

Preface

It has been my honour and privilege to be a part of The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation since its inception. At its best, good public policy can transform opportunities for individuals and broader communities, but only if it is built upon a sound foundation of critical research and analysis. I am convinced that there are few worthier goals than to make a substantive contribution to the dialogue between outstanding scholars in the humanities and social sciences and public policy makers across Canada and beyond.

The central themes of the Foundation's work—Human Rights and Dignity, Responsible Citizenship, Canada in the World and People in Their Natural Environment—encompass the critical challenges facing modern societies and help us to formulate answers to the questions *What is right? What is for the public good? What is just?*

Each year, the Foundation selects five Fellows who have demonstrated both their ability to make original contributions to these questions and the courage to engage in public debate. Our hope is that, with our support, they will be able to devote themselves more freely to original, fair, and critical thinking. Since 2003, 34 Fellows have received awards, and the evidence is clear: these exceptional researchers, thinkers, writers and professors are creating a wealth of knowledge and insight.

In 2008, the Foundation decided to initiate the Trudeau Lectures so that the ideas generated by the Trudeau Fellows might become more accessible to Canadian scholars and policy makers. Each year, distinguished lecturers offer a series of five original and thought-provoking presentations across the country linked to the themes of the Foundation. As we work in collaboration with host universities, and through the publication of the lectures, we hope to accelerate the dissemination of the Trudeau Fellows' research, observations and proposals for sound and progressive public policies.

I am delighted that through this publication series, the thoughtful reflections contained in these lectures will have the opportunity to find the wider audience they so clearly deserve.

ROY L. HEENAN, O.C., Q.C.,
Chairman, October 2009