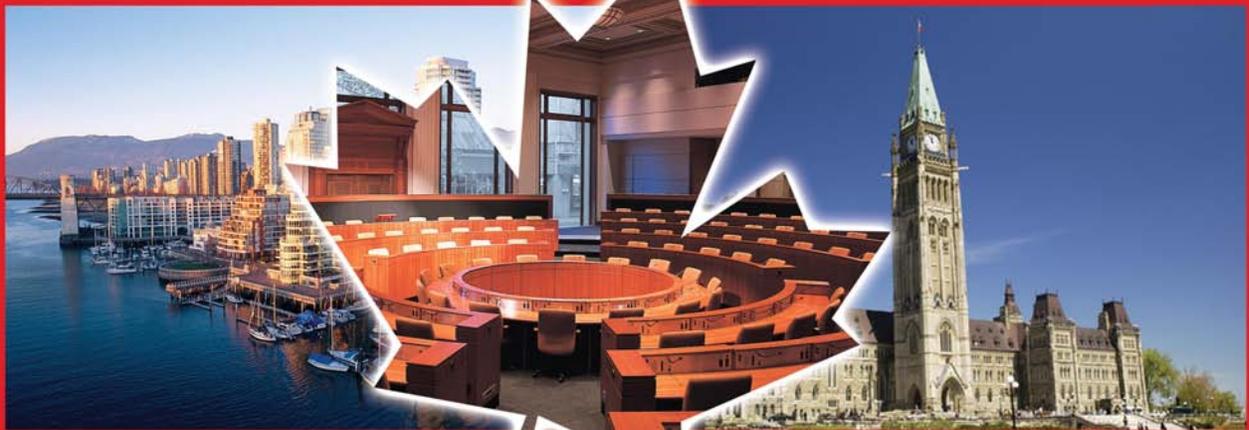


# ACTION CANADA

*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 2003-2004

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Presented by:  
Cathy Beehan, Chief Executive Officer

## Introduction

As Canadians we want our country to be the finest in the world, the best place to live and to work. We also want to contribute to a world that shares what we ourselves cherish. To achieve and sustain these aspirations Canada needs outstanding leadership.

Action Canada was formed to create and support future leaders for public service, elected office and executive positions in the NGO and private sectors. It nurtures these leaders at a time when government is unusually challenged to attract and retain outstanding public servants; when Canadians are calling for exemplary citizens in elected office; and when we need talented and trusted executives to lead enterprises and contribute to the strength and quality of our country. Canada is fortunate to have had such leadership in the past and present, but we must ensure that we continue to foster the development of new Canadian leaders.

Each year, Action Canada selects a cohort of up to twenty outstanding young Canadians from every region of the country and from the great diversity of our citizens. During their Fellowship year, these Action Canada Fellows address the challenges and opportunities involved in building a just, tolerant, diverse and prosperous nation, while learning the requirements and responsibilities of leadership. The Fellows' work and ideas are designed to inform and inspire Canadians. Collectively, the Fellows will constitute an expanding network of effective leaders.

Action Canada is a powerful initiative from the West, connected to all of Canada, to bolster our common commitment to a strong future.

The ten-month program examines core Canadian public policy issues as well as the perspectives and concerns of Canada's various regions. Fellows benefit from the guidance of mentors who are themselves current leaders in government, business, NGOs and academic institutions. Fellows report back to Canadians what they have learned and what they propose as innovative public policy.

This first, groundbreaking year was extraordinary, both for the first cohort of Fellows and for the Action Canada team, and it is with great pleasure that I present the first Annual Report.

*"We want [Canada] to be the finest country in the world, and to achieve that we need outstanding leadership."  
Sam Belzberg*



*Inaugural cohort of Action Canada Fellows with Sam Belzberg, Fran Belzberg, Cathy Beehan and Glenn Sigurdson (front row, starting 5<sup>th</sup> person from left to right)*

## Founders and Board

Action Canada was founded by two eminent Canadians, Simon Fraser University president emeritus **Jack Blaney** and philanthropist businessman **Sam Belzberg**. Together, they envisioned a national organization based in Vancouver that would identify exceptional 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 through forging connections with a unique web of mentors, role models and peers.

