PARKLAND INSTITUTE'S 17th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Facts, Fictions, and the Politics of Truth

November 22-24, 2013

North Lecture Theatres, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS), University of Alberta Campus in Edmonton
“A society without the means to detect lies and theft soon squanders its liberty and freedom.”

– Christopher Hedges
Welcome to Parkland’s seventeenth annual fall conference. The institute has long prided itself on addressing topics that are both current and vitally important to the economic, political, and social health of Albertans and Canadians at large.


Academics deal regularly with matters of evidence and how to establish and interpret information. In the information age, the problem of sorting good or useful information from bad has become even more difficult. But what if the information isn’t gathered in the first place?

This was the problem many of us first became aware of when the federal Government cancelled Statistics Canada’s Long Form Census in 2011. Academics, researchers, engaged citizens, city planners, and governments from across the political spectrum objected to the decision to cancel it, but to no avail.

About the same time, a number of scientists working with the federal government began complaining that they were prohibited from communicating with the public and other researchers about their research findings. To the astonishment of many, white-coated scientists began protesting on the streets of Ottawa!

Then, of course, there were the WikiLeaks/Snowden revelations. Suddenly, it seemed many people could not access the data they needed or speak about what they knew, while the state was gathering troves of secret information about us. It became ever more evident that information was being stifled from the top while simultaneously being privatized and turned into a commodity by giant digital media corporations.

But even as concerned experts and engaged citizens alike began to organize around these issues, more basic questions began to present themselves. What is information? Is it just facts? What is “good” information? What does Freedom of Information mean? Is the Internet a friend or foe? What is – or should be – information’s role in Alberta’s and Canada’s economy? More broadly, what is information’s connection to knowledge – or wisdom, or truth? And what is its place in democracy?

These are not easy questions to answer. But in an attempt to begin to do so and to make clear what is at stake, Parkland has brought together a stellar group of community and academic experts from within and outside Alberta. Ultimately, as with all of our conferences, the biggest question of all – and the one with the highest stakes – is, “What kind of society do we want – today and in the future?”

Parkland conferences provide the opportunity to meet new people and catch up on old friendships. As in the past, I hope this conference also informs you and inspires you to act. Please renew your Parkland membership, and make a donation, so Parkland can continue to make a difference. Parkland relies on contributions from you, and people like you, to thrive. Finally, I want to personally invite you to come speak with me to discuss your concerns and insights.

Warm regards to all,

Trevor Harrison
The Director and Co-founder, Parkland Institute
### Friday, November 22, 2013

**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

1-430, CCIS

**KEYNOTE**

**Chris Hedges**

The Myth of Progress and the Collapse of Complex Societies

When we go down, the whole planet will go with us. We must rise up in open revolt against the established systems of power that are herding us over the cliff or accept our death as a species.

**9:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

PCL Lounge, CCIS

Book signing by Chris Hedges, Book Sales by Audrey's Books, and hors d'oeuvres by Classic Fare Catering.

### Saturday, November 23, 2013

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

1-430, CCIS

**PLENARY**

Listening for Different Stories: Indigenous Knowledge and its Transformations

**Julie Cruikshank** – How First Nations’ insights contribute to and challenge debates about academic and policy research in Canada’s North

**10:15 am – 10:45 am**

PCL Lounge, CCIS

**BREAK**

Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth’s General Store and Pastries by Bon Ton Bakery

