Chair, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt was appointed Deputy Chair in April 2006. **Jodi White**, President, Public Policy Forum is Director. **Michel Smith**, Executive Director, Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada, is ex-officio federal government representative. **Frances Belzberg**, CM and **Ann Cowan**, Executive Director, Simon Fraser University Vancouver, are Co-Chairs of the Action Canada Advisory Council.

## PARTNERS

### Government of Canada

#### Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

The establishment of Action Canada represents a pioneering public-private partnership between the federal government and the private sector. A group of four federal government departments collectively matched private sector funds donated by **Sam Belzberg** and have been integral to Action Canada since its inception.

**Canadian Heritage** coordinates the contributing federal departments, which include **Canadian Heritage, Justice Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada** and **Human Resources and Skills Development Canada**. The value and strength of

Action Canada's partnership with the Government of Canada is clear from the active role played by these federal departments in all aspects of this initiative including program development, conference planning, mentoring of Fellows, guidance on public policy issues, participation at working conferences, and nomination of fellowship candidates.

Action Canada also is affiliated with **Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue**. The Wosk Centre is both a world-class conference centre and a groundbreaking home for dialogue. Dialogue can profoundly affect public judgment on complex issues. The Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue has created an environment in which dialogue can lead to mutual understanding and positive action—an ideal complement to the goals of Action Canada.



*Craig Kielburger '05, Co-Founders Jack Blaney and Sam Belzberg*

*"Action Canada trumpets the greatness of our country, but also presents Fellows with the true magnitude of the public policy challenges facing our generation."*

*Action Canada Fellow*

## SELECTION CRITERIA

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The Action Canada Board selects Fellows from nominees who are in the early years of their careers or pursuing graduate studies, have clearly demonstrated leadership qualities and would benefit from the study of leadership and Canadian public policy issues.

The nomination and selection process adheres to rigorous procedures and exacting criteria. Candidates must show evidence of superior character, including open-mindedness, energy, courage and a demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively in an intellectually competitive environment, as well as excellent communication skills in either English or French. Among their achievements, the candidates must exhibit a passion for Canada, the potential to become a Canadian leader, and the commitment to make a positive contribution to Canada. Candidates also hold a record of excellent post-secondary academic achievement or demonstrate outstanding intellectual ability in another capacity.

In addition, the board may consider regional, gender and disciplinary balance, and Canada's cultural diversity.

Each fall, Action Canada issues a nationwide call for nominations from all regions and sectors of Canada, including the federal and provincial governments, business organizations and associations, NGOs and Aboriginal communities. **Janet Smith**, former senior Deputy Minister, Government of Canada and former President of the Canadian Centre for Management Development, and **George Ivany**, former President of the University of Saskatchewan, for the third year took on the challenge of assessing the outstanding nominations received and selecting a shortlist of candidates.

Short-listed candidates participated in a two-stage interview process, both one-on-one interviews, and National Selection Committee interviews conducted in Ottawa.

*"I was faced with a series of pivotal life choices that would indelibly shape my future. Action Canada provided me with a group of mentors—both among the Fellows, and the staff and supporters—whose guidance has steered me at this critical time."*

*Action Canada Fellow*

## NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

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The 2005 National Selection Committee included Co-Founders **Sam Belzberg** and **Jack Blaney**, accompanied by: **John Kim Bell**, OC, Vice-President, Canadian Youth Business Foundation; **Ann Cowan**, Executive Director, Simon Fraser University Vancouver, Co-Chair, Action Canada Advisory Council; **Clay Horner**, QC, Co-Chair, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt, Toronto, Deputy Chair, Action Canada Board; **Claire Morris**, President and CEO, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; **Malcolm Rowe**, Former Secretary to the Cabinet, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; **Michel Smith**, Director, Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada, ex-officio federal government representative to the board; **Harry Swain**, former senior Deputy Minister, Government of Canada, President, Trimbelle Limited; and **Shauna Sylvester**, Executive Director, IMPACS (Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society). **Mark L. Winston**, FRSC, Professor and Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University and Director, Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue program, conducted the one-on-one interviews and acted as advisor to the committee.

Of the 31 exceptional young candidates interviewed, 16 were selected to make up the third cohort of Action Canada Fellows.

## FELLOWS

The 2005/2006 Fellows are some of Canada's most inspiring young adults. They are intelligent and engaged—movers and shakers from almost every region in Canada. They are English- and French-speaking, First Nations and first generation citizens, and include lawyers, activists, graduate students and policy analysts.

