

## **SUMMARY OF BANTING FELLOWSHIP PROJECT**

When we hear someone say something that we think is wrong, we often feel an impulse to correct them, criticize them, or demand their evidence for their beliefs. Sometimes, we even feel justified in thinking badly of these people—we feel that they deserve blame for their wrong beliefs. On the one hand, holding one another intellectually accountable like this is important for driving each of us towards the truth. But on the other hand, some people abuse practices of intellectual accountability in order to feel smug, or to make others feel bad, or to silence opposition to their own views. I want to understand what's going on in all of these cases. When is it appropriate to hold someone intellectually accountable? What ways of expressing such criticism are effective? And what is the role of our major sources of information, such as news, entertainment, government, and social media? I'm hoping a more robust philosophical understanding of intellectual accountability and its proper place in our lives can help us deal with the rise of extremism and political polarization in civic life.