**10:45 am – 12:00 pm**

A. 1-140, CCIS

**CONCURRENT**

Watching Workers, Sorting Citizens: Surveillance, Government, and the Workplace

**Jason Foster** – “Your Call May Be Recorded”: The Evolving Boundaries of Workplace Privacy in Canada

**Adam Molnar** – The Move Toward Government 2.0 Identity Management Systems: what’s at stake?

B. 1-160, CCIS

Creating Corporate U

**Judy Garber** – ‘Committing Sociology’ and ‘Committed to Students’: A Vocabulary of Anti-Intellectualism

**Rob Sutherland** – No Commercial Potential: Innovation without Profit

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

Basement of the North Lecture Theatres, CCIS

**LUNCH**

Catered lunch by Upper Crust for those who have purchased the meal plan (stamp on nametag indicates meal plan has been purchased)
<table>
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| 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | **PLENARY**  
Public Policy and the Need for Evidence  
**Munir Sheikh** – Using Evidence to Develop Good Public Policies |
| 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm | **BREAK**  
Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea  
from Earth’s General Store and Pastries  
by Bon Ton Bakery |
| 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm | **CONCURRENT**  
Culture Wars, Science Wars  
**Paul Saurette** – Thinking, Feeling, Debating: Data and the Conservative Movement  
**Shane Gunster** – Communication, Political Engagement and Climate Change  
**The Politics of Truth in Alberta**  
**Shannon Stunden Bower** – Alberta’s Recent Track Record on Information Issues  
**Kevin Taft** – Who Defines Truth in Alberta? |
| 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm | **BREAK**  
PCL Lounge, CCIS |
| 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm | **PLENARY**  
The Rise of the Native Rights Based Strategic Framework, Canada's Last Best Effort to Save the Commons  
**Clayton Thomas-Muller** – The Power of the People can Save Canada's Resources |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm | **SOCIAL**  
Dewey’s Lounge in the Old Powerplant, U of A Campus  
**Official Book Launch of**  
**Arno Kopecky**  
*Once in 15,000 Years: How the Northern Gateway Proposal Turned Risk into Safety*  
**Musical guest**  
**Dale Ladouceur** |
SUNDAY

November 24, 2013

8:30 am – 9:00 am  Doors Open  North Lecture Theatres, CCIS

9:00 am – 10:15 am

PLENARY

No Science, No Evidence, No Truth, No Democracy

Katie Gibbs – How drastic change in the scientific community is affecting democracy

10:15 am – 10:30 am

BREAK

Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth’s General Store and Pastries by Bon Ton Bakery

10:30 am – 11:45 am

A. 1-140, CCIS

Crime and Crime Policy


10:30 am – 11:45 am

B. 1-160, CCIS

The Framing of Evidence and Argument

Dave Cournoyer – How does Manipulation of Dialogue Influence Public Perception and Debate?

Roberta Laurie – The Framing of “Ethical Oil” and Discourse Surrounding the Alberta Oil Sands

11:45 am – 12:00 pm

BREAK

Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth’s General Store and Pastries by Bon Ton Bakery

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

KEYNOTE

Inside the Fight for Digital Rights in Canada

Michael Geist

The Digital Rights Movement in Canada, Freedom of Speech and Privacy
1. Coffee and pastries will be provided Saturday and Sunday morning.

2. Please bring your own mug. Disposable cups can be purchased for $2.

3. Lunch for Saturday is included in your registration fee, unless you opted out of the lunch plan on your registration form. Lunch will have vegetarian and gluten free options. If you haven’t purchased lunch, please feel free to brown bag it. There are also some vendors open on the main floor of the Students’ Union Building. All leftovers from our catered lunch will be sold by donation 15 minutes before the end of lunch break.

4. Your full-registration fee includes:
   - Chris Hedges’ keynote presentation
   - All plenary and concurrent sessions
   - Saturday lunch (opt out option available)

5. Please complete the conference feedback form that is in your conference package. You can also fill in an evaluation form online from our conference website (www.parklandinstitute.ca/parkconf2013). Your comments, ideas and suggestions are very important to us in our planning of future Parkland events.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

This conference has happened because of the time and energy that so many people have given freely. Over the conference you will see many people with VOLUNTEER nametags who will be helping with registration, ushering, food and more. Please help us thank them for their time. We couldn’t make this conference happen without them.

We would also like to recognize the time, commitment and creative energy of the conference committee that brought it all together over the last ten months: Trevor Harrison, Randy Haluza-Delay, Meenal Shrivastava, Shannon Stunden Bower, and Stan Houston.

A special thank you to: Rae Weinfeld of Listen Louder Productions (sound and tech), Mark Koeppen of KTnexus (video editing), Jeff Allen of Jeff Allen Production (videography) and Chelsea Pratchett of Livestream Calgary (livestreaming).

Special thanks go to Flavio Rojas, who has once again worked so many hours to design our functional and beautiful conference material, and to Rob Butz, who undertook the website design and management.
Be Powerful.