Among them is a children's rights activist who has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; a Rhodes Scholar; a Canadian military officer who holds a commander's commendation for outstanding contribution; and the founder of an independent think tank on sustainable development policy and law.

All of the Fellows have made significant contributions to community, both at home and abroad, through their work to advance human and children's rights; to address sustainability and environmental issues; to assist with international and local community development and to end poverty. They are clearly committed to improving Canada.



*Back row: Mentor Malcolm Rowe, David Brock '05, Sheelagh Davis '05, Susanna Haas '05, Major M. Hilliker, David Eaves '05, Chiara Barazzuol '05, Cheryl Matthew '05, Jesse Moore '05, Hugo Cameron '05.  
Front row: Wade AuCoin '05, Karel Mayrand '05, Tina Piper '05, CEO Cathy Beehan, Yan Cimon '05, Alex Boston '05, Guillaume Lavoie '05*

## GOALS

The principal goals established by the Action Canada Board are:

- Build on the Fellows' commitment to making a difference within Canada
- Enhance the Fellows' understanding of Canada's diversity
- Enhance the Fellows' understanding of how to get things done (*"moving from enthusiastic to effective"*)
- Assist in developing the Fellows' individual sense of leadership
- Stimulate interest in direct involvement in leadership on public issues (including, but not limited to, active political participation in elected office)
- Identify and engage on selected public policy issues through work on and completion of a project
- Connect the Fellows with potential mentors
- Create a network of enduring relationships among the Fellows

## PROGRAM

Our theme for the 2005/2006 Action Canada fellowship year was *Canada in the Global Community*. Fellows attended three eight-day intensive working conferences held in Vancouver, Ottawa and locations in Nunavut. These conferences highlighted the diversity of issues and cultural backgrounds that make up our country. Each was an exhilarating experience, focusing on an area of strategic importance to the formation of leadership skills and featuring an impressive list of Canadian leaders and mentors from across Canada.

During the first conference, Fellows met the team they would work with during their fellowship year. In preassigned working groups, they designed public policy projects of significance to Canada, on which they collaborated throughout the year, communicating on a weekly basis and holding two three-day project meetings in locations from St. John's to Vancouver. The policy projects were presented to the board of directors at the beginning of the final working conference.



Sheelagh Davis '05, Allan Gotlieb, Jeffrey Simpson, Michael Byers, Hugo Cameron '05

*"Some of the key things I am coming out of the fellowship with are a strong network of peers and mentors, a deeper sense of what it means to be a leader, a better understanding of the policy-making process in Canada, and a passionate interest in Canada's North."*

Action Canada Fellow

### Vancouver Working Conference

The Vancouver Working Conference featured new program sessions focused on the fellowship year theme of *Canada in the Global Community*, and revisited key highlights of the previous years. The Fellows met Canadian leaders from the Aboriginal, arts, business, political and NGO communities, who shared profound insights on ways that leaders create change.

Intrawest President **Joe Houssian** joined Action Canada for a second year in an exploration of the *Power of the Question* in leadership. **Angus Reid**, President of Vision Critical Communications Ltd., led the Fellows in exploring the major public policy issues facing Canada.

New sessions included a dialogue on *Canada in the Global Community* with **Michael Byers**, Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, **Alan Gotlieb**, Senior Advisor, Stikeman Elliott, and **Jeffrey Simpson**, National Affairs Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*.

The Fellows also participated in the first of a series of workshops on effective public policy writing with nationally acclaimed journalists and editors, and began their own work on drafting op-ed pieces for submission to national media.

A highlight of the opening conference was the Fellows' own policy project sessions during which they began their ambitious work on a Canadian policy project of their choice and design.

### Ottawa Working Conference

This year the federal government welcomed the Action Canada Fellows at a dinner at the Wakefield Mill Inn just outside Ottawa. The Fellows each spoke during this dinner on Canada post-federal election, and invited guests, including a former prime minister, a leading national journalist and senior federal government executives, exchanged their views on this topic.

The conference included a field trip to Bombardier's Dorval production facility and a session in Montréal on Québec post-federal election.

Ambassadors from Afghanistan, the EU, France, Israel, Mexico, and Tanzania discussed Canada's place in the global community with the Fellows at the third annual Ambassadors' Dialogue Dinner, held at the ninth floor dining room of the Lester B. Pearson Building. The session was chaired by **Marie-Lucie Morin**, Deputy Minister of International Trade. Together with the ambassadors and guests, the Fellows explored international questions relating to global terrorism, peacekeeping and Canada's strengths in providing leadership on international issues. **Peter MacKay**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, joined the group to offer words of congratulations and appreciation for the Fellows and the program.

