



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Robert Fowler

“*Sleeping with Al Qaeda*”

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

TIME: 12:00 noon

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. Coffee and tea will be available.)

RESERVATIONS: group78@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday, January 27, 2012.

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.

For decades, Robert R. Fowler was a dominant force in Canadian foreign affairs.

In one heart-stopping minute, everything changed. On December 14, 2008, Fowler, acting as the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy to Niger, was kidnapped by Al Qaeda. Along with his colleague Louis Guay, Fowler lived, slept and ate with his captors for nearly five months, gaining first-hand insight into the motivations of the world’s most feared terror group. Fowler’s capture, release and subsequent appearances have shed new light on foreign policy and security issues as we enter the second decade of the “War on Terror.” His recent book, *A Season in Hell*, is Fowler’s compelling story of his captivity, told in his own words, but it’s also a startlingly frank discussion about the state of a world redefined by clashing civilizations.

During his 38 year Public Service career, Bob Fowler was the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Ministers Trudeau, Turner and Mulroney, Deputy Minister of National Defence, Canada’s longest serving Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador to Italy and the 3 Rome-Based UN Food Agencies, Sherpa for the Kananaskis G8 Summit (chairing the creation of the Africa Action Plan, which laid a new foundation for the G8’s relationship with Africa) and was the Personal Representative for Africa of Prime Ministers Chrétien, Martin and Harper. In 2005 he chaired Prime Minister Martin’s Special Advisory Team on Sudan. Mr. Fowler retired in the fall of 2006, and is a Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.