



David Mitchell

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2012 and the 25th anniversary of Canada's Public Policy Forum.

For a generation now, we've been focused on the goal of building better governments for Canadians. As an independent, non-governmental organization, we take pride in our ability to work across all sectors, providing a neutral space for dialogue on issues related to public service and governance in our country. I wish to express a special thanks to you and all of our members who continue to support us in our roles of convening, connecting and collaborating on these core themes.

I know we share in the belief that government is too important to be left only to our elected representatives and public servants. Indeed, it's a well-established Canadian trait and tradition that **all** citizens have a stake in peace, order and good government. In order to sustain and enhance the quality of life and competitive economy which we all strive for, leaders from all sectors of our country need to work together and engage in the policy process.

Throughout this calendar year, we'll be marking our silver anniversary with a number of special events and projects -- and I'd like to provide you with some advance notice of what we're planning.

Early in this New Year, the Forum will be publishing an important new book: [***Rescuing Policy: The Case for Public Engagement***](#) by Don Lenihan. As our Vice-President, Engagement, Don has developed an unparalleled expertise in public engagement and his new book provides invaluable guidance and insights for all those involved in the public policy process. We're proud to publish this timely study.

We'll also soon be publishing a brief history of the Public Policy Forum's first twenty-five years, written by former vice-president Geoff Poapst. This will be instructive to all those interested in the contours of policy in our country over the past generation and may help anticipate trends for the future as well. I'll be forwarding to you a copy of this corporate history later in the first quarter of 2012.

To celebrate our milestone anniversary, we're also launching the **Public Policy Forum 25th Anniversary Lecture Series**. This will include lectures at six Canadian universities, featuring previous honourees of the Forum. These important lectures will be delivered to members of the next generation of Canadian leaders at business, journalism and policy schools. Further details on these lectures, including times, venues, subjects and lecturers will be forwarded to you in the near future.

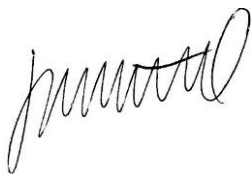
A highlight of 2012 will undoubtedly be our [25th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Awards](#) in Toronto on May 3rd. This year, in order to commemorate our special anniversary, we're doing something truly extraordinary: we're celebrating all living former Prime Ministers of Canada. Each of these leaders has served in the highest office of our country's system of governance -- and we plan to recognize them for public service of the highest order. Please note this date in your calendar -- I'm confident it will be an evening to remember.

Our other signature events this year will include our Western Dinner in Calgary on September 20th and our Gordon Osbaldeston Lecture in Ottawa on November 15th. Further details on these special events will follow at a later date.

In addition, we'll be launching an important new project this year on the **Changing Public Service** in Canada. This multi-faceted research initiative will incorporate a number of the themes we've been exploring over the past few years, including: public service leadership, innovation, public engagement and workplace 2.0. We'll be drilling deeper into the changing nature of the public service at all levels of government in our country and looking for opportunities to highlight best practices in public sector management, innovation in government and new approaches to policy development. We'll also be sharing comparative views on the continuing need for reform. And we'll be calling upon you, our members, for your perspectives and priorities on this critically important subject.

After 25 years, the Forum's objective of building better governments for Canadians has never been more important. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,



David J. Mitchell
President & CEO
Public Policy Forum