



Civitas

A society where ideas meet

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 1-3, 2009

**The Fairmont Royal York Hotel
100 Front Street West
Toronto, ON M5J 1E3**

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 1 May 2009

4:00 – 6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Boardroom
4:00 PM	Conference Registration	Lobby
6:30 – 8:30 PM	Reception/Stand Up Dinner	Library

8:30 – 10:00 PM	Keynote Speaker—Charles Murray <i>"In Defence of Liberty: Help Is on the Way"</i>	Tudor 7 & 8
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**Sponsored by the W. Garfield
Weston Foundation**



Charles Murray, widely read classical liberal author and political thinker, Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

The times look bleak for the ideals of individual liberty, but Charles Murray is optimistic. Twenty-first century technology will hand unprecedented power to individuals that States will be unable to curb, and the findings of 21st-century biology will produce a crisis in the moral foundation of the Left. Murray will describe the dynamics of both of these developments and the opportunity they open for a reformulation of the case for liberty.

Saturday, 2 May 2009

7:00 AM	Conference Registration	Lobby
7:30—8:30 AM	Breakfast	Imperial Room Foyer
7:30—8:30 AM	Books For Breakfast <i>Three Civitas members give an overview of their new books published in the past year</i>	Imperial Room
8:30 AM	Opening Remarks	Imperial Room

SESSION 1 8:45 – 10:15 AM	<i>Crisis of capitalism or new excuse for socialism?</i> <i>Responses to the economic downturn</i>	Imperial Room
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Chair: **Brian Ferguson**, Civitas Director, University of Guelph Economics

Panelists: **Bill Robson**, former Civitas president, President, C.D. Howe Institute, "Fiscal Stimulus: The Pop Jingle Anybody Can Sing."

Evie Adomait, Professor, University of Guelph Economics, "Are we living in a Keynesian world?"

Kevin Gaudet, Canadian Taxpayers Federation (Ontario), "The Misery of Corporate Welfare"

Opponents of stimulus plans dominated by government spending are told that they are clinging to discredited theories, a claim reminiscent of Maynard Keynes' 1936 comment about practical men who are the slaves of some defunct economist. Yet in 1942, Keynes himself expressed doubts about public works as a timely cure for business cycle downturns, and said that he was converted to James Meade's proposal for countering downturns by reducing the payroll tax. This panel asks three questions. First, are we actually in a Keynesian recession, and is there a need for some kind of fiscal stimulus? Second, can tax cuts be an effective part of a stimulus package? And third, have we been steamrolled into accepting an approach whose long term economic costs will far outweigh its benefits?

10:15 —10:45 AM Coffee Break

SESSION 2 ***Mugged by Reality?***
 10:45 —12:15 PM ***The role of ideology and pragmatism in government*** Imperial Room

Chair: TBA

Panelists: **Terence Corcoran**, Editor-in-Chief, *Financial Post*
Ken Boessenkool, Civitas Vice-President, National Public
 Affairs, CGI Canada

Are principled conservatives unrealistic in their expectations of government? Are practising politicians too ready to compromise their principles to maintain themselves in power? We will ask two of Canada's premier political commentators to offer their view of the tension between ideology and pragmatism in modern politics.

12:15 —1:45 PM **Lunch —Marc Lebuis** Tudor 7 & 8
***Extremist Islam's March through Canadian Life and Institutions:
 What Is to Be Done?***

Sponsored by the C2C Journal
www.c2cjournal.ca



Marc Lebuis, Founder and Editor, *Point de BASCULE*, Montreal

Proliferating Muslim Brotherhood organizations, Gulf money, record-breaking immigration, and a debilitating confusion of identity and values, have led to a disturbing expansion of radical-Islam's presence and influence in Canadian society, government and politics. Relying on sensitive sources, Montreal-based *Point de BASCULE* website Editor Marc Lebuis will document this largely-undisclosed reality. A well-travelled veteran of interfaith initiatives, Lebuis will highlight evidence of extremist penetration of government and nongovernmental institutions, at home and abroad, and underscore the corresponding threat of Islamism to our fundamental rights and values, including the Charter rights to life, security and free expression. The relative silence of mainstream media in these matters – and the explanation for this silence – will be seen as symptomatic of the multi-front challenge that is upon us. Against the unprecedented backdrop, the message will be clear: Canadians can no longer rely on previous assumptions about the governance and well-being of their country, or about related prospects for their loved ones. Lebuis will offer solutions that recognize the difficult circumstances in which Canadians now find themselves.