Sam and Jack selected **Cathy Beehan**, a winner 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 was constituted to oversee the program that includes co-founders **Samuel Belzberg**, O.C., Chair of the Board and President and CEO, Gibralt Capital Corp. and **Jack Blaney**, O.B.C., Secretary Treasurer and Chair, Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Directors are **Clay Horner**, Partner, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt; and **Frances Westley**, James McGill Professor of Strategy, McGill University. **Norman Moyer**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Affairs and Communications, Canadian Heritage is the Ex-Officio Federal Government representative to the Board. **Ann Cowan**, Executive Director, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, was appointed to the Action Canada Advisory Committee.

This effort to seed Canada's future with exceptional examples of Canadian courage, ethical intelligence and individual creativity is a gift to future generations that will, in the words of Jack Blaney, truly "break through the barrier from enthusiastic to effective."

*"There were many times throughout the year when I was simply overwhelmed with the opportunities presented to us by the Fellowship, and I think the fact that this first year was so successful is a great testament to the vision, skills and passion of the founders and the people who made this vision a reality."*  
*Action Canada Fellow*

## 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 coordinated the contributing federal departments, which include Canadian Heritage, Justice, 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 evidenced by the active role played by the four federal departments in all aspects of this initiative including program development, conference planning, mentoring of Fellows and guidance on public policy issues.

Action Canada also is partnered with Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. An initial impetus for the Centre was to bring national and international meetings to the West, and help the West play a larger role in national affairs. The Centre has an outstanding professional staff and is an excellent meeting facility, especially for emerging and potential leaders as epitomized by the Action Canada Fellows.

## Selection Criteria

The Action Canada Board selects Fellows from nominees who are either 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, not unlike the selection of Rhodes Scholars. 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. Within 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, as well as hold a record of excellent post-secondary academic achievement or demonstrate outstanding intellectual ability in another capacity.

In addition, the Board considers regional, gender and disciplinary balance, and Canada's cultural diversity.

Action Canada distributed over 1000 letters to governments, organizations, institutions and companies across Canada, and was pleased to receive 264 nominations of outstanding Canadians. **Dr. Janet Smith**, former senior Deputy Minister and former President of the Canadian Centre for Management Development, and **Dr. George Ivany**, former President of the University of Saskatchewan and former VP of SFU, took on the challenge of assessing the achievements of so many exceptional individuals and selecting a shortlist.

Of the thirty-one exceptional young Canadians selected for interview, twenty were chosen to make up the inaugural cohort of Action Canada Fellows.

*“The driving force of my life is the wish to make a difference . . . To me, Action Canada represents just that – making a difference. I see it as an opportunity to develop strong ties with other Canadians with similar ideals, a commitment to Canada and to making a difference.”*  
*Action Canada Fellow*

## National Selection Committee

The first National Selection Committee included the **Board of Directors**, accompanied by:

**Dr. John Kim Bell**, Founder and President of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Toronto; **Don Campbell**, Group President with CAE Inc., Montreal, former Federal Deputy Minister and Canadian Ambassador to Japan; **John Crosbie**, P.C., O.C., Q.C., former Minister in the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Federal Finance Minister under Prime Minister Joe Clark; **Dr. Robert Giroux**, C.M., former Federal Deputy Minister and former President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; **Clay Horner**, Q.C., Partner, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt, Toronto; and **Rieky Stuart**, Executive Director, Oxfam Canada.

*“Being selected as an Action Canada Fellow . . . coupled with the extraordinary experiences of the last twelve months have reaffirmed my belief in my leadership skills . . . My ideas of leadership have undoubtedly expanded, both through an understanding of varying definitions, as well as through the examples of people we met or heard about.”*  
*Action Canada Fellow*

## Fellows

The first cohort of Fellows was the initial extraordinary component of an exceptional year. This group of twenty outstanding Canadians represents the very best Canada has to offer from a broad spectrum of educational, ethnic and ideological backgrounds. Motivated, engaged and diverse, the Fellows brought a wealth of professional and personal experiences to contribute to the inaugural year. They came from varied backgrounds including: mathematics and medicine, healthcare, journalism and publishing, economics, education, public service, law, political science, environment, science and social work. They also brought the gifts of music, art, athletics and the muse of philosophy. For summary biographies of the Action Canada 2003/2004 Fellows, visit [www.actioncanada.ca](http://www.actioncanada.ca).