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Parkland conferences include a significant amount of discussion time in most sessions because we recognize how knowledgeable our participants are. We encourage the sharing of this knowledge; at the same time, we need to acknowledge the frustration of an audience held captive by “the ranter.”

Here are few ideas to maximize our learning time.

In general:

1. We are all here for a common purpose.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
3. Value dialogue: Everyone has something to contribute.
4. An honest and positive environment fosters better discussions, ideas and results.
5. Balance seriousness with humour – life is short!

Specifically:

Do not interrupt the facilitator or presenters while they are speaking. There will be time at the end to ask questions or make comments.

Do share your knowledge, experiences, and ideas - don't be shy. Be constructive.

Keep your comments on topic.

Be brief. Keep relevant personal stories extremely brief.

Be conscious of how much space you take up or how much you speak in a group. Practice “stepping up, stepping back” so we can each contribute to equal participation.

People who haven’t yet spoken get priority.

The speaking list will also be altered to balance gender, age, and race.

Don’t keep repeating yourself.

Please do not campaign at the mic.

Please post your information on the community announcement board found in the PCL lounge.

If you must share your event with the group, tell the facilitator at least 5 minutes before the session starts and he/she will leave a few moments for you at the end of the session.
The naive belief in the myth of human progress, in endless material advancement and technological advancement, is a form of magical thinking. The very forces that allowed us to dominate nature, from the machine to the fossil fuel industry, are the same forces that, if left unchecked, will ensure our extinction. And yet, we cannot wrest ourselves away from our own creations as we ruthlessly exhaust and exploit a dying eco-system. This is how all civilizations vanish. The difference is that when we go down this time the whole planet will go with us. There will be no new lands to conquer, no new peoples to subjugate, no new resources to plunder. We must rise up in open revolt against the established systems of power that are herding us over the cliff or accept our death as a species.

**Chris Hedges** spent nearly two decades as a foreign correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans. He has reported from more than 50 countries and has worked for The Christian Science Monitor, National Public Radio, The Dallas Morning News and The New York Times, for which he was a foreign correspondent for 15 years. He left the Times after being issued a formal reprimand for denouncing the Bush administration’s invasion of Iraq.

The keynote presentation was co-sponsored by:
- Department of Sociology, U of A
- Department of History and Classics, U of A
- Department of Sociology, MacEwan University

**Reception and book signing**
Book signing by Chris Hedges. Book Sales by Audrey’s Books, and hors d’oeuvres by Classic Fare Catering.
## JULY 23, 2013

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<td>8:30 am - 9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 10:15 am</td>
<td>Plenary Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 1-430, CCIS</td>
<td>Listening for Different Stories: Indigenous Knowledge and its Transformations</td>
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<td>Facilitator: Chelsea Taylor</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>PCL Lounge, CCIS</td>
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### Julie Cruikshank

The terms ‘indigenous’ and ‘traditional’ knowledge came into widespread use in northern Canada during the early 1990s and are now broadly integrated into arctic and subarctic research. Concepts, however, travel and accumulate meanings. These particular ones now extend internationally and continue to undergo transformations with real consequences for people whose ideas are under discussion. Julie Cruikshank’s education in local knowledge began in the 1970s when she lived in the Yukon Territory and worked closely with senior First Nation women eager to document knowledge they felt should be passed on to descendants. They consistently chose to relate their accounts as narratives that provided fundamental guidance about how to live or “to be” in the world. This presentation will discuss how their insights contribute to – and often challenge – debates about academic and policy research in Canada’s North.

**Julie Cruikshank** is Professor Emerita (Anthropology) at the University of British Columbia where she also held the McLean Chair in Canadian Studies, 2001-2003. Her work focuses on living traditions in the Subarctic, particularly oral literature and storytelling in the Yukon Territory. For more than a decade, she lived in the Yukon Territory where she worked with indigenous women who were eager to record life stories. She has also done research in Alaska and Siberia.

