



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Earl Turcotte & Paul Hannon

Cluster Bomb Law: What Is Wrong and How To Correct It

DATE: Tuesday, June 19, 2012

TIME: 12:00 noon*

***Please note that lunch will start at noon sharp, so plan to arrive at 11:45**

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 12:30 p.m.. Coffee and tea will be available.)

RESERVATIONS: group78@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday June 15, 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.

Cluster munitions are notorious for their indiscriminate effects – 98% of victims are civilians – at the time of use and for decades afterwards because of their high dud rate. Most of the world community has banned them. The Government recently introduced legislation into Parliament, via the Senate, to ratify the *Convention on Cluster Munitions* that Canada and 110 other countries have signed. This legislation should reflect all elements of the Convention including a total ban on the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of cluster munitions, as well as a categorical prohibition on assistance to other parties in all of these areas. However, the lead Canadian negotiator of this Convention and many others in Canada and around the world believe that the proposed legislation fails seriously to meet agreed international standards and could result in the continued use of this weapon. Earl Turcotte, who resigned from the Foreign Service in protest over this issue just over a year ago, will offer his analysis of the weaknesses of the legislation in relation to the Convention. Paul Hannon leads Mine Action Canada (MAC), the principal civil society organization to work on the adoption of the Convention. He and MAC believe Canada's draft legislation is the worst in the world and are advocating changes to the proposed law to raise it to a standard consistent with the text and spirit of the Convention. This issue is immediate and vital to Canada's status with respect to international humanitarian law. Earl Turcotte and Paul Hannon will describe how the proposed legislation can further tarnish or, if properly amended, help to restore Canada's reputation in the world.

After 22 years with CIDA and a year with the United Nations Development Programme, **Earl Turcotte** joined the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2005 as Director of the Mine Action Unit and Senior Coordinator for Mine Action, where he led actions to implement the land mine treaty and negotiate other conventions, including the ban on cluster bombs. Prior to joining government in 1982, Mr. Turcotte worked in Canada, travelled in Europe and North Africa, worked with UNICEF in India, and served as a Parliamentary Assistant to a Canadian M.P. In 2004-05 he served as Senior Development Adviser with the Mine Action Team of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), based in New York. He holds a B.A. from Windsor and M.A.s from both Ottawa University and Carleton.

Paul Hannon has, since 1998, been the Executive Director of Mines Action Canada (MAC), the Canadian member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which was the co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. MAC is a coalition of over 35 Canadian development, faith, health, peace, relief social justice, and disabled peoples support organizations, and is the Canadian member of the international Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), which globally builds support to ban cluster munitions. Previously Mr. Hannon worked with a wide variety of Canadian civil society organizations as well as with the federal government and IDRC. In 2002 he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.