*Left to right: (back row) Richard Hoshino, Karen Caputo, Matthew Sullivan, Flavie Major, David Hellinwell, Neil Bouwer, Jan Eperjesi (middle row) Léonie Tchata, Janet Vertesi, Gabriel Jean-Simon, Zenia Wadhvani, Sharlene Azam, Diana Juricevic, Alia Ali, Annamie Paul (front row) Peter MacLeod, Ann McCann, Jamie Ross, Martin Lavoie (missing from photo: Denise Taschereau)*

*"I recognize the responsibility I have taken on in accepting to be a Fellow and committing to making Canada a better place for Canadians in my daily work. I can say with great certainty that I am doing this now with a much more informed view of Canada and Canadians..."*  
*Action Canada Fellow*

## 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

The Action Canada program featured three seven- to eight-day intensive Working Conferences held in different regions of the country, highlighting the diversity of issues and cultural backgrounds that make up Canada. Each conference was an exhilarating experience, focused on a different area of strategic importance to the formation of leadership skills, and featured an impressive list of leaders, presenters and mentors.

During the first conference, the Fellows chose public policy issues of significance to Canada, and formed project working groups. They continued work on their selected policy projects throughout the year, presenting their project results at the close of the final conference.



*Left to right: Jack Blaney, His Excellency John Ralston Saul and Fellow Matthew Sullivan*

### Vancouver Working Conference

The Vancouver Conference introduced the Fellows to the power of leadership to create change, and the need for effective working relationships. A Townhall Dialogue, held at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, gave the Fellows the opportunity to probe into a range of important Canadian public policy issues, and to access an invaluable group of resource persons.

Fieldwork exposed the Fellows to the challenges faced by all levels of government, the NGO and private sectors in addressing the difficult issues of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, giving them profound insight into this troubled area. Many of them felt impressed by the heroism they encountered, and inspired by different groups and organizations coming together to affect positive change.



*Fellows with members of the Hong Kong Merchants' Association of Vancouver*

*"Perhaps the most profound aspect of Action Canada for me was increasing my understanding of the many faces of Canada; politically, demographically and geographically . . . The opportunity to visit different locations in Canada and see firsthand the successes and failures of public policy was very useful . . . I really believe that experiencing a place or an issue firsthand builds compassion and compassion is the cornerstone of being a good leader."*

*Action Canada Fellow*

### Ottawa Working Conference

Action Canada was pleased to partner with the Public Policy Forum for the delivery of the Ottawa Working Conference. While in Ottawa, the Fellows were privileged to work within the House of Commons facilities, meeting key individuals from the federal and other governments.

The Ambassadors' Dialogue Dinner was held at a preeminent location for diplomatic functions, the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Pearson Building. Ambassadors from Senegal, Israel, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia and the British High Commissioner discussed questions regarding Canada and its place in the global community with the Fellows.

In another session, Fellows considered Canada-US relations through interactive exchanges with Pamela Wallin, Perrin Beatty and Jon Allen. *(A complete list of all conference presenters and their affiliations is found at pages 10-12.)*

The focus on effective working relationships continued and expanded, and the Fellows worked long and hard on their public policy projects.

Fieldwork for this conference took the Fellows to Montréal, where they faced the complex set of issues embedded in Québec's history, including the separation question, Québec's role in the federal government and the success of Québec businesses internationally.

Back in Ottawa, the Fellows studied the challenges of implementing federal policy in the context of the First Nations Governance Act.

## **Newfoundland and Labrador Working Conference**

The Fellows' final conference brought them to the Canadian Forces base in Goose Bay, Labrador, a venue for international low-level flight training for air forces from the UK, Germany, Holland and Italy.

Fieldwork during this conference included an extraordinary trip to the Upper Churchill Falls hydro project, the largest underground powerhouse in the world, delivering commercial power to Hydro-Québec since 1971. Through expert presenters the Fellows learned that the lower Churchill has the best economics of any undeveloped hydro project in North America, and that there is enormous interest in its future development to serve the North American energy market.

The Fellows were privileged to be the first "lay" persons to travel to Voisey's Bay, one of the richest undeveloped nickel properties in the world. This mine promises great potential for a region much in need of economic diversity, but also raises land claims issues. The Fellows studied the unique agreement negotiated with the Innu and Inuit of Labrador for development of the mine. Of the more than 1000 people employed during peak construction in 2003, 40 per cent were members of the Innu Nation, the Labrador Inuit Association or the Labrador Métis.



*Fellows and mentors in Voisey's Bay, Labrador*

En route to St. John's, the Fellows visited the 11<sup>th</sup> century Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the earliest known settlement in the New World.

