A Forum on Canada's Futures
IMAGINING
>>2080

Future of Canada
Project

McMaster
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Imagining 2080 Forum Symposium Summary

From November 1-3, 2023, McMaster and the Future of Canada Project hosted Imagining 2080: A Forum on Canada's Futures where 150 possibility-minded delegates gathered to collectively explore potential futures for Canada in 2080.

The Future of Canada Project Symposium, held at the Forum on November 2, was an opportunity to explore the impact of the Future of Canada Project's 14 supported research initiatives, as well as two Future Fellows' projects.

These diverse initiatives span healthcare, reconciliation, democratic resilience, senior well-being, systemic racism, and other topics that must be addressed when looking to Canada's future.

Moderated by Donald Abelson, Academic Director of Wilson College for Leadership and Civic Engagement, Forum delegates had the opportunity to engage with McMaster University's interdisciplinary experts as they discussed Canada's evolution and the imperative challenges that lie ahead.

Below are the summaries of each presentation delivered at the Symposium.

Robert Cockcroft
Title: Reconciliation through Community- and Curriculum-Building in Astronomy
Team: Robert Cockcroft, Rick Monture, Rhéanne Chartrand, Sarah Symons, Katie Moisse
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/reconciliation-through-community-and-curriculum-building-in-astronomy/

Colonization has greatly reduced the extent to which Indigenous astronomy knowledge is presently known and shared. Much sky lore has become stolen or fragmented, and the connections between stories, night sky observations, and their relevance is not as obvious as it once was.

 A detrimental spiral has ensued with many Western-trained scientists being skeptical even of the existence of Indigenous astronomy and Indigenous communities being reluctant to share sky lore out of fear of being misunderstood, disrespected, and dismissed.

We are furthering reconciliation through astronomy by building on existing collaborative efforts to disseminate Indigenous astronomical stories.

We are achieving this through three key activities: (1) creating and offering an Indigenous astronomy undergraduate
course, (2) expanding the Indigenous astronomy outreach program using McMaster's planetariums, and (3) hosting a two-day Indigenous astronomy workshop. Key knowledge mobilization goals for these activities include hosting local, national, and international Indigenous astronomy experts and local Indigenous community members for the purposes of sharing Indigenous sky lore, forming new collaborations within and between nations, and facilitating and furthering efforts to increase Indigenous astronomy knowledge documentation and dissemination through university courses and outreach programs.

Title: Bringing the Children Home: Making the Uses and Misuses of DNA for Identification Clear to Those Who Need It Most
Principal Investigator: Hendrik Poinar (Anthropology/Biochemistry) (presented at the Forum by Stephanie Marciniak)
Co-Investigators: Stephanie Marciniak (Anthropology), Joslyn Jamieson (Forensic Science, Trent University), Jessica Hider (Anthropology)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/empowering-indigenous-communities-to-make-their-own-decisions-about-the-use-of-genetic-tools-at-residential-school-burial-sites/

We are a group of anthropology (and genetic) researchers, who formed a team in 2022, to create a centralized multimedia resource about the uses, limitations and challenges of using DNA to reconnect the missing children with their relatives as a complement to Indigenous- and Survivor-led residential school investigations. Through the Future of Canada Project initiative that we are working on, we hope to support communities in the nuanced decision-making process while also countering the long erosion of trust between colonizers and Indigenous Peoples.

Our video series is a unique resource of compiled information, which do not currently exist in a centralized location online, nor is the process of using DNA to link the children with their families, relatives and communities described in a transparent, culturally sensitive and accessible way. Each video addresses a specific topic, explaining key concepts and relevance to the decision-making process in planning or undertaking residential school investigations. The topics discussed include: the limits, ethics, and problems of interpreting genetic data; obtaining DNA from living and non-living individuals; using environmental DNA to confirm the presence or absence of human remains at a site; an overview of what DNA is and where it is found; family DNA testing methods that may be used to link relatives with the missing children; and the basics of storage,

privacy and ownership of genetic data. The video resource will be a living document that is adaptable to the changing needs, wishes and concerns of Survivors and family members.