This year's Ottawa conference was enhanced by sessions organized by each project group on their public policy topics. Each group invited expert guests to dialogue with them on advancing their project work. Fellows also continued with their op-ed writing in an informative session with four of Canada's foremost journalists—**Andrew Cohen, Graham Fraser, John Fraser, and Barbara Yaffe**—who shared insights into the writing process and worked with them to revise drafts of their op-ed pieces.



*Hugo Cameron '05, CTV journalist Victor Malarek, and Co-Founder Jack Blaney during the Stop the Traffic group session*

### **Nunavut Working Conference**

The fellowship year ended amid the spectacular surroundings of Canada's far north. The working conference in Nunavut had three goals: to enhance understanding of Inuit culture and life, to provide insight into economic and other policy challenges and progress in the new (1999) territory of Nunavut, and to give Fellows a sense of the immense scale and extreme conditions of Canada's far north. All these were linked to the policy issue of Arctic sovereignty.

Insight into challenges and progress in Nunavut was the focus of a wide range of meetings in Iqaluit. Attendees included senior representatives of the Nunavut government, the Canadian government, the Inuit land claims organization, the national Inuit association, NGOs and the private sector.

A sense of the scale and extreme conditions, especially in the far north, was imparted by a visit to the Canadian Forces Station at Alert, the most northerly inhabited point in Canada, 400 miles from the North Pole. Fellows experienced travel on a DND Hercules aircraft transporting supplies to Alert.

Understanding of Inuit culture and life was enhanced by conversations with elders and local leaders in Pangnirtung. These discussions exposed the Fellows to the outlook and day-to-day life of persons living in an "ordinary" Inuit community on Baffin Island.

Throughout all these activities a focus was maintained on the issue of Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic, how it has been achieved, how it is maintained, potential challenges to it, implications for the predicted opening of a Northwest Passage, and economic opportunities arising from it.

*"It would be an understatement to say that the fellowship changed my entire perspective of Canada. Following the trip to Nunavut, I feel I have a much wider sense of the scale of the country as well as the challenges facing its indigenous communities."*

*Action Canada Fellow*



*Fellows run toward the Arctic Ocean under Nunavut's midnight sun*

## PUBLIC POLICY PROJECTS

### Seeking Common Ground

Members: **Chiara Barazzuol, Yan Cimon, Craig Kielburger, Cheryl Matthew, Karel Mayrand**  
Mentor: **Nancy Olewiler**

As mining companies struggle to meet the expanding mineral demands of a growing global economy, they are faced with moral and legal requirements to avoid detrimental impacts on local populations. The Seeking Common Ground project group explored this dilemma through a forum using dialogue to focus on improving early community engagement in mining projects, thereby creating mutual understanding of the diverse motives and objectives represented by different sectors.

As part of their project, they hosted a breakfast meeting and dialogue forum in Vancouver. The breakfast, which featured a number of distinguished speakers, including the Honourable **Bill Bennett**, BC's minister of state for mining, attracted over 100 members from the BC mining community. The dialogue forum included 31 invited representatives from governments, academia, nongovernmental organizations, Aboriginal communities and mining industries of several countries.

The group then compiled a report of constructive principles and recommendations to potentially be published in Simon Fraser University's *Dialogue Series*. Forum results will be disseminated extensively and will be available at [www.seekingcommonground.ca](http://www.seekingcommonground.ca). The group also established a listserv of dialogue participants for continued sharing of expertise and resources.



*The Seeking Common Ground project group at the Ottawa conference*

*"The remarkable diversity of the Fellows became more evident in our working group sessions. My five-member team comprised a former Privy Council staffer, a commander in the Canadian Armed Forces, an Aboriginal leader, an environmental think tank director, and a child rights activist. The job titles do not convey the further diversity of geographic region, mother language, ethnicity, religion, or political views."*

*Action Canada Fellow*

### Ice Breakers

Members: **Wade AuCoin, Hugo Cameron, Sheelagh Davis, David Eaves, Pascale Labbé, Jesse Moore**

Mentor: **Barry Stuart**

What are the implications for Canada and northern communities of climate change, melting ice and opening of the Northwest Passage? The Ice Breakers group led the Icebreakers Dialogue Summit on the Future of Canada's North from June 4 to 7 in Iqaluit directly following the Nunavut Working Conference.

