



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

John McNee

Pluralism: a Pressing Global Challenge

DATE: Tuesday February 25, 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@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday February 21, 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.

Living peacefully with diversity is a pressing global challenge that affects countries at every stage of economic and political development. Since the end of the Cold War, conflicts stemming from ethnic, religious, and linguistic differences have proliferated, while global migration has intensified tensions. Against this backdrop, Canada stands as a relative beacon. Although highly heterogeneous, Canada has elected to harness the growing diversity of its citizens as a public good. How can the lessons of Canadian pluralism – and more generally the core values of respect, recognition, inclusion and compromise that underpin it – be shared most effectively with the world? Answering this question is the animating mission of the Global Centre for Pluralism, a new international organization founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada. What are the first steps? How can Canada and Canadians help?

John McNee joined the Global Centre for Pluralism as its first Secretary General in September 2011. A career diplomat, he has served as Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, and as Ambassador to Syria with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Lebanon, where he re-established the Canadian mission following the civil war. At Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, he served in the Policy Development Secretariat, in the Canada-United States Transboundary Division, as Director of the Personnel Division, as Director General of the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf States Bureau, and as Assistant Deputy Minister for Africa and the Middle East.