



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Michel De Salaberry

**The Case of the Disappearing Centre in Egyptian
(and Other) Politics**

DATE: Tuesday October 29, 2013

TIME: 12:00 noon *

***Please note that lunch will start at noon sharp**

PLACE: Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311- 313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa

COST: \$30 for luncheon and presentation

\$5 for presentation only

(For presentation only, please plan to arrive by 12:45 p.m. Coffee and tea will be available.)

RESERVATIONS: group78@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday October 25, 2013.

We regret that late registrations cannot be accepted.

The group is required to pay for those who reserve but do not come.

Therefore, individuals who do not cancel their reservations at least 24 hours before the luncheon will be billed \$30.

The Arab Spring has faded, replaced by signs of political winter and violence in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. Why did so much promise disappear? Was it ever a serious prospect? How has it unraveled and what are the forces at play? These are some of the questions that Michel de Salaberry, drawing on his extensive professional and personal experience in the region, will address in his presentation. He will explore the rise of the extremes at the expense of moderation, cooperation and compromise in Egypt since the fall of Mubarak. He will also reflect on similar trends in other countries in the region, including Syria, and note the parallels with the hardening of political divisions elsewhere, as in the USA, the Netherlands, France, and India. What are preliminary cautionary implications for Canadian and other Western foreign policy?

Michel De Salaberry was involved in Middle East affairs at DFAIT for close to 30 years, including postings in Algeria, Israel and Palestine, Jordan, Iran, Egypt, and Afghanistan. He was Ambassador to Egypt from 2001 to 2004 and Jordan in 1995-96. In Ottawa he served as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Constitutional Affairs, and Director, Middle East Relations Division at Foreign Affairs Canada. Since retirement in 2005, he has been spending part of each year in a community centre on the outskirts of Cairo and at a workshop for the intellectually handicapped in Bethlehem. He is a member of the board of the NoRouz Foundation for Iranian-Canadian cultural exchanges and a contributor to the annual Interfaith Conferences in Lucknow, India.