We are in the process of facilitating dialogues and feedback-sharing with project leaders, interested community members and Indigenous organizations about how informative, accessible and culturally appropriate the videos are in acting as a resource to empower decision-making and in critically evaluating the information received by outside organizations or experts.

Through the video series, we aim to take action-oriented steps towards reconciliation and provide a centralized resource to support Survivors, families and communities undertaking the work of reconnecting to lost loved ones.

Title: Echoes from this Land: Visioning – Revisiting Truth and Reconciliation
Principal investigator: Briana Palmer (SOTA, Humanities)
Project Engagement Committee: Carmel Whittle (No Borders Art Festival, Thunderbird Sisters Collective), Patsea Griffin (No Borders Art Festival, Thunderbird Sisters Collective), Alejandro Arauz (Fine Art Program, Queen's University), Darlene Kalynka (Faculty of Arts; Visual Arts, Thompson Rivers University), Robert Truszkowski (Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance, University of Regina), Tara Cooper (Fine Arts Department, University of Waterloo)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/using-art-to-illuminate-the-94-calls-to-action-from-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada-report/

Echoes from this land: Visioning – Revisiting Truth and Reconciliation, is a community building project which aims to visually facilitate the creation of the 94 Recommendations Calls to Action as identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), through the traditional forms of print media such as woodcut, etching, lithography, 3D printing, etc. to create a multiple. The visual representations of the 94 Calls To Action are open to all artist/creators Indigenous and non - Indigenous of any age, demographic who have the desire and vision to support the TRC.,

The goal of this project aims to represent all voices at the table and is approached with a practice-based lens where participants are activity engaged with each other and are committed to learning and listening with respect and understanding so we may move forward and grow as a community. There is a commitment to creating a space that is inclusive and accepting, to understanding our individual roles on Turtle Island, to taking up the responsibility and work that needs to be done.

Title: The Challenge of Reconciliation: What We Can Learn From the Stories of Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium and Mohawk Institute Residential School
Principal Investigator: Vanessa Watts (Sociology/ Indigenous Studies/ Social Sciences)

Co-Investigators: Amber Dean (English and Cultural Studies/Humanities), Jackie Price (Scott Polar Research Institute/Department of Geography, University of Cambridge), Kara Granzow (Sociology/Faculty or Arts and Science, University of Lethbridge).
Profile Q&A:
https://brighterworld.mcmaster.ca/articles/new-project-undertakes-a-community-based-approach-to-reconciliation/

The language of reconciliation as a national endeavor is premised on a relationship between Indigenous peoples and the state. The former Mountain Sanatorium located in Hamilton housed Inuit patients during the 1950s-70s for treatment of tuberculosis (TB). Contemporaneously, children from Six Nations of the Grand River (and other communities) were apprehended and taken to the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario. A mere thirty-minute drive from each other, both communities were institutionalized under the pretense of addressing sickness and child welfare - the primary relationship of which was with state power, a power that aimed to exercise control over Indigenous peoples.

Both have resulted in intergenerational impacts that have been demonstrated to negatively affect community well-being and thus are productive of Indigenous-specific social problems. This project explores how we might think of intergenerational impacts and reconciliation differently in relation to the histories of these two institutions and the communities they affected. Our research team is: a) examining archival records and creative works connected to the Mountain Sanatorium and the Mohawk Institute; b) engaging in initial and exploratory conversations with stakeholder groups and affected communities; c) exploring what well-being looks like in these dual contexts as expressed through both short term and longer-term outcomes.

As such, our work continues to trouble the language of survivorship so fundamental to the challenge of reconciliation and seek to reimagine what power, hope, and well-being look like between and across affected communities. Objectives: i) Lay Summary of Existing Archival Records, Scholarship, Writing, and Art Documenting Life in the Mohawk Institute and the Mountain Sanatorium: In Progress. Ethics approval for archival records received in October 2023 from Hamilton Health Sciences; ii) Scholarly and Public-Facing Outcomes: In Progress. National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation-SSHRC funding proposal submitted in May 2023. Peer-reviewed article and scholarly presentations are being prepared by the research team for Summer 2024; iii) Initial Exploratory Conversations with Stakeholders in Affected Communities: Ongoing. Meetings with the Woodland Cultural Centre, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Nunavut Arctic College and six other Inuit-based organizations in Iqaluit have been completed and will continue.