Supported by the government of Nunavut and sponsored by Action Canada and the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, the dialogue involved 10 participants from government, Inuit organizations, business, non-governmental organizations, and the legal community, as well as six Action Canada Fellows.

The dialogue, which was based on a scenario of Nunavut in 2020, had three main goals:

- Identify the critical issues and opportunities afforded by opening Arctic waterways;
- Develop a list of key principles and recommendations to guide Canada's response; and
- Forge relationships between young leaders from Canada's north and south who share a common interest in these issues.

The group is hopeful that organizations such as the International Polar Year, the Arctic Youth Network and the Nunavut Sivuniksavut College in Ottawa will use the dialogue experience to further discussions between northern and southern Canadians about polar issues. The group has reported results from the Icebreakers Dialogue Summit to policymakers, academics and the media, and will be developing an educational tool to facilitate discussions on issues of concern to Canada's North.



*Stan Rogers' famous folk song, Northwest Passage, provided the perfect opener for the Icebreakers' project presentation*

## Stop the Traffic

Members: **Alex Boston, David Brock, Susanna Haas, Guillaume Lavoie, Tina Piper**

Mentor: **Malcolm Rowe**

In Canada, as elsewhere, persons who are trafficked face exploitation and oppression. However, their problems don't end when they are liberated. They need protection and support. Canada wasn't providing what was needed.

This group sought to draw attention to the issue by initiating a workshop bringing together, for the first time, representatives from academia, non-governmental organizations, media, the federal government and the United Nations. They also developed a website in partnership with the Canadian Council for Refugees' national human trafficking campaign. It featured five trafficking stories demonstrating how liberated trafficking victims receive little support or protection and are often deported to situations of poverty, instability and shame in their homeland. The site launch, however, was pre-empted by a federal government announcement about new trafficking victim protection.

The group is proud that, in a small way, they contributed to a movement that gained human rights protection for trafficked persons.



*The Stop the Traffic project group explores the East Coast Trail during a break in their meeting in Newfoundland, home of mentor Malcolm Rowe (centre)*

*"Action Canada has become a vital part of Canada's civic infrastructure in just three short years. It identifies and invests in talent—young people who want Canada to lead and who want to bring their ideas for a more progressive and prosperous country to life. Its true value is found in the friendships that are formed and the projects that its Fellows will undertake together in their professional lives five, ten and twenty years from now. Action Canada is a long-term, and deep, investment in Canada's future."*

*Action Canada Fellow*

## MENTORS AND PRESENTERS

The participation of outstanding mentors, presenters and guests in the Action Canada program, together with the Action Canada team, ensures the continued success of our fellowship. Action Canada would like to sincerely and profoundly thank everyone involved, including:

### Action Canada Board

Co-Founders: **Samuel Belzberg**, OC, President and CEO, Gibralt Capital Corp., Chair; **Jack Blaney**, OBC, Secretary Treasurer. Deputy Chair: **Clay Horner**, Co-Chair, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt. Director: **Jodi White**, President, Public Policy Forum. Ex-officio federal government representative: **Michel Smith**, Executive Director, Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada (APEX). Co-Chairs, Action Canada Advisory Council: **Frances Belzberg**, OC; **Ann Cowan**, Executive Director, Simon Fraser University Vancouver.

### Action Canada Team

**Janet Webber**, Executive Assistant and Program Coordinator. Financial services provided by Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada representatives: **Mélissa Chartrand**, Accounting Coordinator, Corporate Services and Scholarships Branch; **Joanne Lalonde**, Director, Corporate Services.

### Yearlong Mentors and Facilitators

**Antonia Maioni**, Director, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, and Associate Professor of Political Science, McGill University; **Nancy Olewiler**, Director, Public Policy Program, Professor of Economics, Simon Fraser University; **Malcolm Rowe**, Former Secretary to the Cabinet, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; **Barry Stuart**, retired Judge, Adjunct Professor, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University; **Mark L. Winston**, FRSC, Professor and Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Director, Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue, Simon Fraser University.

