



Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Chris Westdal

Ukraine Can't Move

DATE: Tuesday October 28, 2014

TIME: 12:00 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@group78.org or 613-230-0860 by Friday October 24, 2014

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.

Chris Westdal states: “The zones of security interest and influence around major powers like Russia are real. We Canadians know that; we live in one. In the real world, Ukrainians are about as free to adopt security policy hostile to Moscow as we are to do the same to Washington. Canadian relations with Ukraine will long be animated by the active interest and concerns of our million-strong Ukrainian diaspora. As our leaders put it, we are Kyiv’s ‘most certain friend ... proud to be loudest.’ Our soaring Lone Hawk rhetoric, though, dare not be taken too seriously. We are friends always willing to do what we might - through close diplomatic and official links, a sustained aid program of technical cooperation, and large teams of election observers. The record of decades of our effort, though, makes plain that it is beyond us to comprehend sufficiently, to help guide or to contribute much to the rescue, the reform and the future progress of Ukraine. Critically, we can’t and won’t be there, between Kyiv and the Kremlin, when it counts.”

Mr. Westdal will elaborate these views, providing context and analysis of the circumstances and prospects of Ukraine in relation to its neighbours, to NATO and to Canada.

A former Ambassador to Ukraine, Christopher Westdal is a consultant, corporate director and occasional commentator on international affairs. A former Canadian diplomat, he spent 21 years in the field, sixteen heading Canadian Embassies, High Commissions and international delegations. This bilateral experience was complemented by nine years in UN and other multinational affairs. Mr. Westdal was Ambassador to Russia (2003-06); to the UN Office and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (1999-2003); to Ukraine (1995-98); to South Africa (1991-93); and to Bangladesh and Burma (1982-85). Prior assignments abroad included India and Nepal (1973-75), responsible for CIDA programming; and Tanzania (1970-73), as a member of a University of Toronto economic advisory team. In Ottawa, he was Director General of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Bureau (1987-91); Assistant Secretary at the Privy Council Office to the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Policy and Defence (1976-78, 1985-87); and CIDA Regional Director for East Africa (1978-82).