THE “SECOND” COVENANT? REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Professor John Packer

Tuesday, 31 May 2016
12 noon (please arrive by 11:45)

Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311-313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa

$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: Please register by email or phone no later than Friday, 27 May.
Group78@group78.org (613) 565-9449

The Group is required to pay for those who reserve but do not come and will ask no-shows to cover the cost.

On the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (to which Canada is a State party), and almost 25 years after the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights declared that “All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated”, economic, social and cultural rights remain a sort of weak sister to “fundamental” civil and political rights. In a number of countries including Canada, they are more charitable benefits than legal entitlements. As such, their effective enjoyment remains distant if not illusory. These problems will be critically reviewed together with lessons learned in order to expose the full potential and promise of economic, social and cultural rights in general and within an evolving Canada as we seek to redress past and ongoing injustices and to create a brighter future as we approach Canada’s 150th anniversary.

John Packer was appointed Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa in 2014. He has previously taught at the Fletcher School (Tufts University) and the University of Essex, and held Fellowships at Cambridge and Harvard Universities. Before 2014, John was the Constitutions Expert for the UN’s Standby Team of Mediation Experts focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, and the protection of human rights including minorities. From 1995 to 2004, he was Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague working across Central and Eastern Europe and throughout the former Soviet Union. From 1987 to 1995, he worked for the ILO, UNHCR and then the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights mainly investigating serious violations of human rights in Iraq, Afghanistan and Burma/Myanmar. He serves on the boards of a number of NGOs and is a Member of the Expert Advisory Panel for the Shared Societies Project of the Club de Madrid.