### Vancouver Working Conference 2005

**Janet Austin**, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA of Vancouver; **John Borrows**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, Chair, Aboriginal Justice Governance; **Beverly Briscoe**, Chair, BC Training Authority, Director, Ritchie Brothers; **Michael Byers**, Canada Research Chair in Global

Politics and International Law, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia; **Kevin Chan** '04, Policy Analyst, Privy Council Office; **Ken Dobell**, Special Advisor to the Premier, Government of British Columbia; **Kris Frederickson** '04; The Honourable **Hedy Fry**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration; **Ginger Gosnell** '04; **Allan Gotlieb**, Senior Advisor, Stikeman Elliott; **Joe Houssian**, Chairman, President and CEO, Intrawest Corporation; **Mary Jane Jim**, Co-President, Duü-Chuu Management Consulting; **Linda Johnston**, Director, BC and Yukon District, Canadian Heritage; **Roy MacGregor**, Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*; **Judith Marcuse**, Artistic Producer, Judith Marcuse Projects; **David Marshall**, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council; **Fazil Mihlar**, Editor, *The Vancouver Sun*; **Anil Patel** '04; **Angus Reid**, Chief Executive Officer, Vision Critical Communications Inc.; **Phil Scott**, President, Scottworks; **Glenn Sigurdson**, Research Associate and Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University; **Josh Silvertown** '04;



*Natan Obed, ITK, Sheelagh Davis '05, Letia Cousins, Director of Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs, Government of Nunavut*



*David Eaves '05 and Yan Cimon '05 make a presentation to Major M. Hilliker at CFS Alert*



*The Fellows and CEO Cathy Beeban at Bombardier's Dorval production facility*

**Jeffrey Simpson**, National Affairs Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*; **Michael Stevenson**, President, Simon Fraser University; **Denise Taschereau** '03, Social and Environmental Responsibility Manager, Mountain Equipment Co-op; **Cynthia Williams**, Senior Research Fellow, Canadian Policy Research Networks; The Honourable **Michael H. Wilson**, Chair, The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships; **Max Wyman**, President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO; **Barbara Yaffe**, Columnist, *The Vancouver Sun*.

### Ottawa Working Conference 2006

**Patricia Acker**, Environmental Director, Goldcorp; **Alan S. Alexandroff**, Research Director, Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation; His Excellency **Jack Anawak**, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs; **Thomas d'Aquino**, President and Chief Executive, Council of Chief Executives; His Excellency **Alan Baker**, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel; **Neil Bouwer** '03, Director General, Learning Policy Directorate, HRSDC; **Susan Brown**, Royal Roads University, Masters Program in Human Security and Peacebuilding; **Christine Bruckert**, Professor, University of Ottawa; **Wendy Bryans**, Counsel, Justice Canada; **Ann Cavlovic**, Senior Economist,

Resources, Energy and Environment Section, Economic Development and Corporate Finance Branch, Department of Finance; **Kevin Chan** '04, Policy Analyst, Privy Council Office; The Right Honourable **Joe Clark**, Former Prime Minister of Canada; **Andrew Cohen**, Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*; **Letia Cousins**, Director, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Nunavut; **William Crosbie**, Director General, Foreign Affairs; **Maryantonett Flumian**, Deputy Minister, Service Canada, HRSDC; **Graham Fox**, Vice President, Public Policy Forum; **Graham Fraser**, National Affairs Writer, *The Toronto Star*; **John Fraser**, Master, Massey College, University of Toronto; **François Gagnon**, Director, Youth Directorate, Canadian Heritage; **Frederic Gascon**, Director, Strategic Planning, Bombardier Transportation North America; **Ginger Gibson**, Ph.D. Candidate, Mining Engineering Applied Sciences, UBC; **Christina Harrison**, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; His Excellency **Eric Hayes**, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Canada; **George Haynal**, Vice President, Public Policy, Bombardier Inc.; **David**

**Hik**, Executive Director, Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat; Professor and Canada Research Chair in Northern Ecology, University of Alberta; **Richard Hoshino** '03, Canada Border Services Agency; His Excellency **Daniel Jouanneau**, Ambassador, Embassy of France; **Martin Lavoie** '03, Public Policy Analyst, Bombardier Inc.; **David Long**, Vice President Legal, Miramar Mining Corporation; **Michael McAdoo**, Vice President, Strategy and Business Development, Bombardier Aerospace; Her Excellency **Maria Teresa de Madero**, Ambassador, Embassy of the United Mexican States; **Flavie Major** '03, Desk Officer, Caribbean, Central America and Andean Region (RLC), Foreign Affairs Canada; **Victor Malarek**, Journalist, CTV; **James R. Mitchell**, Founding Partner, Sussex Circle Consulting Group; **Jennifer Moores**, Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Directorate, HRSDC; **Marie-Lucie Morin**, then Associate Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs Canada; **Nik Nanos**, President, SES Research/Summa Strategies; **Jacques Paquette**, Assistant Deputy Minister, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, Canadian Heritage; **John Parisella**, President and Vice-Chairman of the Board, BCP Consulting, Former Chief of Staff to Premiers Robert Bourassa and