In St. John's, the oldest city in North America, the Fellows experienced the richness and depth of Newfoundland and Labrador's fascinating history and vibrant culture. In support of the Action Canada goal to create a network of enduring relationships, Fellows had time to solidify the bonds they had developed over the preceding ten months and finalize their public policy projects.

They also explored issues relating to Newfoundland's growth and development through panel discussions led by economic, social and cultural leaders. Guided bus tours, whale-watching with a leading world whale expert, and a traditional Newfoundland kitchen party all contributed to the Fellows' enjoyment of the last few days of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The final conference culminated in the Fellows' presentations of their public policy projects, and their reports on their work both of the past week and the whole year.

## Public Policy Projects

### Intercultural Group

Richard Hoshino, Matthew Sullivan and Janet Vertesi

Multiculturalism is a celebrated Canadian value, yet it is not always a lived reality for many people. This Action Canada group addressed this conflict through modeling a series of diversity training conferences for high school students across Canada.

In Spring 2004, the group hosted two pilot conferences in Nova Scotia. The first brought 135 South Shore students into the coastal community of Bridgewater, with the goal of acquainting youth from homogeneous communities with diverse perspectives. The second introduced 50 students from the more culturally diverse urban setting of Halifax to intercultural communication skills, tools for interpreting media reports, and ways to examine their biases. Both model conferences were designed to bring students into contact with new people and ideas, and to explore the skills we all need to live harmoniously in a diverse Canada.

The group is continuing to build on the networks established during these conferences by promoting electronic networking among multicultural student groups, local associations, and school boards, in order to provide them with the resources to co-ordinate similar conferences across Canada.

### Foreign Policy Group

Alia Ali, Neil Bower and Jan Stefan Eperjesi

This group explored perceptions of Canada and Canadian foreign policy in Southeast Asia, specifically in the predominantly Asian-Islamic cultures of Indonesia and Pakistan. Working with local film producers in these two countries, they made two documentary films that capture a wide cross-section of views, including commonly held stereotypes of “the East” and “the West,” *Jakarta: What They Think (of us)* and *Identity: Canada Through A Foreign Eye* (Pakistan). The group posed questions about how Canada could act in these regions to build international public policy development and promote better intercultural understanding.

The group used inferences from the films to develop a framework for policy discussion and propose that Canadian foreign policy might promote “reciprocal cultural affirmation” as a means to increase the effectiveness of our public diplomacy, contribute to global stability/prosperity, and facilitate achievement of Canadian interests and our role in the world. The Foreign Policy group have plans to distribute the films in order to stimulate further dialogue and exchanges of ideas, particularly at the policy development level.

*“I’ve done something I never imagined I would do before, make a film, a new dimension for me. Action Canada made me believe more in possibilities.”*

*Action Canada Fellow*

### Radio Action Canada

Peter MacLeod

Radio Action Canada seeks to capture the ideas and idiosyncrasies of a Fellowship committed to leadership and policy change.

Peter created a proposal for a CBC Radio documentary about Action Canada’s inaugural year with the participation of all the Fellows, and provided an opportunity for the first cohort to reflect on their experiences and their thoughts about Canada’s future through dialogue. By the close of the Newfoundland conference, the Fellows and their groups had recorded a series of wide-ranging conversations that offer unique insights into the Action Canada experience.

## VoteSmart

Karen Caputo, Diana Juricevic, Martin Lavoie, Denise Taschereau and Léonie Tchatat

This group created an organization called VoteSmart that is designed to provide non-partisan information on key issues and party positions for federal elections. VoteSmart is particularly dedicated to raising the political awareness of youth based on a distinctly Canadian vision that encourages diversity of opinion on every issue. The group launched a website, [www.votesmart.ca](http://www.votesmart.ca), that identifies key electoral issues and provides voting records, party speeches, party platforms, and voting information for the federal election. Additionally, VoteSmart initiated collaboration with youth organizations through advertising and promotional campaigns in schools and universities.

In May, VoteSmart partnered with VoteOutLoud and StudentVote2004 to provide content for and attend a televised debate featuring the Minister of Finance debating the federal budget with opposition party finance critics at an Ottawa high school. VoteSmart's central message is, "To make a difference, you must know the difference."