SESSION 3 ***Can the universities be saved?***
 1:45 —3:15 PM Imperial Room

Chair: **John von Heyking**, University of Lethbridge Political Science

Panelists: **Chris Manfredi**, Dean of Arts, McGill University, "A Dean's Eye View:
 How Universities Work and Don't Work"

Clive Seligman, President, Society for Academic Freedom and
 Scholarship, "The Ugly Conservative"

Conrad Winn, CEO, COMPAS Research "What Do Professors Think
 About Politics?"

Are modern Canadian universities hives of political correctness and irredeemably left-wing? Do they stifle classical liberal, libertarian and conservative viewpoints? Or is this type of criticism of the university world vastly overstated, driven by a few unrepresentative individuals and incidents that have achieved unwarranted notoriety? Three commentators assess the past, the present and the future of the university in Canada and for conservatives.

6:30 – 11:00 PM **Reception and Dinner—Monte Solberg**
What I learned during my Ottawa vacation

Imperial Room



Monte Solberg, former MP and minister

In his speech Monte provides insight into his transition from his comfortable perch as an opposition MP to the tumultuous and bizarre life of a Cabinet Minister in the Harper government. He compares it to passing through a worm hole into a parallel universe where the people around you defer to you, call you Minister, and laugh at your jokes, and where bureaucrats appear to seriously consider your ideas before strangling them in their cradle. He also explores the pulls and tugs between wildly different worldviews played out through Ministers, bureaucrats, PMO and caucus that ultimately result in government decisions

Sunday, 3 May 2009

7:00—8:30 AM | Breakfast | Imperial Room Foyer

7:15—8:15 AM | Civitas Annual General Meeting | Algonquin Room

SESSION 4 *Canada at war: Afghanistan, failed states and global Jihad*
 8:30 – 9:45 AM | Imperial Room

Chair: Roy Rempel, Department of International Trade
Panelists: Vincent Curtis, Military Historian
 Scott Taylor, Journalist
 Pamela Wallin, Senate of Canada

Canada's military mission in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in 2011, though armed conflict is likely to continue for many years to come. Should Canada have entered this conflict, has it pursued the right objectives in doing so, and what would "success" look like? What implications will our success or failure in Afghanistan have for Canadian foreign and defence policy in the coming decades? Can the international community transform Afghanistan from a failed state and base for international terrorism into a stable democracy and what role should Canada play in that process after 2011?

9:45 —10:15 AM | Coffee Break

SESSION 5 Reclaiming Canada's conservative tradition
 10:15 – 11:45 AM | Imperial Room

Chair: John Robson, Ottawa Citizen columnist and Invited Professor, University of Ottawa
Panelists: Janet Ajzenstat, McMaster University, "George Brown's Conservative Liberalism"
 John Bonnett, Brock University, "Beating Bullets into Ballots: The Conservative Thought of Harold Adams Innis"
 Raymond de Souza, Diocese of Kingston "Church & State, Religion and Public Life: Lessons from Richard John Neuhaus"

Members of Civitas generally believe Canada ought to be more conservative or classically liberal on grounds of prudence, morality or both. Bringing about such a change is obviously a huge challenge under present circumstances, and even harder if it means rejecting our dominant national traditions, because restoring a culture, however formidable a task, is much easier than creating one de novo. But many members of Civitas feel that our actual heritage contains far more of what we find congenial than is generally now believed. This panel will explore some dimensions of that lost intellectual tradition

11:45 AM | Closing Session and Adjournment

Our Purpose

To Promote and deepen understanding through the exchange of a wide range of political, economic, social, religious, cultural and philosophical ideas concerning the principles and traditions of a free and ordered society

Civitas

www.civitascanada.ca

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