

## **Group of 78 Special Speaker Series October 30, 2012**

### **Right Honourable Joe Clark, PC CC**

Joe Clark was elected eight times to the House of Commons of Canada, and is a former Canadian Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Minister of Constitutional Affairs, as well as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and National Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

He is President of Joe Clark and Associates Ltd, a professor in the Institute for the Study of International Development at McGill University, vice-chairman of the Global Leadership Foundation, and a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, and the Friends of the Inter-American Charter. Mr. Clark serves on the boards of Triton Logging Inc, Globe Scan Inc, Pearson College of the Pacific, and on the advisory boards of Save The Children Canada, SOS Children's Villages Canada, and is active in other Canadian and international organizations.

He was the first Canadian Prime Minister to visit Africa while in office, and later became the founding chairman of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, which co-ordinated the Commonwealth campaign against apartheid. He co-founded the underwater forestry company CSRD in Ghana, and has led international Election Observation teams in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Lebanon.

In recent years, Mr. Clark has been active on governance issues in the developing world, with the Commonwealth, the Carter Center, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) including active discussions sponsored by NDI and the European Union on means to improve governance assistance to developing nations. As Minister of Constitutional Affairs in Canada, he led the negotiation of the Charlottetown Accord, which achieved unanimous agreement on major constitutional changes among Canada's federal government, ten provinces, two territories and representatives of Aboriginal peoples.

Mr. Clark is a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence and l'Ordre de la Pleiades, and the first recipient of the Vimy Award. Born in High River, Alberta, he has been awarded honorary degrees by several Canadian and international universities and colleges. He was a founding member of the Pacific Council for International Policy, has served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Cyprus, and is the author of "Canada: A Nation Too Good to Lose".

Joe Clark speaks French and English, and is married to the Canadian author and lawyer Maureen McTeer, who specializes in law and public policy respecting health, science, and reproductive technologies. Their home is in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.