## Poverty: Perception vs. Reality

David Helliwell, Gabriel Jean-Simon, Flavie Major, Ann McCann, Annamie Paul, Jamie Ross and Zenia Wadhvani

The "Poverty: Perception vs. Reality" group came together with a shared concern about Canada's recent slip from first to eighth place in the United Nations Human Development Index, and its ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> out of 17 countries in another UN classification, the Human Poverty Index. The group took a close look at poverty in Canada, commissioning an EKOS poll to determine citizens' perceptions about poverty issues. They discovered that nine out of ten Canadians think the country ranks higher than it does, indicating a significant gap between public perception and reality regarding Canadian poverty. The group used statistics and personal narratives to explore and highlight particular issues, including the under-employment of new immigrants, debt loads for post-secondary graduates, and the struggles of working-poor families.

The group concluded that poverty among these groups is undermining Canada's future. They produced a poster for national distribution and wrote an editorial conveying their concern and making a call for action, with the following message: "The poor are your neighbours, your co-workers, perhaps your friends. We want YOU to get involved, and there are things you can do to help. Volunteer your time. Adjust your consumer habits to support socially responsible businesses. Lobby your elected representatives. Let's make this a policy priority for our government."

*"The public policy project was a very meaningful experience for me – to see my group's efforts manifest in the lives of some very interesting and inspiring high school students was an experience like none I have ever had."*

*Action Canada Fellow*



*Left to right, Fellows: Jamie Ross, David Helliwell, Zenia Wadhvani, Flavie Major, Ann McCann, Annamie Paul and Gabriel Jean-Simon*

## Mentors and Presenters

The list of extraordinary mentors, presenters and guests in the Action Canada program, together with the Action Canada team, ensured the success of our inaugural year. I would like to sincerely and profoundly thank everyone involved, including:

### Action Canada Board

Founders: **Samuel Belzberg**, O.C., Chair, President and CEO, Gibralt Capital Corp.; **Dr. Jack Blaney**, O.B.C., Secretary Treasurer and Chair, Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Directors: **Clay Horner**, Partner, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt; **Dr. Frances Westley**, James McGill Professor of Strategy, McGill University. Ex-Officio federal government representative: **Norman Moyer**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Affairs and Communications, Canadian Heritage.

### Action Canada Team

**Helen Augustin**, Conference Coordinator; **Stephanie Sauro**, Program Coordinator. **Tom Heffernan**, Senior Finance Officer, and **Joanne Lalonde**, Director, Corporate Services, Association of Universities and Colleges Canada.

### Yearlong Mentors and Facilitators

**Ann Cowan**, Member, Action Canada Advisory Council and Executive Director, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre; **Glenn Sigurdson**, Q.C., Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Principal, The CSE Group; **Barry Stuart**, retired Judge, Adjunct Professor, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University; **Paul Sullivan**, President, Sullivan Media; **Dr. Mark Winston**, Professor and Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre



*Norman Moyer, Government of Canada ex-officio representative to the Board with Fellow Janet Vertesi*



*Left to right: Annamie Paul, His Excellency David N. Reddaway, British High Commissioner, Alia Ali, and Peter MacLeod*

for Dialogue and Director, Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue, Simon Fraser University.

### Newfoundland & Labrador Conference

**Dave Cluney**, Training Supervisor, Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited; **T. Dave Collett**, retired President of Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation Ltd.; **The Honourable John C. Crosbie**, P.C., O.C., Q.C., Patterson Palmer Law; **Dr. Clar Doyle**, Professor, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Dr. John Fitzgerald**, Professor/Historian, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Rod Forsey**, Director, Economic Research and Analysis, Economics Statistics Branch, Department of Finance, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; **Barry Gaulton**, Research Assistant/Field Director, Archaeology Unit, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Colonel A. Glynne Hines**, Wing Commander, 5 Wing Goose Bay; **Dr. Jon Lien**, Honourary Research Professor, Department of Biopsychology, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Andrew MacNeill**, General Manager, Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation Ltd.; **Isabella Pain**, Inuit Affairs Officer, Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited; **Jim Payne**, Song Writer and Performing Artist; **Larry Pittman**, Coordinator, Labrador & Aboriginal Affairs, Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited; **Leo Power**, Leo Power Consulting Inc.; **Captain John P. Pulchny**, 5 Wing Public Affairs, 5 Wing Goose Bay; **Vivian Randell**, retired Deputy Minister, Department of Human Resources and Employment, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; **Dr. Andrea Rose**, Professor, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Justice Malcolm Rowe**, Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal; **Dr. Jim Tuck**, Henrietta Harvey Professor of Archaeology, Archaeology Unit, Memorial University of Newfoundland; **Fred Way**, Vice-Chairman, Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board; **Sheila Williams**, Performing Artist.