Title: Bringing Hope and Well-Being to Community-Dwelling Older Ontarians in the Pandemic World Through Creative Writing and Digital Literacy Learning
Principal Investigator: Victor Kuperman (Humanities)
Co-Investigators: Brian Detlor (Business), James Gillett (Social Sciences), Ranil Sonnadara (Health Sciences/Science), Brenda Vrkljan (Health Sciences)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/using-digital-storytelling-to-help-seniors-combat-isolation/

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the forefront many social and technological problems that Canadian seniors experience. Public health measures meant to protect older adults from the virus instead increased certain physical and mental health issues, often due to loneliness and social isolation.

A promising approach that can relieve social isolation and provide technology training to seniors is an intergenerational online writing program coupled with one-on-one training in digital literacy. Within our program, seniors participate in online meetings led by student volunteers where they learn to use a digital story-telling, web-based app. Results of the project indicated a range of benefits to the seniors, including creating a community of like-minded people, engaging in participative creative writing, and acquiring digital skills that help break through isolation (including the use of video-conferencing).

The project also explored benefits for student volunteers, including altered perceptions of aging and ageism. Our proposed FCP project uses the findings of this academic and community-informed research to document, assess and improve the program, which focuses on supporting older adults (60+) and addresses cultural, social and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion challenges specific to the themes of the pandemic and rapid technological advancement. The present team of researchers from four McMaster faculties ensures the multidisciplinary nature of the approach that provides a creative and informal ecosystem for acquiring digital literacy alongside social engagement.

The proposed intra-generational participative digital writing program is administered in public libraries and community organizations in Ontario and Quebec. The project explores expansion of the program to communities related to social housing, assisted living and others. We examine both the program effectiveness and its potential to improve the emotional and cognitive well-being of older adults. We develop and disseminate best-practice guidelines for digital writing programs among stakeholders and provide leadership opportunities for trainees. Through cultivating university-community partnerships and a range of social impacts, this program lays the foundation for future research in Canada and worldwide.

Title: COVID-19 in Racialized Communities in the Greater Toronto Area: Experiences and Conceptualizations of Loss

Principal Investigators: Ingrid Waldron (Centre for Peace Studies; Department of History and Global Peace and Social Justice Program, Faculty of Humanities) and Chandrima Chakraborty (Centre for Peace Studies; Department of English and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities)

Co-Investigators: Anthea Innes (Department of Health), Sonia Anand (Department of Medicine; Canada Research Chair in Ethnic Diversity and Cardiovascular Disease), Kassia Johnson (Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Health Sciences)

Profile Q&A:

https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/understanding-loss-and-grief-in-racialized-communities-as-a-result-of-covid-19/

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and amplified social inequities, especially as intersected by race, class, age, health comorbidities and gender). South Asians and Black Canadians have been found to be vulnerable to COVID-19 and its effects due to factors such as unemployment, poverty and number of infections

The main objective of this interdisciplinary project is to engage marginalized populations in discussions on loss, coping and help-seeking resulting from the pandemic in order to inform the development of public health policy responses to the pandemic, as well as policies related to transformative changes envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will contribute to McMaster's ongoing commitment to advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The other objectives are to: 1) illuminate how conceptualizations and experiences of loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in South Asian and Black communities in the GTA are shaped by race, ethnicity, gender, health, age and religion/faith/spirituality; 2) learn and educate about the ways in which South Asian and Black communities cope with the myriad losses resulting from the pandemic; 3) examine the barriers South Asian and Black people experience accessing and utilizing health and mental health services to cope with loss; and 4) use diverse knowledge mobilization approaches to offer these racialized communities opportunities for sharing community stories and knowledge that can empower their own communities and other racialized communities to advocate for improved community-level resources and services that are rooted in an understanding of differential COVID impacts and strategies/practices that promote health equity.