*Michael Wilson, Max Wyman, Michel Smith, Jodi White and Mary Jane Jim in Vancouver*



*Nunavut Elder Lazaloosie Isbulutak recounts Inuit legends in a traditional sod but*



*Jesse Moore '05 thanks HRSDC ADM Andrew Treusch, moderator of the Federal Partners' Dialogue Dinner*

Daniel Johnson; **Benoît Pelletier**, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information; **Loly Rico**, Canadian Council for Refugees; His Excellency **Omar Samad**, Ambassador, Embassy of Afghanistan; His Excellency **Ombeni Yohana Sefue**, High Commissioner, High Commission for the United Republic of Tanzania; **Jeffrey Simpson**, National Affairs Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*; **Clayton Thomas-Mueller**, Indigenous Environmental Network; Colonel **D.W. Thompson**, Director Peacekeeping Policy, National Defence; **Andrew Treusch**, Assistant Deputy Minister, HRSDC; **Daniel Turp**, Member for Mercier, Parti Québécois; **Barbara Yaffe**, Columnist, *The Vancouver Sun*; **Fahim Yousofzai**, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Royal Military College of Canada.

## Nunavut Working Conference 2006

**David Akeegok**, Deputy Minister for Culture, Elders, Language and Youth, Government of Nunavut; **John Amagoalik**, Producer, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation; His Excellency **Jack Anawak**, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs; **Archie Angnakak**, Trans-Boundary Claims Adviser, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Nunavut; **Simon Awa**, Deputy Minister, Environment, Government of Nunavut; **Levinia Brown**, Deputy Premier, Government of Nunavut; **Rosemary Cooper**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Priorities, Government of Nunavut; **Letia Cousins**, Director of Circumpolar and Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Nunavut; Major **Mike Delorey**, National Defence Canada; **Kirt Ejesiak**, Creative Director, Uqsiq Communications; **Manasa Evic**, Mayor of Pangnirtung; **Beverly Foster**, Senior Advisor to Regional Director,

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; **Franklyn Griffiths**, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto; Major **M. Hilliker**, CFS Alert; **Stan Hutchinson**, Executive Director, Nunavut Federal Council; **Lazaloosie Ishulutak**, Inuit Elder, Pangnirtung; **Jonah Kelly**, IQ Coordinator/Communications Officer—Community, Government of Nunavut; **Peter Kilabuk**, MLA, Pangnirtung; **David Kunuk**, Director of Implementation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; **Hugh Lloyd**, Senior Advisor, Community Learning Initiatives, Department of Education, Government of Nunavut; **John Merritt**, Legal Counsel, NTI, Senior Policy Adviser, ITK; **Tony Penikett**, Chief Negotiator, Devolution, Government of Nunavut; **Edward Picco**, Minister of Education and Energy, Government of Nunavut; **Leo Power**, President, Leo Power Consulting; **Inuapik Sageeatook**, Inuit Elder, Iqaluit; **Mary Simon**, Former Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs; **Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

## 2006/2007 FELLOWSHIP YEAR

For the coming 2006/2007 fellowship year, Action Canada has selected 15 Fellows whose vibrancy, vision and personal achievements will add tremendously to our growing Action Canada network. This outstanding network of 70 Fellows from four cohorts reflects Canada's national diversity. They are from all regions, varied ethnic origins, First Nations, and represent a well-balanced mix of gender and age. Biographies of all Action Canada Fellows are available on our website, [www.actioncanada.ca](http://www.actioncanada.ca).

The theme for our fourth Fellowship year is *Enterprise in Canada*, which will encompass policies or projects related to economic and business development, innovation and entrepreneurship. The Vancouver and Ottawa conferences will feature special sessions with recognized Canadian business leaders.



Director Jodi White, Dr. Janet Smith and Susanna Haas '05 at the Vancouver conference Leaders Dialogue Dinner



Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, speaking in Iqaluit



Guillaume Lavoie '05 with Canadian Heritage ADM Jacques Paquette and François Gagnon, Director, Youth Directorate

## ACTION CANADA NETWORK

Alumni are demonstrating an outstanding interest in, and commitment to, the Action Canada program. They frequently participate in our working conferences, acting as session designers, conference facilitators, and moderators. Many attend these events as our guests.