*His Excellency Eki Syachrudin, Ambassador, Republic of Indonesia with Fellow Jan Stefan Eperjesi*

## Ottawa Conference

**Jon Allen**, Director General, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, North America Bureau;

**Joan Atkinson**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;

**Honourable Perrin Beatty**, P.C., President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters Association; **Catherine Bergman**, Economist, Lawyer and Published Author;

**Andrew Beynon**, General Counsel/Manager, Legislative Initiatives, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; **Carolann Brewer**, Barrister & Solicitor; **Dr. Dinu Bumbaru**, Program Director, Héritage Montréal; **Bernd Christmas**, CEO, Membertou Development Corporation;

**Marcel Côté**, Founding Partner, Secor Consulting (Montréal); **Mamadou Saliou Diouf**, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Senegal; **His Excellency Haim Divon**, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel; **Dwight Dorey**, President, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples;

**Graham Fraser**, National Affairs Columnist, Toronto Star; **Bill Graham**, Minister, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada;

**Charlotte Gray**, award-winning author, journalist and political commentator; **Robert Groves**, Principal, The Aboriginal Affairs Group Inc.; **Dr. Peter Larson**, Executive Vice President, Public Policy Forum;

**His Excellency Valdemar Carneiro Leão**, Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil; **Marc Lemay**,

Regional Director, Canadian Heritage

(Montréal); **Dr. Jocelyn Létourneau**, Professor of History, Université Laval (Montréal); **Jean Morin**, Chef de Poste, Bureau du Québec à Ottawa;

**Professor Bradford Morse**, Professor of Law, University of Ottawa; **His Excellency Christian Friedemann Pauls**,

Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; **Yves Poisson**, Director, Special Projects, Public Policy Forum; **James Quinn**,

Director General, Major Initiatives Branch, Lands and Trusts Services, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; **His Excellency David Norman Reddaway**, High

Commissioner, British High Commission; **His Excellency John Ralston Saul**, C.C., Essayist and

Novelist; **Scott Serson**, Policy Advisor, Assembly of First Nations; **Jeffrey Simpson**, National Affairs Columnist,

The Globe and Mail; **His Excellency Eki Syachrudin**, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia;

**Carole Théberge**, Counsel, Outreach and Partnerships, Justice Canada; **Daniel Turp**, Member for Mercier, Parti Québécois (Montréal);

**Pamela Wallin**, Canadian Consul General to New York; **Michael Wernick**, Deputy Secretary to the

Cabinet, Plans and Consultation, Privy Council Office;

**Dr. David Zussman**, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, EKOS Research Associates.



*Jeffrey Simpson (second from left) with Fellows Richard Hoshino (left), Peter MacLeod, Zenia Wadhvani, and Presenter Peter Larson (far right)*

*“A healthy introduction to the political system of our country has done wonders for the maturation of my political knowledge and attitudes. Meeting leaders who have shared their experiences with openness and honesty has touched me and will stay with me for the rest of my days . . . My daily decisions, including voting, will be grounded in much deeper knowing.”*

*Action Canada Fellow*

## Vancouver Conference

**Dr. Joanna Ashworth**, North Growth Management Director of Programs, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre; **Wendy Au**, Community Project Manager, DTES Revitalization Program, City of Vancouver; **Mark Berlin**, National Executive Director, Outreach and Partnership Department of Justice Canada; **Dr. Ed Broadbent**, Fellow at the School of Policy Studies, Queen's University; **Jennifer Campagnolo**, Associate, Learning Strategies Group, Simon Fraser University; **Prime Minister Jean Chrétien**; **Michael Clague**, Director, Carnegie Community Centre; **Linda Coady**, Vice President, Pacific Region, World Wildlife Fund Canada; **Ken Dobell**, Deputy Minister to the Premier, Province of British Columbia; **Kevin Evans**, Vice-President, Western Canada, Retail Council of Canada; **Patrick Fafard**, Director General, Strategic Policy and Research, Privy Council Office; **Albert Fok**, Chair, Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association; **Fiona Gold**, RN, BC Centre for Disease Control, Street Nurse Program; **Jim Green**, Councillor, City of Vancouver; **John Hansen**, Manager, Sustainable Communities (Urban), Western Economic Diversification Canada; **Dr. Michael Howlett**, Professor of Political Science, Simon Fraser University; **Robert Joseph**, Hereditary Chief of the Gwa wa enuk First Nation; **Doug Lang**, Sergeant, Vice Unit, Vancouver Police Department; **Dr. Peter Larson**, Executive Vice President, Public Policy Forum; **Ann Livingston**, Executive Director, Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users; **Ken Lyotier**, General Manager, United We Can; **Donald MacPherson**, Vancouver Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver; **Fred Mah**, Chair, Vision Sub-Committee, Chinatown Revitalization