Title: COVID-19 Disinformation Monitor

Principal Investigator: Clifton van der Linden (Political Science)

Co-Investigators: Victor Kuperman (Linguistics), Roma Sehmi (Medicine), Deena Abul-Fottouh (Sociology)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/examining-the-impact-of-digital-disinformation-during-covid-19/

The paradox of our time is that we have more information available to us than at any point in human history and yet we find ourselves in a so-called post-truth era. The implications for democracy are perilous in that the path to autocracy invariably begins with the untethering of political power from accountability.

Many scholars link the rapid transformation of the information and communication technology (ICT) landscape to waning public trust in democratic institutions. The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a microcosm of this dynamic, with online disinformation being leveraged in increasingly pervasive and sophisticated ways to undermine collective action, discredit scientists, and sow mistrust in public institutions.

This project brings together novel data and methods to model the diffusion of COVID-19 disinformation in Canadian social media discourse and measure its effects on public opinion. The findings of this research will advance our understanding as to how disinformation operates on digital platforms and its consequences in terms of public trust in democratic institutions. They will also inform innovative approaches to the detection and mitigation of online disinformation—all with a view to building capacity for resilience among Canada's democratic institutions.

Title: Defying Systemic Racism and Hate: Building Community Solidarity for Knowledge Sharing, Mutual Aid and Action for the Future
Principal Investigator: Ameil J. Joseph (School of Social Work)
Co-Investigators: Amber Dean (English and Cultural Studies), Rodrigo Narro Pérez (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators: Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI), Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC), Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/supporting-community-led-initiatives-to-dismantle-structural-and-systemic-racism/

Hamilton, Ontario has one of the highest rates of police reported hate crimes per capita of any city in Canada . Incidents of hate and racism have been reported across sectors, from education, employment, in healthcare, housing, retail, social services, and online, to incidents by neighbours and in the wider public, indicating the significance of racism as systemic and structural). These reported incidents have targeted groups with forms of both individual and institutional racism

spanning Anti-Black, Anti-Asian, Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic/Anti-Muslim, Anti-Latinx, and Anti-Indigenous racisms and hatred, affecting members of the targeted groups in intersecting, interlocking ways (Ibid). The pandemic context has also revealed the widespread inequities and racial disproportionalities within health systems and services . Systemic racism erodes trust in public institutions and negatively impacts community well-being.

This project aims to better understand and support community-led initiatives that work to counter racism by mobilizing solidarities, sharing nuanced analyses that arise from grassroots organizing via lived experience, and attending to the confluence of factors that complicate the intersectional realities of individual, systemic (institutional) and structural forms of racism. The purpose of this research is to support community-led solidarity building focused on knowledge sharing and knowledge translation for mutual benefit, well-being, and action that both learns with and for community members and leaders to effect social and policy change via anti-colonial/decolonizing approaches to knowledge generation and sharing. This project is focused on highlighting the contemporary truths and realities of racism and developing trust across communities impacted by it, with special attention to action-oriented and community-informed responses to hate and racism in the City of Hamilton.

Title: Diversity, Social Media Framing and the Personalized Candidacy in Canadian Elections: An Experimental Analysis
Principal Investigator: Karen Bird (Political Science)
Co-Investigators: Joanna Everitt (Political Science, University of New Brunswick), Mireille Lalancette (Lettres et communication sociale, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières), Angelia Wagner (Political Science, University of Alberta)
Profile Q&A:
https://future-of-canada.mcmaster.ca/diverse-political-candidates-and-voter-engagement-5-questions-that-are-guiding-karen-birds-future-of-canada-project/

Social change, a diversifying population, and recognition of systemic oppression of Canada's marginalized groups have focused attention on low numbers of women, racialized, Indigenous, and LGBTQ individuals in legislative bodies. Recognizing these democratic deficits in political representation, advocacy organizations have pressured parties to address imbalances and increase their efforts to attract and run diverse slates of candidates.