Jason Foster

“Your Call May Be Recorded”: The Evolving Boundaries of Workplace Privacy in Canada

Growing use of drug testing, GPS tracking, electronic surveillance and even gathering of biological information have increased employers’ ability to monitor, control and secure their worksites to levels never before seen. However, these new tools can also pose significant threat to workers’ rights of privacy. Questions around employee privacy are increasingly making headlines and raising serious legal conundrums. This presentation will provide an overview of the state of workplace privacy in Canada. It will examine the current status of workplace privacy in the law and will, more importantly, discuss the practical consequences of new invasive technologies available to employers. It will analyze workplace privacy in the context of the employment relationship and the inherent conflict between employers and workers over what happens at work.

Jason Foster is Academic Coordinator for Industrial Relations at Athabasca University and is a Ph.D. Candidate at St. Mary’s University. His research interests include migrant workers, union renewal, labour history and diversity as well as equity in unions. He is also a close observer of workplace-related privacy issues. On a more serious note, Jason is also a beer writer, educator and certified beer judge.
The Move Toward Government 2.0 Identity Management Systems: What's at Stake?

In recent years the Province of British Columbia has been transforming its approach to governance by moving toward a comprehensive “Government 2.0” identity management system. This initiative changes the way the province collects, accesses, and shares the sensitive personal information of residents across public departments, as well as between public and private sectors.

The BC Services Card (BCSC) is a major policy component of the larger Government 2.0 transition. Private contractors currently provide authentication services associated the BCSC, and the card is also being considered by the BC Government to facilitate commercial transactions. The BCSC is expected to be replicated in other provincial jurisdictions across Canada, and the potential for it to be leveraged into a pan-Canadian Identity Management System is already in place. This presentation will examine key normative, technical, and policy implications of the BCSC in light of the significant security, privacy, and civil liberties concerns that it raises.

Adam Molnar is a Postdoctoral fellow at the Surveillance Studies Centre at Queen’s University. He specializes in security and privacy issues, particularly in the areas of policing, national security, and public safety governance. More particularly, he researches how collaborative governmental initiatives are arranged, and the privacy and security implications that follow.
Judy Garber

‘Committing Sociology’ and ‘Committed to Students’: A Vocabulary of Anti-Intellectualism

On April 25, Prime Minister Stephen Harper dismissed critics of his government’s anti-terrorism policy as “commit[ting] sociology.” Through a clever, if awkward, rewording, the prime minister transformed a group of people (professors, students, public intellectuals), and what they contribute to public discourse (ideas, knowledge, questions), into acts akin to sinning or law-breaking. On August 23, Alberta’s Thomas Lukaszuk insisted that his government’s decision to put 26 colleges and universities into fiscal crisis demonstrated its “commitment to students.” Repeating a word -- “students” -- the Deputy Premier steered listeners away from his dominant concern with marketing students, professors, and, indeed, the province’s entire system of post-secondary education. The vocabulary of the attacks on public institutions of higher education has elements particular to Canada and Alberta, but it is globalized, it is broad, it is dangerous, it is seductive, and it is fascinating to trace and disentangle.

Judy Garber is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Alberta, where she teaches, writes, and does public speaking about cities, law, and U.S. politics. In her research, Judy is interested in the political qualities of public space, how it is defined, and how it is shaped by gender and sex.

Rob Sutherland

No Commercial Potential: Innovation without Profit

The value of university research is often misunderstood, frequently distorted, and sometimes minimized. University research is remarkably diverse in subject area, approach and impact. The way research quality is assessed should be equally diverse. The short-term and long-term benefits of university research to education, to society, to the economy and to health are clear. Research investment strategies by government must reflect the needs to enhance research capacity in a sustainable way, in the most appropriate places and in such a way as to protect and promote academic integrity. Educational institutions are already providing one of the best returns on investment of any public expenditure. Setting priorities is one thing, micromanaging research activities is something quite different. Corporatization of university research carries unrecognized costs related to the main mission of advanced education. This presentation will point to some examples of applied/commercializing research funding and encourage healthy skepticism about some currently recommended practices.

Rob Sutherland holds a doctorate degree from Dalhousie University and over the years has served as a faculty member for four universities (across three countries). Sutherland is President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations. His research investigates the neurobiology of memory and amnesia.
SATURDAY  November 23, 2013

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Lunch
Basement of North Lecture Theatres, CCIS

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Room 1-430, CCIS
Plenary Session
Public Policy and the Need for Evidence
Facilitator: Bill Moore-Kilgannon

Munir Sheikh

Using Evidence in Developing Good Public Policies

Through a focus on the benefits of using evidence in developing good public policies, Sheikh will explain the controversy surrounding the cancellation of the long form census and describe two policy areas where evidence can make a large contribution in designing good policies: reforming Ontario’s social assistance program (programs in other provinces are similar to Ontario’s); and the introduction of a carbon tax.