This past year's Ottawa Working Conference is an example: **Martin Lavoie '03** organized a successful session at Bombardier during the conference's Montréal visit, **Kevin Chan '04** led the design of a conference session on policy decision-making in Ottawa, and **Neil Boucher '03** facilitated a careers session.

Alumni are also collaborating on further significant policy projects. **Josh Silvertown '04** and **Beverly Sembsmoen '04** have raised funding and support to continue their Action Canada project, DreamCatcher Yukon, in Yukon public schools. **Peter MacLeod '03** has initiated three projects involving alumni from all three years, including a task force on civic engagement.

Ottawa alumni are particularly active, organizing an ongoing series of dialogue dinners with guests such as University of Ottawa Chancellor **Huguette Labelle**, and **David Zussman**, the first holder of the Jarislowsky Chair in Public Sector Management at the University of Ottawa. In January, Toronto alumni held a dialogue dinner with **John Fraser**, Master of Massey College and have plans to make these Action Canada alumni dinners a regular Toronto event. Several of them carpooled from Toronto to attend the third Ambassadors' Dialogue Dinner in Ottawa.

During the Ottawa weekend of the Nunavut conference, Ottawa alumni turned out in force for an Alumni Dialogue Dinner where, together with members of the Action Canada team including Co-Founder **Jack Blaney**, they discussed future initiatives for maintaining and strengthening the alumni network. And this year, for the first time, an alumna, **Kevin Chan '04**, was a member of the National Selection Committee, contributing significantly to the selection of our fourth cohort.

The alumni newsletter, ***Fellows in Action***, now has two issues posted online with a third in production. We look forward to a year of continued enthusiasm and noteworthy activity from the Action Canada network.



*Flavie Major '03 with Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay and Alex Boston '05 at the Ambassadors' Dialogue Dinner*



*Alumni with Co-Founder Jack Blaney and members of the Action Canada team at the Alumni Dinner*

## LOOKING AHEAD

Action Canada continues to build leadership for Canada's future, creating a strong network of emerging leaders who have a passion for Canada and its stature among nations. Our relationship with our four federal government partners—Canadian Heritage, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and Justice Canada—is a model for synergies that develop when the private sector works in partnership with the Government of Canada. Many of our alumni are moving on to important executive positions within the government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, while continuing to network with each other.

Initially conceived for five years, the program's last year of existing funding is 2007/2008. The Action Canada Board is seeking private sector funding to continue this successful, visionary initiative.

## SUMMARY

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We have reached the milestone of completion of our third fellowship year and Action Canada's goals are achieving tangible results across the nation. The Action Canada experience provides practical skills and valuable contacts that are having noteworthy impact. Several Fellows have had new employment opportunities that developed directly from contacts made during their fellowship year. Fellows have initiated notable projects, collaborating with each other and mentors they have met through the program; they have also won nationwide competitions for senior policy positions in the federal government. A summary of highlights of Fellows' achievements this year includes:

- **Kevin Chan** '04 was a recipient of the Public Service Award of Excellence for his involvement in the Recruitment of Policy Leaders (RPL) Program, which recruits Canada's best young public policy minds into the Public Service. The group award was presented based on outstanding achievement and innovation. Action Canada contributed to the nomination package supporting the team for the award. Alumni **Richard Hoshino** '03 and **Flavie Major** '03 were recruited into the RPL Program last year and are enjoying their appointments.
- **Peter MacLeod** '03 continues to be active in joining Fellows and alumni together on projects. **David Eaves** '05, **David Helliwell** '03, **Ann McCann** '03 and mentor **Mark Winston** were each non-partisan members of the national task force on Civic Engagement which Peter chaired.
- The 2004 project created to empower northern youth by connecting them with mentors in their career area of choice—**DreamCatcher Yukon**—has been enthusiastically renewed for a third year by the Yukon government, receiving funding from the Yukon Department of Education, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada through the First Nations and Inuit Youth Work Experience Program. In 2006-2007 the project will reach up to 10 schools and over 100 students. Congratulations to **Beverly Sembsmoen** '04 and **Josh Silvertown** '04.
- **Sheelagh Davis** '05 joined **Susanna Haas** '05 as a collaborative member of her "theme team" at the Cincinnati America *Speaks* event on US health care reform in April.
- **Gabriel Jean-Simon** '03 started work for Service Canada in March, joining the one-stop service delivery network that brings the range of federal services together to meet the needs of Canadians wherever they live.
- The Toronto Timeraiser Initiative, an event pioneered by **Anil Patel** '04 to promote volunteerism among young Canadians, celebrated its third year, featuring **Ben Peterson** '03's Journalists for Human Rights among its agency representatives. As well, **Kris Frederickson** '04, co-chair of 2335, United Way of Calgary's new "Youth Committee," worked with Anil to plan the first Calgary Timeraiser, at which **George Roter** '04's Engineers without Borders participated. The event was a huge success and raised 5,700 volunteer hours.
- **Denise Taschereau** '03's Fairware, the Canadian-made gift and corporate items company she started with her Action Canada bursary, won the 2005 Small Business BC Business Plan Competition.
- **Craig Kielburger** '05 has been awarded the World Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (WCPRC) for his work with the organization he founded at 12 years old, Free the Children. WCPRC is a global prize awarded by an international jury of children consisting of former child soldiers, slaves, refugees and street children.

