

Prof. John Polanyi



John Polanyi is a winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry whose research led to the creation of powerful chemical lasers. His discoveries have benefited medicine and industries around the world. At the time the G78 was created, he was a professor at the University of Toronto.

Additionally, Polanyi has been a vocal proponent of nuclear disarmament since the 1960s and later became the inaugural chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group. He has also served as a scientific advisor to several countries and has co-founded the Committee on Scholarly Freedom of the Royal Society and the Canadian Committee for Scientists and Scholars. He continues to contribute to science and society.

Rt. Rev. Lois Wilson



From 1980 to 1982, Lois Wilson served as the first female Moderator of the United Church of Canada. She had previously served as president of the Canadian Council of Churches. After her mandate as Moderator, she served as Co-Director of the Ecumenical Forum of Canada and as President of the World Council of Churches. In all of these roles, she tackled world problems such as energy, poverty, gender inequality and human rights.

In the 1990s, she pondered the issue of the disposal of nuclear waste, and in 1998, she was appointed to the Senate serving until her retirement in 2002. She remains an outspoken and articulate voice for human rights and religious understanding.