This talk will emphasize that evidence-based public policy can achieve seemingly contradictory objectives. For example, if we reform social assistance, we should be able to improve benefits for those on welfare and reduce public expenditure at the same time; if we get the carbon tax right we can improve both the economy and achieve our environmental objectives.

Munir Sheikh holds a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Western Ontario. He has taught at Carleton, Ottawa and Queens University. In 2008 Munir Sheikh was appointed by the Prime Minister as the Chief Statistician of Canada and resigned in 2010. Before this appointment, Dr. Sheikh held numerous prestigious positions within organizations such as the Ministry of Labour, Health and Finance.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Break
PCL Lounge, CCIS

calling all writers!

The Post is currently recruiting writers for upcoming issues. No previous experience is required, but enthusiasm is a must!

For more information, contact Caitlin Crawshaw at parkpost@ualberta.ca
There is little question that various conservative governments in North America have launched what can only be described as systematic attacks against the production and public dissemination of scientific research and evidence-based policy. This has led many to argue that conservatives are ‘anti-science’ and suggest that their communications strategy is one that replaces data-driven, rational discussions with crude emotional appeals and brazen propaganda. But the reality of conservative communication is much more nuanced.

Using concrete examples, this talk will demonstrate the strategies used by conservatives in communication, and their effective appeals to both thinking and feeling. As such, progressives need to become exceptionally skilled in the art of quickly identifying the dominant conservative strategies in a given policy field, and developing and employing the most effective specific counter-strategies. This includes developing creative structural elements that would make it more difficult for patently false information and claims to circulate without challenge.

Paul Saurette teaches politics in the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa. His current research focuses on (among other things) political communications, the conservative movement, and the anti-abortion movement. He has also been a researcher and strategic consultant for a wide range of non-academic institutions including international government agencies, think tanks, research institutes, charitable foundations, and private sector companies.
Shane Gunster

Communication, Political Engagement and Climate Change

Over the past two decades, conservative disinformation campaigns about climate science and policy have sought to deceive, divide and disengage the public using a variety of rhetorical strategies and techniques. For their part, corporate and commercial media have often served as hospitable vehicles for these campaigns. Recent efforts by the federal government to restrict public access to government scientists have intensified perceptions of a conservative ‘war on science’.

Many responses to these strategies of denial and disinformation endorse taking climate change out of the sphere of politics and, instead, positioning it largely as a scientific and technical issue.

This presentation will argue that progressive groups should intensify public engagement with climate change as a political issue. Accordingly, the focus of climate change communication must shift from climate science to climate politics, educating and inspiring people to make the transition from awareness to concern to engagement and, ultimately, to political action.

Shane Gunster teaches in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. His current research and teaching interests include environmental communication (with a focus upon the politics of climate and energy), journalism and news media, conservative political discourse and advertising and consumer culture. He works closely with a variety of non-academic groups, including serving as a researcher and adviser to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
Shannon Stunden Bower
Alberta’s Recent Track Record on Information Issues

Shannon Stunden Bower will examine the recent track record of the provincial government, which has been striving to position itself as open and accountable. She will contrast the appearance the government is working to create with the realities of its policies and practices.

_Shannon Stunden Bower_ is the research director at the Parkland Institute. Stunden Bower has a background in social and environment justice issues, and is the author of numerous reports and articles dealing with historical, geographical, and public policy issues. She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of British Columbia and lives in Edmonton.

Kevin Taft
Who Defines Truth in Alberta?

Kevin Taft will examine the degrading of democratic institutions in Alberta as the province increasingly conforms to the pattern of a petro-state. He will draw examples from the two dominant political parties, universities, the courts, and elsewhere.