What happens when "non-traditional" candidates (women, racialized, Indigenous, or LGBTQ people) run for elected office in Canada? Some candidates leverage their identities to emphasize strengths linked to their diverse backgrounds, and attract voters with shared affinities, but they may also face bias and backlash from some voters. Social media platforms of candidates are an important space for analysis, both because of the ways that candidates use social media to

develop connections to voters, and because of the risks of toxicity and harassment on these sites. Furthermore, candidates' online engagements indicate a trend towards the personalization of politics and the growing importance of individuals over parties. All of which points to the need for closer examination of local candidates, their identities and their influence on citizen engagement. Understanding the impact of diverse candidates running in the riding is critical in a multicultural and parliamentary system like Canada, where voters mark a ballot choice among local candidates. And even though parties and party leaders remain salient to citizens' vote choices, there is much to learn about the impact that local candidate identities may have on broader forms of political engagement and political trust. It is also important to understand to what extent women, racialized, Indigenous, LGBTQ and other non-traditional political candidates are subject to online trolling and harassment that specifically targets their identity and difference, and what steps can be taken to mitigate this.

Increases in the number of women, racialized, Indigenous, and LGBTQ candidates makes this research timely and feasible enabling us to explore candidate identity, the way it is employed by candidates and framed via social media, and its impact on voters' democratic engagement, opinion formation and trust. The project also provides training for a new generation of graduate students interested in political communications, identity politics and bias, political engagement and trust. Furthermore, it may support work by advocacy groups and parties to increase the diversity in our legislative bodies, and help educate journalists and other opinion leaders about the impact of highlighting identities in their candidate coverage.

Title: Strengthening Health Policy in Canada Through Leadership in Public Engagement
Principal Investigator: Julia Abelson, PhD
Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact (HEI), Faculty of Health Sciences
Profile Q&A:
https://brighterworld.mcmaster.ca/articles/re-imagining-public-engagement-in-health-policy/

Canada is facing a wide array of health policy challenges coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these is how to ensure that health polices respond to the needs and priorities of an increasingly diverse set of 'publics', including those who have historically been excluded from these decisions. While Canada has had a rich history of public engagement in the health sector, current political, economic and social conditions call for critical reflection on this history to assess whether existing approaches are 'up to the task'.

The Public Engagement in Health Policy project is a platform for interdisciplinary scholarship, education and leadership about public engagement in the health sector. Using our framework of looking back, taking stock and moving forward, we are addressing key challenges such as how policymakers and practitioners can respond to calls for more inclusive and transformative public engagement processes, how public engagement can be used to improve policy responsiveness, enhance democratic legitimacy, and build trust between governments and citizens.

Our team has produced a number of accessible, policy- and community-friendly outputs, including: i) research - reports, blogs, a podcast series, and a special issue in the Canadian journal Healthcare Policy;); ii) practical tools - a step-by-step guide and tailored resources to support equity-centred engagement; and iii) an interdisciplinary graduate course offering. We have held 2 knowledge exchange events to share and solicit feedback on work in progress and we have funded 16 research and community fellowships to build engagement capacity in the community health sector and to develop the leadership skills of Canada's current and future engagement scholars and practitioners.

Title: Canada's Democracy: Informed Citizens, Brighter World
Principal Investigator: Ian McKay, PhD (**not presented at the Forum)
Professor, History and Director, Wilson Institute for Canadian History, Humanities
Profile Q&A:
https://brighterworld.mcmaster.ca/articles/if-we-go-through-another-pandemic-we-will-have-lessons-from-this-one/

The Future of Canada project generously funded Syndemic Magazine, which the Wilson Institute for Canadian History adopted as its special project through the pandemic. The Institute held regular sessions with leading authorities. Our on-line presentations often attracted considerable audiences — in some cases approaching all-time highs for emissions from the Faculty of Humanities. We were very proud to keep a sense of collegiality and community going during the difficult period in which the university was shut down and our students and faculty often experiencing isolation from each other. The conversations were lively and many of the presentations were excellent.

By popular demand, they have now been preserved in book form, Crisis and Contagion, just out from Between the Lines Press in Toronto, and sure to find a big international audience, given the very well-known names included in the volume and highlighted on our dramatic cover. We are also very pleased to include McMaster voices in our book—not only that of the editor, but of Chandrima Chakraborty and Mack Penner, both of whom bring new insights into COVID-19 as a challenge to our civilisation.

