



## CIVITAS CANADA 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Terminal City Club  
837 W Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC*

*April 26–27, 2024*

*Headline Sponsor*



CIVITAS CANADA 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Headline



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Dr. Roy Eappen



Dr. Shawn Whatley

# CIVITAS CANADA 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Registration & coffee	
1:00pm- 1:15pm	President's welcome	Dr. Shawn Whatley
1:15pm- 2:45pm	<p>Finding Medicare's Uber: Creative disruption in healthcare</p> <p>a. How can we spark change?</p> <p>b. Healthcare incrementalism – How's that working for us?</p> <p>c. Are lawsuits a dead end? Cambie case debrief</p> <p>d. Do we need data or activism; think tanks or lobbyists?</p> <p>e. Disruptive ideas (mobile diagnostic lab and imaging units, direct primary care, interprovincial medical-travel agencies, First Nations' surgical clinics, fundraise to parachute medical teams into underserved areas and charge small user fees)</p> <p>f. Film excerpt: "Waiting to Die: Canada's Health Care Crisis," directed by Aaron Gunn</p>	<p>Dr. Brian Day Dr. David Jacobs Daniel Dufort</p> <p>Chair: Leah Rowntree</p> <p>Introduction by Katy Merrifield</p>
2:45pm- 3:15pm	Coffee break	

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## FRIDAY, APRIL 26 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
3:15pm- 4:45pm	Resource development, provincial sovereignty, and federalism  a. Is the Alberta Sovereignty Act constitutional? b. Can Canadian federalism survive? Can Canada survive without resource development? c. Is Canada a confederation or a homogenous whole? d. Indigenous resource development—a neglected priority?	Michael Binnion Dr. Barry Cooper Chris Sankey  Chair: Dr. Ken Coates
4:45pm- 6:00pm	Break	
6:00pm- 7:00pm	Reception and Tribute to Dr. William Gairdner	
7:00pm- 8:00pm	Debate: Liberals, libertarians, and conservatives – freedom, virtue, and the morality of markets?  a. Are markets good for society? b. Have some on the right lost faith in free enterprise?	Bruce Pardy Caylan Ford  Moderator: Matt Bufton  Introduction by Rachel Curran

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 27 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
7:00am-8:00am	AGM	
8:00am-9:00am	<p>Books for Breakfast</p> <p>“Grave Error: How the media misled us (and the truth about residential schools)”</p> <p>“Confessions of a Conservative: Our Ship of State Towards Civilization”</p> <p>“The Enduring Crown Commonwealth: The Past, Present, and Future of the UK-Canada-ANZ Alliance and Why It Matters”</p> <p>“Oliver Cromwell”</p> <p>“Pandemic Panic: How Canadian Government Responses to Covid-19 Changed Civil Liberties Forever”</p> <p>“GEMS,” “More GEMS” and “Still More GEMS”</p>	<p>Dr. Tom Flanagan</p> <p>Dr. Arney Lange</p> <p>Stephen Klimczuk-Massion</p> <p>Dr. Ian Gentles</p> <p>Joanna Baron</p> <p>Andy Crooks</p>
9:00am-10:15am	<p>Civitas Civic Salon – Spotlight on Vancouver Session #1: Urban Order without Design</p> <p>It has been half a century since a revolution in municipal governance produced more rigid zoning, with local residents gaining veto power over development decisions. This has resulted in a dramatic rise in house prices, especially in most economically productive areas. This in turn limits GDP growth and delays family formation, depressing the birth rate and making immigration more necessary, while contributing to urban sprawl and other problems. Our speakers have insights about these and related urban planning issues challenges.</p>	<p>Étienne-Alexandre Beauregard Kirk LaPointe David Leis Geoff Russ Sonia Orlu Reihan Salam</p> <p>Chair: Sam Sullivan</p>