_Kevin Taft_ holds a Doctorate in Business and has spent most of his career working on public policy in Alberta in both the non-profit and private sectors. Taft spent many years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and was the Leader of the Alberta Opposition for four years. He has written extensively on public policy in Alberta, including four books. The most recent, was titled Follow the Money, and focused on Alberta’s fiscal situation.
Clayton Thomas-Muller
The Power of the People Can Save Canada’s Resources

Thomas-Muller and many others believe that a Native rights-based tactical and strategic framework—supported by labour, NGOs, students and other social movements scaled up to the proportions of the 1960s US civil rights movement—is not only going to dethrone Harper, but also will be our last best effort to save our resources from Canada’s extractive industries sector and the banks that finance them.

As Thomas-Muller explains, “we have always been kind and again we will share the wealth and abundance of our homelands with our relatives from across the pond. Instead of lessons on how to survive the harsh winters of our lands, today we are offering lessons on how to be resilient and to overcome the oppression from the archaic oil sector and in our own government who have lost their minds with power.”

Clayton Thomas-Muller is a member of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation also known as Pukatawagan in Northern Manitoba. He is an organizer, facilitator, public speaker and writer on environmental and economic justice, with a special focus on the sprawling infrastructure of pipelines, refineries and extraction associated with the Canadian tar sands. Clayton is a campaigner for the Defenders of the Land & Idle No More, as well as a co-director of the Indigenous Tar Sands (ITS) Campaign of the Polaris Institute. He has been recognized by Utne Magazine as one of the top 30 under 30 activists in the United States and as a “Climate Hero 2009” by Yes Magazine.
Arno Kopecky

Once in 15,000 Years: How the Northern Gateway Proposal Turned Risk into Safety

Drawing on his year of travel and research into the Northern Gateway’s proposed oil tanker routes, author Arno Kopecky examines the faulty risk assessment that Enbridge Inc. employed to “prove” their project’s benefits outweigh the risks. By misrepresenting everything from the BC coast’s wind and wave records to the amount of marine traffic oil tankers would encounter, Enbridge calculated that a major marine oil spill would happen only once in fifteen thousand years. Kopecky’s attempt to find out why numerous federal departments ignored clear flaws in this assessment and approved Enbridge’s Marine Safety Plan revealed something even more disturbing: a concerted attempt by industry and government to mislead the public in order to accelerate resource extraction, no matter what the cost.

Arno Kopecky is a travel writer and environmental journalist whose dispatches have appeared in The Walrus, Foreign Policy, the Globe and Mail, Reader’s Digest, and other publications. His explorations have ranged from Iceland’s attempt at becoming the first oil-free country on earth, to the impact of climate change on Burma’s Irrawaddy Delta, to resource extraction in the Amazon Basin.
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| 8:30 am - 9:00 am | Doors Open  
North Lecture Theatres, CCIS          |
| 9:00 am – 10:15 am | Plenary  
Room 1-430, CCIS  
No Science, No Evidence, No Truth, No Democracy  
Facilitator: Ricardo Acuña               |
| 10:15 am - 10:30 am | Break  
PCL Lounge, CCIS                  |

**Katie Gibbs**

There have been drastic changes to science in Canada in recent years. These changes have happened in three distinct ways: a reduction in the ability of government scientists to communicate their research to the public, the erosion of our science capacity—especially with respect to fundamental research and environmental monitoring, and a reduction in the role of evidence in policy decisions.

This presentation will look at the impacts of these changes, which go far beyond science. Science and evidence are essential elements for a functioning democracy. Democracy requires citizens who are well informed. Transparency and accountability, the twin pillars of democracy, demand that government decisions, and their justification, be made explicit.

Concerns about changes to Canadian science have led to a more vocal scientific community, as well as the formation of Evidence for Democracy—a new science-led, national, non-partisan, non-profit organization advocating for science and evidence-based decision-making in Canada.

**Dr. Katie Gibbs** is a scientist, communicator, and organizer who is passionate about the intersection of science and policy. Katie recently finished her PhD in Biology at the University of Ottawa studying broad scale threats to endangered species and the effectiveness of conservation measures. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy—a new organization that advocates for the use of evidence in government decision making and public policy development.
MJ Milloy
Scientific Evidence and Government Policy on Illicit Drugs: Lessons from Insite, Vancouver’s Supervised Injection Facility

Every year, Canada’s federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars combatting illicit drug use — most on policies that have only resulted in drugs becoming less expensive, more potent and easier to acquire. Meanwhile, evidence-based policies that have been shown to reduce the harms from illicit drugs remain outlawed, underfunded or under attack in many jurisdictions across the country. This talk will discuss the role of scientific evidence in shaping Canada’s anti-drugs strategy.

