



**The Distinguished Scholars of
Canada Foundation
Prospectus Report 2011**

What We Do

The Mission of the Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation is to provide opportunities to the future national and international leaders in public service, and, to build a network that can support and assist former and future Fellows in their careers and endeavours.

Welcome to the Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation (www.distinguishedscholars.ca), a dream that has become a reality in 2011, and a program intent on preparing Canada's young leaders for a career in public service through a broad-based fellowship program in one of the following cities: Ottawa, Toronto, and Washington, DC. Working closely with the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program (www.washingtonscholars.org) and the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation (www.admiralcareyfoundation.org), the Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation looks to help fill the urgent need that Canada will face as crucial roles within all levels of government begin to vacate.

Training Canada's Next Generation of Leaders Today

The wealth of "corporate knowledge" that currently exists in the system will soon be lost if initiative is not taken *today*. To ensure the next generations of leadership have the proper skill sets to meet the pressing challenges and needs of the 21st Century, the Foundation equips bright young potential with the tools needed to succeed in the policy arena. In all, this program looks to benefit all of Canada's citizens, her interests, and her allies. Currently operating as the private corporation, Distinguished Scholars of Canada Enterprises, Inc. until the not-for-profit entity Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation, Corp. is approved by the Canada Revenue Agency, the fellowship program is specifically formulated to bring the nation's best and brightest young men and women to these critical policy and economy centre, all with a view to providing them with the skills and opportunity to pursue a career in national and international public policy.



Washington Scholars Class of Summer 2011

with Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey (National Chairman, The Flag and General Officer's Network) and George Platsis (Chief Operating Officer, Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation)

The Need for the Program

While there are current government programs designed to encourage recent university graduates to pursue careers in public policy, their success is limited.

A training program is not enough. A future leader needs to be immersed in the various facets of public life, including conferences, workshops, assemblies, and social functions. It is a wonderful way to build the invaluable network that pays itself forward and helps “get the job done” in the public policy arena, both nationally and internationally.

Far too often these programs are used as stepping stones or “ticket punches” for graduates to move on to other careers, instead of securing this talent into a public policy career stream. The Foundation, through its strategic opportunities, vast networking capabilities, and programmatic guidance and expertise, strives to nourish the development of young leadership and ensure this talent remains in public policy. Coupled with mentoring opportunities, the Foundation cultivates youth-elder dialogue in a *meaningful* and *productive* manner that provides the training and technical assistance needed for the young persons who endeavour to work in the national and international public policy arena. Moreover, and something that the Foundation feels from a philosophical standpoint is incredibly important, is that we operated with *zero* taxpayer money. This non-governmental effort accrues over time to the benefit of Canada, which is why it makes it so unique and powerful. Due to the existing networks that can be leveraged, and the cost to the public purse being zero, such an opportunity is a net-net-net immaculate deal for all those involved.

Involvement in all Communities

The Foundation will also foster and promote the role of science, the arts, education, media, and public awareness, all within the context of civic youth activity, meaning that Foundation does not limit its opportunities to the public sector. Realizing the complexities of the 21st Century, the Foundation strives to ensure Scholars have an interdisciplinary mix of skills that can be used for their future careers. Inasmuch, while the focus is on national and international policy, if we see a proper fit that can ultimately benefit the policy arena, we will help support a Scholar in the private and not-for-profit sectors. Through a vigorous selection process, the Foundation will identify fellowship, internship, and mentoring partnerships that will be structured to provide young star performers with the opportunities to develop their leadership skills.



Moreover, the Foundation’s belief is that Canada’s brightest and best young talent is often deterred from accepting volunteer or low paying internships, which

International Exposure at the United Nations Youth Assembly UN Headquarters, August 2011

Washington Scholars with Colonel Bob Bateman, Fernando Cortes (Executive Directors, Washington Scholars Fellowship Program), and George Platsis (Chief Operating Officer, Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation)

Future successes are so often a function of great teachers and influential mentors. Therefore, in addition to the requirements of the fellowship and training, Scholars are teamed up with mentors to help guide them through the sometimes rocky waters of public policy. Moreover, the Scholars are regularly exposed to professionals and government officials who have the experience and track record to give the Scholars insight of what the future may hold.

Leadership Development

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Donald Loren, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for DHS Integration and Major General (Ret.) Donna Barbisch, former Director of CRBN Integration (Office of the Secretary of Defense) speak to Scholars about the necessary leadership skills needed to succeed in government

is why we strive to fill that gap by providing the brightest and best with scholarships and grants that are exclusively used for travel, study, or similar purposes that are *directly linked* to their leadership development. It is for this reason why the Foundation ensures to go “outside of the traditional structure” in providing a myriad of opportunities, which include, but are not limited to: workshops, educational workshops, conference, and social events. Without this active involvement across a broad base of communities, the value-add is limited, and, far too often, is what is lacking in many of today’s program offerings.