Committee; **Don Matrick**, President Worldwide Studios, Electronic Arts (Canada) Inc.; **Roy Miki**, writer, poet, editor, and Professor of Contemporary Literature, Simon Fraser University; **Dr. Nancy Olewiler**, Public Policy Director, Professor of Economics, Simon Fraser University; **Philip Owen**, former Mayor of Vancouver; **Vaughn Palmer**, Provincial Affairs Columnist, The Vancouver Sun; **Dr. Angus Reid**, Executive Director of the Centre for Public Opinion and Democracy, University of British Columbia; **Eileen Sarkar**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Citizenship and Heritage, Canadian Heritage; **Hugh Segal**, President, Institute for Research on Public Policy; **Dr. Peter Senge**, founding Chair of the Society for Organisational Learning and Senior Lecturer, MIT; **Muggs Sigurgeirson**, Vice President, Carnegie Community Centre; **Dr. Michael Stevenson**, President, Simon Fraser University; **Shauna Sylvester**, Founder and Executive Director, Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society; **Dr. Carole Taylor**, Chair of the Board of CBC/Radio-Canada; **James Tigchelaar**, RN, Outreach Team Leader, BC Centre for Disease Control Street Nurse Program; **Mark Townsend**, Management Team, Portland Hotel Society; **Annabel Webb**, Legal Advocate and Coordinator, Justice for Girls; **Cynthia Williams**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy at Human Resources Development Canada; **Dean Wilson**, Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users; **Dr. Milton Wong**, Chancellor, Simon Fraser University and CEO, HSBC Asset Management; **Dr. David Zussman**, President, Public Policy Forum.



*Prime Minister Chrétien and Mrs Aline Chrétien (centre) meet the first cohort of Action Canada Fellows*

## Ongoing Interactions

Several measures have been taken to facilitate the creation of a lasting network among Fellows. Members of the first cohort will be invited to participate in future Action Canada activities taking place near where they live, or relating to topics in which a Fellow may have expertise. This year, a 2004/05 Fellow, resident in St. John's, was invited to the current cohort's public policy presentations and the closing dinner.

While the end of the Fellowship year brings Action Canada's involvement with, and responsibility in relation to, the Fellows' projects to an end, Fellows are encouraged to continue working on and promoting the public policy projects they have created as they are ongoing, living pieces of significance to Canada's future. For example, the two documentary films on the perception of Canada in Pakistan and Indonesia are scheduled for distribution, and the Poverty group is designing a website and distributing their poster across Canada.

To facilitate ongoing communication among all Fellows, past and present, an Action Canada email account has been created for each Fellow. Action Canada also is seeking recommendations and suggestions from present and future cohorts on continuing development of this unique network of young Canadian leaders.

*"Leadership is about serving and that's all it is: leaders seek out and determine the needs of others, and work hard to meet those needs without worrying about personal or professional recognition. I never thought about leadership that way before, but that's something I discovered during the course of this Fellowship. I now look at a life of leadership as simply a life of service."*  
Action Canada Fellow

## Looking Ahead

Plans for Action Canada's second year are well underway. An outstanding cohort of 19 Fellows has been selected after interviews in Ottawa with the National Selection Committee. A concentrated effort was made to recruit Fellows with First Nations background in the second year. In this regard, we received several excellent nominations from the aboriginal community, and are pleased that four of the new Fellows are from Canada's First Nations, continuing the tradition of a highly diverse selection of Fellows from Canada's cultural mosaic. Action Canada also succeeded in attracting more candidates from Central Canada in our second call for nominations. A focused recruitment effort for increased representation from the business community will take place in Year Three.