*MJ Milloy* holds a Doctorate in Epidemiology and focuses on the links between illicit drug use, marginalization and infectious disease. As a post-doctoral fellow at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, he works on issues around HIV/AIDS treatment among illicit drug users. Dr. Milloy contributed to the scientific evaluation of Insite, North America’s first supervised injection facility for people who use injection drugs in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot
Navigating Crime Policy: Issues and Evidence

This presentation will focus on the issues that reflect social justice concerns; identify challenges to effective crime policy; as well as consider what counts as evidence for policy makers (and what should count as evidence).

*Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot* is an Associate Professor and head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary. Her primary research interests are in the realms of crime, security and risk. Her current research focuses on the concept of offender management and the assessment of various technologies that are used to enhance public security.
Dave Cournoyer

How does manipulation of dialogue influence public perception and debate?

This presentation will examine how Canada’s conservative movement has shaped the debate around public policy issues and helped create a political environment where conservative politicians can thrive.

Dave Cournoyer is a writer and political observer based in Edmonton. He currently works as a communications advisor with the United Nurses of Alberta and is publisher of the political blog, daveberta.ca. In 2012, the global public relations company Hill & Knowlton recognized Dave as one of Alberta’s most influential Tweeters. His interests include provincial politics in Alberta and the study of the conservative movement in Canada.

Roberta Laurie

The Framing of “Ethical Oil” and Discourse Surrounding the Alberta Oil Sands

With the publication of his book, Ethical Oil: The Case for Canada’s Oil Sands, Ezra Levant popularized the term, “ethical oil,” and created a powerful frame that has since been used by the oil and gas industry, Conservative politicians and right-wing pundits to characterize the Alberta oil sands. We may not hear the term as often as we did in the wake of the book’s release, but much of Levant’s framing and rhetoric has stuck. Roberta Laurie will discuss the results of her research on the framing of “ethical oil.”

Roberta Laurie is a recent graduate of the MA in Environmental Education and Communication Program at Royal Roads University where she wrote her thesis on the framing of “ethical oil.” She teaches in the Bachelor of Communication Studies Program at MacEwan University and is currently writing her second book, Touching This Storied Land: Navigating the Narratives and Debate that Surround the Alberta Oil Sands.
In recent years, the fight over digital rights, including online privacy, digital copyright, internet surveillance, and fair access, has captured the attention of a growing number of Canadians. This talk will examine the emerging digital rights movement in Canada and its close connection to freedom of speech and privacy.

Michael Geist is a law professor at the University of Ottawa where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law. Dr. Geist is a syndicated columnist on technology law issues with his regular column appearing in the Toronto Star and the Ottawa Citizen. He has received numerous awards for his work and he was named one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2003. In 2010, Managing Intellectual Property named him on the 50 most influential people on intellectual property in the world and Canadian Lawyer named him one of the 25 most influential lawyers in Canada in 2011 and 2012.
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Map of CCIS
Registration Table: PCL Lounge
Main Lecture Theatre: Room 1-430
Concurrent Sessions: Rooms 1-140 & 1-160
Season’s Greetings Members and Friends!

—The Staff at the Parkland Institute—

Parkland Institute Annual Open House and Farewell Bash for the Beloved Parkland Office

Parkland will be moving!
We know we are not the only ones with memories between these four walls. Come help us celebrate and bid farewell to the Parkland Office. This is an opportunity to tell your 11045 Saskatchewan Drive stories and reminisce with Parkland’s staff and other supporters and to enjoy the holiday season.

In Edmonton: 5pm – 9pm, December 13, 2013
Parkland House, 11045 Saskatchewan Drive

We will have a cash bar, snacks, spoken word poetry, music, good-bye Parkland House activities and great company!

We look forward to seeing you!

Season’s Greetings Members and Friends!

Parkland Institute

[Image of snowy scene]
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Thursday, February 27 at the Faculty Club

Featuring
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