"Preventing the next pandemic"—at first sight, McMaster's leading slogan might seem a logical puzzle, since if the next pandemic has been prevented, it has not come into existence! But, on second thought, the slogan subtly suggests that, implicit in our everyday interactions with the natural world, and in our unquestioned attitudes towards ourselves and our civilisation, we have incorporated serious, perhaps species-threatening, risks – "accidents waiting to happen," in plainer language. These risks exist, not as present-day realities, but as probabilities – as potential, but not inevitable, futures, that action in the present can make far less probable. The Wilson Institute for Canadian History is very proud to have highlighted these risks, and recruited world-class intellectuals to McMaster in its bid to become a major nucleus of anti-pandemic knowledge and activism.

Title: Canadian Capitals Hub: Public and Social Investment for a Flourishing Canada
Principal Investigator: Jeremiah Hurley, PhD
Professor, Economics and Dean, Social Sciences

Canada needs a more balanced approach to capital investment to meet the many challenges it faces now and will continue to face in the future e.g., climate change, social and economic inequalities, novel health threats, and the disruption of long-standing social, political and economic institutions.

This project examined how Canada can better invest in five essential capitals to ensure a sustainable, prosperous, flourishing future for Canada and its citizens:
- Produced capital: financial capital and tangible, physical capital in the form of machines, equipment, buildings, highways, and other forms of physical infrastructure.
- Human capital: the knowledge, skills, competencies, and attributes individuals hold that facilitate the creation of personal, social, and economic well-being.
- Social capital: networks of social relationships and interactions together with shared norms, values, and understandings that facilitate cooperation within and among groups.
- Natural capital: nature and natural ecosystems, the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Digital capital: digital technologies; software, algorithms, and related intellectual property; digital competencies; digital governance, norms, networks, and conventions for interacting online.

Canada, like many other nations, tends to focus primarily on produced capital, "money and things." Typical measurement of a nation's prosperity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) only measures the value of the nation's "things" not who benefits from those things such that economic

growth, environmental degradation, and inequality can cohabitate. Many aspects of these other capitals are intangible and/or at the very least very hard to measure to measure. All of these capitals can be systematically tracked, compared, and documented—a process that would make capital investments in all capitals more transparent and potentially more equitable. Furthermore, the five capitals interact in ways that can amplify their impact effectively stretching scarce investment dollars. A more balanced capital portfolio can play a critical role in ensuring the right balance of benefits and harms for Canadians.

Title: The Potential of Hyperlocal Online Spaces to Rebuild Trust, Establish Truth, and Weather Crises through Collective Problem-Solving
Fellow: Nick Vlahos

The aim of this fellowship is to carry out research in Toronto with a focus on how resident-led and community-serving groups are mobilizing and engaging the public using diverse digital and in-person tools. Specifically, the research examines how hyperlocal online spaces are being deployed and designed to conduct the on-the-ground outreach efforts of local civic organizations, the types of issues these organizations are focused on, as well as pre- and post-pandemic operations.

The research covers different types of organizations that are located across Toronto, such as neighbourhood associations, community land trusts, front line civic engagement service provider networks, and federations of resident groups. The study therefore aims to speak to different types of issues and demographic groups within specific neighbourhoods as well as the entire city of Toronto.

The semi-structured interviews with community leaders and staff members focus on the details of how they are solving problems, the challenges, and opportunities they have encountered, as well as the ways they are trying to empower the public. Ultimately, this fellowship will produce a report on the state of bottom-up forms of public participation in Toronto, and by learning and building upon lived experiences of these groups, lessons and interventions will be outlined to strengthen the overall movement of grassroots democracy in Toronto.

Title: The Future of Canada's Social Safety Net
Fellow: Thomas Granofsky

Since Confederation, this vast country has been held together with precious little cultural and institutional glue. Programs such as our universal health care system have been a rare source of national pride and identity. But Canada's social safety net is in crisis. As inequality rises, our

population ages and trust in public institutions erodes, major gaps have emerged in health care, housing, mental health, income security, and other areas. This project aims to kindle a conversation on how to best design and implement social programs to ensure our collective well-being and unite us as we take on the emerging challenges of the 21st century.