

# PRIME MINISTERS' ROW

# L'ALLÉE DES PREMIERS MINISTRES™

Lady Macdonald firing the first shot at the old Dominion Rifle Range in Sandy Hill, 1898 [William James Topley / Library and Archives Canada PA-011371]



## What is Prime Ministers' Row?

If you are a member because an enthusiastic family member or friend signed you up you may be wondering.

In a nutshell, Prime Ministers' Row seeks to transform Laurier Avenue East into Canada's first street museum and outdoor cultural space. Located in one of Canada's most historically significant areas, Prime Ministers' Row would become a place where every

Canadian is encouraged to contemplate, discuss and debate contemporary political issues.

Over the last 150 years, seven Fathers of Confederation and ten Prime Ministers have lived on or within a few blocks of Laurier Avenue East. Luckily, a number of their homes still remain standing, including Macdonald's Stadacona Hall, Diefenbaker's abode at The Strathcona, Laurier's Laurier House,

where Mackenzie King also resided, Tupper's Daly Street residence, and Pearson's Augusta Street home. Further, the area was home to the Father of Medicare Tommy Douglas, CPR magnate Sir Sandford Fleming, Confederation poet Archibald Lampman, Canada's first female Senator Cairine Wilson, WWI flying ace Billy Bishop, not to mention lumber barons, Governor Generals, Chief Justices

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## What is Prime Ministers' Row?

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of the Supreme Court, Cabinet Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, Clerks of the Privy Council, and heads of national institutions.

Our hope is to leverage the extraordinary built heritage assets of this area to tell the story of these Nation-builders – both their successes and their failures – while at the same time encouraging Canadians to think about the present and future.

“This is a tremendous project that is grounded in history yet forward-looking in its vision,” says Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier. “I am proud to champion the Prime Ministers' Row initiative as an important element of Canada's 2017 celebrations.”

### Board of Prime Minister's Row includes illustrious members and advisors

PMR is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors who set the strategic vision and provide oversight. The Board of Directors includes members representing various regions, career stages, areas of professional expertise, and personal backgrounds

“We are thrilled that so many eminent Canadians, from across the country, from so many disciplines and with such a varied range of expertise, are

helping set the course for this innovative, multi-faceted project,” says co founder Suneeta Millington.

Suneeta and co founder Leanne Moussa are pleased to announce the Prime Ministers' Row appointments of Special Advisors and Board of Directors:

**Tom Axworthy, O.C.** is Secretary-General of the InterAction Council of Former Heads of State and Government, distinguished Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Senior Fellow at Massey College, where he is also Chair of Public Policy. He has served as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau; Chair of Queen's University Centre for the Study of Democracy; Harvard University's Fellow of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School and Mackenzie King Chair of Canadian Studies; and CEO of The Gordon Foundation.

**Gaston Bellemare, C.M., O.Q.** is an internationally-recognized poet, editor and publisher emeritus who has played a transformative role in shaping Quebec's literary and cultural landscape. He is the co-founder and former president of publishing house Les Écrits des Forges (the largest publisher of French poetry in Canada), the founder and president of the Trois Rivières International Poetry Festival, and the founder of the Fédération des festivals internationaux de poésie.

**Helen Burstyn** is the Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Social Venture Zone at Ryerson University, co-host of Toronto Files, and Chair of Evergreen Canada. For many years she served as the Province of Ontario's Special Advisor, Social Enterprise and Chair of the Partnership Forum. She is co-founder of the Pecaut Centre for Social Impact (now LEAP), and is a founding member of Equal Voice.

**A. J. Diamond, O.C.** is an internationally-renowned architect recognized for such projects as the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the New Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. His firm, Diamond Schmitt Architects, is currently leading the revitalization of Ottawa's National Arts Centre (NAC).

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*Mauril Bélanger  
Member of Parliament for  
Ottawa-Vanier*

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**Esi Edugyan** is an internationally-celebrated writer based in Victoria, whose best known works include *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne* and *Half-Blood Blues*, for which she won the 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize. A 2014 Canada Reads Finalist, she recently published her first non-fiction work *Dreaming of Elsewhere: Observations of Home*.

