



## Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

# Earl Turcotte

## International Disarmament: Is Canada's Reputation About to Suffer?

**DATE: Tuesday June 21, 2011**

**TIME: 12:00 noon**

**PLACE: Vittoria Trattoria, 35 William Street**

**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](mailto:group78@web.net) or 613-230-0860 by Friday June 17, 2011.**

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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Canada has recently suffered some tarnish on its long-held and well-deserved reputation as a leader in global disarmament. One such mark was the resignation on principle from DFAIT in February 2011 of Earl Turcotte, after six years as Canada's leader of negotiations on the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)* and the *Convention on Cluster Munitions* as well as Canada's efforts to implement the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines. His resignation was to protest joint recommendations from Foreign Affairs and National Defence on legislation that will enable Canada to ratify the *Convention on Cluster Munitions* - recommendations he believes could render Canada complicit in the continued use of this indiscriminate weapon by non-party states.

In his presentation, Mr. Turcotte will recount his experiences and describe the key provisions of the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, focusing on the most controversial element *viz.* cooperation with non-party states during combined military operations, and will provide his views on the agreement struck during negotiations in 2008 and the penal sanctions that States Parties must put in place to meet their treaty obligations. He will also describe the state of play in parallel negotiations on cluster munitions in the CCW. He will briefly outline a proposal he recently tabled at Harvard University to challenge consensus decision making in disarmament fora and will comment more generally on Canadian foreign policy.

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 and 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.