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 27 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
10:15am-10:45am	Coffee break	
10:45am-12:00pm	<p>Civitas Civic Salon – Spotlight on Vancouver Session #2: Addiction Harm Reduction, Recovery, and Hope</p> <p>Just a few blocks away from the Civitas Conference is Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, which is Canada's most intense area of addiction, mental illness, and street homelessness. Government response to this has repercussions throughout the country. Our speakers are deeply engaged in deliberations and community responses to this seemingly intractable problem.</p>	<p>Adam Zivo Dr. Julian Somers David Brett Sylvia LeRoy Jess Ketchum Rebecca Bligh</p> <p>Chair: Sam Sullivan</p>
12:00pm-1:00pm	<p>Lunch keynote: “Shifting Sands: Populism and the Changing Conservative Coalition”</p>	<p>Justin Bumstead</p> <p>Chair: Brianna Morris</p>
1:00pm-2:30pm	<p>Should conservatism be cool?</p> <p>a. No, conservatism celebrates old things and will always be uncool by definition.</p> <p>b. Yes, conservatism must seek cultural relevance if it hopes to have any impact. This means finding ways to repackage conservative thinking in new, culturally relevant (aka cool) ways. We should abandon old thinking if it has no relevance to Canada today.</p>	<p>Dr. Janice Fiamengo Lindsay Shepherd Adam Zivo</p> <p>Chair: Ginny Roth</p>
2:30pm-3:00pm	Coffee break	

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 27 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
3:00pm-4:30pm	<p>Does “freedom and order” need a new name? Conservative vs. classical liberal vs. libertarian</p> <p>a. “Are Canadian conservatives nothing but classical liberals?” Should we abandon the Conservative label and adopt Classical Liberalism instead?</p> <p>b. Does Canada’s founding debates offer direction on identity? “Canada’s Origins – Liberal, Tory, Republican?” (ref. Ajzenstat)</p> <p>c. Does philosophical conservatism make sense given anti-intellectual tendencies?</p> <p>d. Should Canada adopt Freedom Conservatism, Common-Good Conservatism, National Conservatism, Prairie Populism, Quebec Cultural Conservatism, or something else entirely?</p>	<p>Sean Speer Dr. John von Heyking Dr. David Livingstone</p> <p>Chair: Rudyard Griffiths</p>
4:30pm-5:30pm	Break	
5:30pm-6:30pm	Reception	<p>Classical pianist: Ariana Abedini</p>

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 27 2024

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<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>
6:30pm-8:00pm	<p>Dinner and keynote: Demography, pluralism, and political thought: Canada's future is culturally plural. How can conservatives prepare?</p> <p>"By 2041, Statistics Canada anticipates that over half of the Canadian population will consist of first- and second-generation Canadians, and 1 in 4 Canadians will have been born in Asia or Africa. 40 percent of Canadians will belong to visible minority groups, and of course the proportion will be even higher in younger cohorts."</p>	<p>Reihan Salam</p> <p>Introduction by Sean Speer</p>
8:00pm-9:00pm	Robson Family Music Hour	A Civitas tradition. Join Bill & Helen Robson for a sing-along with all your favourite tunes.