**Mary Lou Finlay** is a writer, radio and TV producer with more than 35 years' experience including as host of the flagship CBC Radio program *As It Happens*. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Research on Public Policy.

**Xavier Gélinas, PhD.** is the Curator, Political History at the Canadian Museum of History, where he is currently part of the team developing the Canadian History Hall – a large-scale permanent exhibition set to open in 2017. He specializes in the political and intellectual history of Quebec and Canada in the 20th Century

**Verna McGregor** is a First Nations activist, whose outreach and advocacy focus on the Algonquin language and

cultural teachings, violence against Indigenous women and reconciliation. She has served as National Coordinator of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence; consultant to the National Association of Friendship Centres; Aboriginal outreach officer with the University of Ottawa; economic development officer for the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg; and policy analyst for the Assembly of First Nations.

**Zarqa Nawaz** is a Regina-based writer, producer and activist known for CBC Television's *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, the National Film Board's documentary *Me & the Mosque*, and her recent memoir *Laughing all the way to the Mosque*, which was nominated for a 2015 Stephen Leacock Award.

**L. A. (Sandy) Smallwood**, President of Andrex Holdings, is a recognized leader in the redevelopment of landmark buildings and the recipient of six municipal heritage restoration awards, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award. He currently serves on the City of Ottawa's Built-Heritage Subcommittee.

For more details and breaking news, please visit the website: [www.pmr-apm.ca](http://www.pmr-apm.ca)

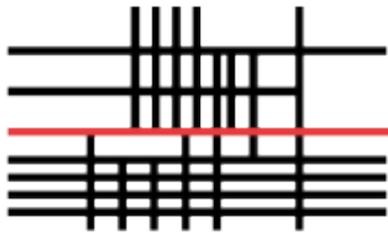
**Mary Walsh, C.M.** is a Newfoundland-based, nationally-recognized actor, author, advocate, writer, comedian, producer and political satirist whose long-running television series *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* has garnered numerous Gemini awards. Amongst other accolades, her contributions to broadcasting and performing arts in Canada have been recognized with a Governor General's Lifetime Achievement Award. Outside of the film, TV and theatre world, she serves as an outspoken advocate for mental health and addiction awareness.

### And special advisors

The Board of Directors and Executive Team rely on Special Advisors, experienced and highly-respected in their fields, to provide expertise, guidance and advice regarding the various elements of the Prime Ministers' Row initiative, from strategic visioning to implementation.

**George F. Dark, F.C.S.L.A., F.A.S.L.A., O.A.L.A.** an internationally-renowned urban designer and landscape architect, Mr. Dark is a Fellow of both the American and Canadian Societies of Landscape Architects. Throughout his career, he has led complex projects through from design to completion, and has directed numerous Master Plans across Canada and the

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### And special advisors

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United States. He is the author of the University of Ottawa's recently-released Master Plan, which guides the evolution and development of an area adjacent to Prime Ministers' Row.

**The Honourable Landon Pearson, O.C.** is a children's advocate, author and former Senator, currently Chair of the

Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights at Carleton University. She co-founded and Chaired the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, and has served as the personal representative of Prime Minister Jean Chretien to the 2002 UN Special Session on Children and as President and Chair of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth.

**Ashley B. Tardif- Bennett** is the Public Relations and Social Media Advisor at the Canada Council for the Arts. She is a tireless advocate for youth engagement in the democratic process, most recently serving as director of communications and programming with the organization Apathy is Boring, where her work focused on engaging marginalized youth through art and technology and establishing connections with diverse cultural communities through arts and culture.



During a Prime Ministers' Row Members Private Viewing of Meredith Snider's Art Exhibit at allsaints, Sandy Hill, on May 11, 2016, participants were invited to give input on public art relating to PMR. The exhibit continues to June 11.

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