

## Preface

When the Trudeau Foundation first began its work some twelve years ago, its program consisted of the selection and appointment of scholars, fellows, and mentors in the humanities. It soon became apparent that we needed another element—the sharing of the research, scholarship, and ideas with the public at large. So began the Foundation’s Public Interaction Program, of which this volume is but the latest example. Referring to the conferences and lectures organized by the Foundation, we have chosen for publication five papers written by our fellows, to share with a wider audience.

Year after year, the Foundation supports fine thinkers and renowned experts on global issues, enabling Trudeau fellows to undertake independent research in search of answers to pressing challenges. The fellows focus on four topics that preoccupied Pierre Trudeau and which continue to demand our attention—human rights and dignity, responsible citizenship, people and their natural environment, and Canada in the world—offering fresh perspectives and pioneering approaches to some of the most contentious issues confronting humanity.

While their areas of specialty are diverse, these scholars in the humanities and social sciences share a capacity to not only conceive

new ideas but also to share these ideas widely to help resolve major contemporary challenges. One of the Foundation's goals is to foster long-term relationships with the larger community in order to translate great ideas into even greater societal results. Fellows are encouraged to give back to society by transferring the key ideas from their research through public lectures, thus contributing to the greater public good.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau reminded us that "Each of us must do all in our power to extend to all persons an equal measure of human dignity—to ensure through our efforts that hope and faith in the future are not reserved for a minority of the world's population, but are available to all." As this fourth edition of *The Trudeau Foundation Papers* underscores, five fellows have embraced Trudeau's call and carried on in his footsteps, offering their visions for a more equitable society and invaluable guidance on how these visions might be achieved.

Since launching the Fellowship Program in 2002, the Foundation has named 46 Trudeau fellows and has held 20 Trudeau Lectures from coast to coast. Collectively, the fellows have breathed life into the Foundation's mission to "foster a fruitful dialogue between scholars and policymakers in the arts community, business, government, the professions, and the voluntary sector." They have brought to fruition the Foundation's vision to invest in two key areas of strategic importance to Canada's growth and well-being: bright and caring people committed to providing inspired leadership, and the world of creativity and ideas shaping positive change.

It is an honour and privilege for me to be a part of this critical process, and I hope that these papers will inspire further scholarship and dialogue.

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