The 2004/2005 Fellows will have a central thematic focus for their public policy projects, "Partnerships."

The new Fellows also will have the unique opportunity to be part of a Fellowship during a minority government, a situation that promises rare insights into how governments function. The program for the Ottawa conference will explore this challenging time in Canadian federal politics.

One of Action Canada's goals is enhancement of the Fellows' understanding of the country's diversity. Each year, conferences are held in Vancouver, Ottawa and a third location in Canada. The Yukon has been selected as the third destination for next year's cohort. The upcoming Fellows will be encouraged to delve into the complex historical issues and cultural layers of this stunning territory.

*"I obtained a much greater appreciation of the unique regional nature of Canadian public policy, and of the perspectives of Canadians in those regions."*  
Action Canada Fellow

## Summary

Action Canada is an investment in Canada's future. As such, many of the goals and benefits of this unique leadership program are long term. After completion of the inaugural year, Action Canada can already point to beneficial outcomes. We noticed, and the Fellows themselves have expressed, a deepening commitment to civic responsibility. There is tangible evidence that the Action Canada experience provides useful skills and significant contacts that are having noteworthy impact among the Fellows. Examples include:

- Several Fellows have had new employment opportunities that developed directly from contacts made during their Fellowship year. Two are newly employed with Canadian Heritage, one to work on Expo 2005 in Japan and the second with Exchanges Canada. Another Fellow is exploring positions with the Canadian International Development Agency, and a fourth will participate as a visiting faculty member with Simon Fraser University's Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue in the spring of 2005.
- The Fellows' creative engagement with public policy continues to offer concrete examples of breaking through "the barrier from enthusiastic to effective." For instance, the Foreign Policy group not only is negotiating distribution of their films for broadcast, but also has begun to develop new ideas for additional film productions.
- A Fellow has been invited to participate as one of only sixteen imaginative innovators to initiate the prestigious "Imagine BC" dialogues at Simon Fraser University's Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The goal of these annual events is to generate provocative and constructive ideas about British Columbia's future.
- Another Fellow has organised a "Leaders' Dialogue Dinner" to be held in Toronto with Bob Rae, former Premier of Ontario. The evening, based on Action Canada's model, will include Fellows from the first and second cohorts who reside or may be in the area at the time. This initiative is an excellent example of success relating to the Action Canada goal of creating and growing an Action Canada network.
- Many of the year's mentors continue to build relationships with the Fellows, assisting each other in their work and areas of volunteer interest. In a current example, one of the mentors is in ongoing discussions with a Fellow regarding a new and high-level series of dialogues hosted by Simon Fraser University. In another, a Fellow provided a key introduction that led to a senior government official participating in Simon Fraser University's Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue.
- Several members of the National Selection Committee volunteered to contribute to Action Canada's second year, and many of the senior leaders who were involved during the first year have expressed keen interest in continuing their involvement with the program.

The Founders, Board and federal 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 have had the opportunity to work with outstanding young Canadians. Fellows have stated that this Fellowship year was an unforgettable experience, and it had a profoundly transformative effect on their will and ability to turn ideas into action. I close this report, therefore, with the Fellows' own words:



*The first cohort acknowledge and thank co-founder Sam Belzberg*

*“...[Action Canada] provides the opportunity for the Fellows to interact with the people who are dealing with [significant public policy issues] on a daily basis, to gain an understanding of what’s working and what’s not and to get a sense of the role of leadership in addressing significant issues in Canadian public policy...The fact that we were able to meet and interact with these people in a relatively intimate and meaningful way made the experience that much more effective, and from my perspective, I can say that it had a profound impact on my knowledge and understanding of Canada as a country.”*

*“In just a few days, the comprehensive learning I was able to draw from [Action Canada] was essential, fundamental and unforgettable.”*

*“The next Canada needs to take the idea of democratic renewal far beyond the conventions of procedural reform that appear in campaign pledges and manifestos. I suspect it will be programs like Action Canada and its cousin, the Centre for Dialogue that will have a special role to play in them. And so, in this sense it’s for what is to come, even more than the excellence of what has been this year, that it was such a special privilege to be part of Action Canada in its inauguration.”*

*“Action Canada has helped us to see the interconnectedness of our issues and visions of the future, and the value of inclusive dialogue and partnerships. The program has helped us to understand the players, the discourse, and the mechanisms for making change.”*

## **Action Canada**

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