The co-founders, board of directors and federal government partners all recognize the long-term nature of Action Canada's goals. It is therefore doubly encouraging that these significant short-term benefits have materialized, with positive impacts for Canada's future.



Action Canada is proud to work with outstanding young Canadians. Again this year, Fellows have stated that their Fellowship year was profoundly transformative and positively influenced their will and ability to turn ideas into action. We are pleased to close this report with testimonials from several of this year's Fellows, mentors and presenters:

*"I think Action Canada is a wonderful program for taking some of Canada's best young minds and exposing them to the challenges and opportunities of the entire country."*  
**Jeffrey Simpson**, National Affairs Columnist, The Globe and Mail

*"Through my human rights work, I have traveled to more than 45 nations, including regions torn apart by war and ethnic strife . . . I have long appreciated the preciousness of our freedoms, and the blessings of our diversity. Action Canada further nurtured a love for our country beyond these base levels of protection by exposing me to cultural and political aspects of the country of which I was unaware, and reminding me of the true pleasures and privileges of being Canadian."*

**Action Canada Fellow**

*"Working with Action Canada has been a wonderful experience. Action Canada stands out as one of the most positive influences that I have seen in relation to young Canadians."*

**Mary Simon**, former Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs

*"Working with the Action Canada Fellows was a joy. They were smart, inquisitive, funny and engaged. They produced excellent work, sought suggestions eagerly and applied them eagerly . . . If only all my students were like this. . ."*

**Andrew Cohen**, journalist and author, professor of journalism and international affairs at Carleton University

*"Having the chance to 'look under the hood' of the country's governing institutions was a real bonus for me, as I have tended to view Canada as simply one country in a wider community of nations."*

**Action Canada Fellow**

*"Thank you for inviting me to Nunavut with the Action Canada Fellows—it was a truly transformative experience . . . It's been a real privilege to spend time with the Fellows, mentors, guests, and your team."*

**Antonia Maioni**, Director, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, and Associate Professor of Political Science, McGill University

## ALUMNI

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Freddy Abnoui '04

Alia Ali '03

Wade AuCoin '05

Sharlene Azam '03

Chiara Barazzuol '05

Alex Boston '05

Neil Bouwer '03

David Brock '05

Craig Cameron '04

Hugo Cameron '05

Karen Caputo '03

Nadine Caron '04

Kevin Chan '04

Yan Cimon '05

Severn Cullis-Suzuki '04

Sheelagh Davis '05

David Eaves '05

Sara Ehrhardt '04

Jan Stefan Eperjesi '03

Kristinn Frederickson '04

Ginger Gosnell '04

Susanna Haas '05

Jason Hein '04

David Helliwell '03

Richard Hoshino '03

Gabriel Jean-Simon '03

Roxanne Joyal '04

Diana Juricevic '03

Ahmed Kayssi '04

Craig Kielburger '05

Pascale Labbé '05

Guillaume Lavoie '05

Martin Lavoie '03

Ann McCann '03

Peter MacLeod '03

Cynthia Mackenzie '04

Flavie Major '03

Cheryl Matthew '05

Karel Mayrand '05

Jesse Moore '05

Jean-Frédéric Morin '04

Anil Patel '04

Annamie Paul '03

Ben Peterson '04

Tina Piper '05

Lyndsay Poaps '04

Jamie Ross '03

George Roter '04

Beverly Sembsmoen '04

Josh Silvertown '04

Matthew Sullivan '03

Denise Taschereau '03

Léonie Tchatat '03

Janet Vertesi '03

Zenia Wadhwani '03

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