

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, launched at Dalhousie University to bring progressive, open, and informed approach to governance

May 9, 2016 (Halifax, NS) – The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Canada’s 20th Prime Minister, was in Halifax today to open the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance at Dalhousie University. The launch featured a talk between the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien and the Honourable Bob Rae, discussing the legacy of the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen and the future of public policy. Following their conversation, MacEachen Institute Director Dr. Kevin Quigley chaired a discussion with panelists:

Mr. Andy Fillmore – Member of Parliament for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Professor Kimberley Brooks – past Dean of the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University and past H. Heward Stikeman Chair in the Law of Taxation at McGill University.

Dr. Pamela Palmater – Associate Professor and Chair in Indigenous Governance in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, and head of the Centre for Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University.

Mr. David Morgan – Trudeau Foundation Scholar and Political Science PhD candidate at Dalhousie University.

The MacEachen Institute will engage students, scholars, governments, policymakers, and community members in significant public policy research and discussion on a national scale.

“We are delighted to welcome our honoured guests to Dalhousie today to celebrate the legacy of the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, a Canadian icon who gave so much to our country,” said Dalhousie University President Richard Florizone. “In establishing the MacEachen Institute at Dalhousie, we will build on Mr. MacEachen’s legacy by supporting the development of progressive public policy and encouraging greater citizen engagement.”

Born in the rural community of Inverness on Cape Breton Island in 1921, Allan J. MacEachen evolved from his humble beginnings to become one of Canada’s greatest parliamentarians and politicians. The son of a coal miner, and a child during the Great Depression, his life and career have been informed by a powerful commitment to self-betterment through hard work and giving back to his community.

The MacEachen Institute will attract international, national, and local thought leaders from the public, private, and not-for-profit sector to contribute to discussions and debates on enhancing citizen engagement, encouraging voter participation, and promoting good government policy to build a strong and progressive country. The Institute will be part of a broad national and international network of forward-looking institutions and associations also concerned about matters of progressive public policy and will excite, engage, and support young people – helping to ready the next generation of policymakers.

“The Institute will be truly interdisciplinary in nature, as it will harness the intellectual strengths of experts in Dalhousie’s Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Management and the Schulich School of Law, as well as the office of the Vice-President, Research, and the broader community beyond Dalhousie and across Canada,” said the Institute’s Director and Professor of Public Administration, Dr. Kevin Quigley. “Our initial areas of research will focus on health systems and governance; smart infrastructure; civic engagement; and Atlantic and Canadian policy concerns.”

The Institute will build connections between researchers with an interest in public policy development and policymakers in search of good research. It will also host public servants and policymakers as a means of enhancing the conversation between researchers and policymakers, and it will support discussions of how sound public policy is effectively implemented. The Institute will be housed in a new collaborative space in the historic Macdonald Building on the Dalhousie Campus and will host a variety of events in support of the Institute's mission.

For more on the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, visit: dal.ca/mipp.

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