# CIVITAS CANADA 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

In order of appearance

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**Dr. Shawn Whatley:** Physician, author, and President, Civitas Canada  
**Dr. Brian Day:** Past President, Canadian Medical Association  
**Dr. David Jacobs:** President, Ontario Association of Radiologists  
**Daniel Dufort:** President and CEO, Montreal Economic Institute  
**Leah Rowntree:** Host, Next Question Now  
**Katy Merrifield:** Vice President, British Columbia at Wellington Advocacy  
**Michael Binnion:** President, Questerre Energy  
**Dr. Barry Cooper:** Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary  
**Chris Sankey:** Senior Fellow (Indigenous Affairs), Macdonald-Laurier Institute  
**Dr. Ken Coates:** Distinguished Fellow and Director of Indigenous Affairs, Macdonald-Laurier Institute  
**Bruce Pardy:** Professor of Law, Queen's University  
**Caylan Ford:** Founder, Alberta Classical Academy  
**Matt Bufton:** Co-founder and Executive Director, Institute for Liberal Studies  
**Rachel Curran:** Head of Public Policy, Meta Canada  
**Dr. Tom Flanagan:** Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary  
**Dr. Arney Lange:** Physician and retired officer, Canadian Armed Forces  
**Stephen Klimczuk-Massion:** Advisory board member, CANZUK International  
**Dr. Ian Gentles:** Distinguished Professor of History and Global Studies, Tyndale University  
**Joanna Baron:** Executive Director, Canadian Constitution Foundation  
**Andy Crooks:** Author, political organizer, and retired lawyer  
**Sam Sullivan:** CEO, Global Civic Think Tank and former Mayor of Vancouver  
**Étienne-Alexandre Beauregard:** Author and speechwriter  
**Kirk LaPointe:** Adjunct Professor, UBC School of Journalism, Writing, and Media  
**David Leis:** VP Development and Engagement, Frontier Centre for Public Policy  
**Geoff Russ:** Writer, The Hub  
**Sonia Orlu:** PhD Candidate, Simon Fraser University  
**Reihan Salam:** President, Manhattan Institute  
**Dr. Julian Somers:** Clinical psychologist and Distinguished Professor, Simon Fraser University  
**David Brett:** Editor, The New Westminister Times  
**Adam Zivo:** Columnist, National Post  
**Sylvia LeRoy:** Hecht Foundation Program Manager and BC Schizophrenia Society Foundation board member  
**Jess Ketchum:** President, Ketchum Communications  
**Rebecca Bligh:** Vancouver City Councillor  
**Justin Bumstead:** Political strategist and Principal, FTFN Analytics  
**Brianna Morris:** Public policy researcher & government relations specialist  
**Lindsay Shepherd:** Author and journalist, True North  
**Dr. Janice Fiamengo:** Retired professor, University of Ottawa  
**Ginny Roth:** Partner, Crestview Strategies  
**Sean Speer:** Senior Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy  
**Dr. John von Heyking:** Professor of Political Science, University of Lethbridge  
**Dr. David Livingstone:** Professor of Liberal Studies, Vancouver Island University  
**Rudyard Griffiths:** Senior Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy  
**Ariana Abedini:** Pianist, composer, and psychologist

# CIVITAS CANADA 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## ABOUT CIVITAS CANADA

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### 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.

### Chatham House Rule

Please note that Civitas adheres to Chatham House Rule. The identities of the participants are private and all discussions are not to be recorded, reported, attributed, or disseminated in any fashion. All members and guests are asked to respect this rule.

### Board of Directors

<b>Dr. Shawn Whatley (President)</b>	Physician and author, “When Politics Comes Before Patients”
<b>Brianna Morris (Vice President)</b>	Public policy researcher & government relations specialist
<b>Andre Mihelic (Treasurer)</b>	Executive Vice President, First Gulf
<b>Candice Malcolm (Past President)</b>	Author and Founder/Editor-in-Chief of True North
<b>John Weston</b>	Principal, Pan Pacific Solutions
<b>Rachel Curran</b>	Head of Public Policy, Meta Canada
<b>Dr. David Livingstone</b>	Professor, Vancouver Island University
<b>Dr. Roy Eappen</b>	Endocrinologist
<b>Bruce Pardy</b>	Professor of Law, Queen’s University
<b>Gregory Thomas</b>	Editor, Conservative Journal of Canada
<b>Dr. Matt Strauss</b>	Doctor and Conservative Party candidate
<b>Tom Magyarody</b>	CEO, TSM Executive Coaching and Consulting

Interim Director of Operations: Lindsay Shepherd

Administrator: Ethan Buss

### Past Presidents

Bill Gairdner (Founder), Tom Flanagan, William Robson, Lorne Gunter, Brian Lee Crowley, Ken Boessenkool, Michel Kelly-Gagnon, John von Heyking, Mark Milke, Marco Navarro-Génie, Miles Smit, Candice Malcolm

### Founding Board of Directors

Janet Ajzenstat, Ted Byfield, Michael Coren, Jacques Dufresne, Tom Flanagan, David Frum, Bill Gairdner, Jason Kenney, Gwen Landolt, Ezra Levant, Tom Long, Mark Magner, William Robson, David E. Somerville, Michael Walker