History

In the 1980s, key members within the Reagan Administration came to a very stark reality: the future leadership of the country was in jeopardy for the sheer fact that incoming human resources did not have the proper skill set required to operate an effective and efficient government. Apart from the very necessary operational skills, the incomers lacked the strategic partnerships and networks required to achieve any real success in government. In order to fill this identified gap, these key members, led by Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey, former Chairman of the US Federal Maritime Commission, invested heavily to ensure a program was created that would develop the necessary skill set of the future leadership to run a government properly.

Strategic partnerships and networking both nationally and internationally are critical to the success of the program

By using vast personal networks to place Scholars, the program has graduated over 400 Fellows in 25 years, with over 100 of them working within the US Capitol Beltway today. What this provides is an ability to *pay forward* the success of the program as graduates are expected to give back to the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program; there is the same expectation of graduates of the Distinguished Scholars of Canada.



Strategic Alliances, Up Close and Personal

Our alliance with the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program gives us an access portal that would otherwise be unavailable. In building the Canada/USA relationship, Canadian Scholars will be able to experience firsthand the real world experiences of government in action at numerous locations in Washington, DC. Opportunities to attend lectures and functions with dignitaries, Congressmen, Senators, Judges and Administration Officials are numerous, and, a great chance to do some networking of true value. Scholars also become well acquainted with the Supreme Court, the Capitol Building, and have the opportunity to attend events at the White House, Pentagon, and even travel to conventions across the country. As the program builds on the Canadian side of the border, we have similar expectations of the program in both Ottawa and Toronto. Ultimately, as the Americans welcome our Canadian candidates to Washington, DC, we will be reciprocating by bringing American candidates of the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program to Canadian hosts.

Networking that works, Networking that matters, and Networking of the largest possible scale

The Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation is just one piece of a larger public policy puzzle. With close working relationships between the Canadian Defence Foundation, Canada Company, The Flag and General Officer's Network, the National Defense Foundation, the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, the Chinese Society of Education Training Center, and so many other influential groups, Scholars get "plugged in" to an international network that, if utilized properly, gives them a network that can last for nearly 50 years.

Life of a Scholar

There are many exciting benefits which come from being a Scholar in Washington, DC, and over the longer term, Ottawa and Toronto. One could expect to gain an intimate level of understanding in how governments work, as well as how to gain a foothold in a political or government career.



Strategic partnerships are networking are the keys to success. Without them, The Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation cannot function. Given our strategic alliance with the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation, we are fortunate to have an unmatched access into the United States, including various government agencies, not-for-profits, and think-tanks. Some of the organizations past Fellows have served at include:

- National Transportation Safety Board
- The Office of the Secretary of Defense
- The Heritage Foundation
- The CATO Institute
- Numerous offices with the US Congress and Senate

At the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC

Lieutenant-Colonel Doug Martin of the Canadian Embassy with Distinguished Scholar of Canada, Reagan Cook

Ottawa, Toronto, and Washington, DC are all known for being political centres of gravity and economic centres of influence. In these competitive fields, young leaders must develop a skill set that lets them become familiar with not only the professional life of public policy, but also the very active social life that comes with it. This is why the program offers unique opportunities to Scholars so they can attend social events they would otherwise not have a chance to. In these settings, they can see firsthand how polished public servants and business leaders perform and act.

**Teaching Social Skills:
Proper Etiquette**

*Scholars at the 2011 DUB Ball in
Washington, DC*

Many Scholars interns go on to law school, graduate school, and some even obtain jobs at think tanks, or the sitting administration upon the completion of the Fellowship. Those who make the best of networking during their Fellowship will establish valuable connections which become extremely handy later on in life. As the program continues to grow from the Canadian side, we expect our graduates to hold key staffer positions within all levels of government in Canada. Moreover, we have already secured the support of Members of Parliament who have the vision to see this project through.

Professional and Social Development

Even with a full time commitment to their respective internships while in the, many Scholars found free time to enjoy all that the District of Columbia has to offer. We have the same expectation of Canadian Scholars in Ottawa and Toronto. Throughout the ten week program, Scholars are required to attend training events and a series of guest speaker lectures. The training events focus on resume building, job search capabilities, and improving professional skills. The lecture series is composed of guest speakers with varying degrees of experience in national public policy. Some of the events focus on leadership, networking, and career advice specific to a variety of differing industries. We believe that such activities allow Scholars to expand their network outside the program and build strong roots in the host cities, something that will encourage them to return to the region and become an active part our network.

Being socially comfortable and aware is a critical skill set required in the public policy arena

A large part of the public policy arena includes the social setting. This is why we not only encourage Scholars to take part in social functions, but also make them mandatory, including ones that they are bound to meet up with national and international public policy leaders.



Our needs

Through our alliances in the United States, we are fairly secure in what we can provide for Scholars south of the border. Currently, our primary efforts are focused on building our Canadian presence. Inasmuch, we are seeking support in the following ways:

- Hosts from government offices in Ottawa
- Hosts from the private sector in Toronto
- Funding from private citizens and corporations
- Occasional pro bono professional services, such as legal and accounting

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your support from this one-of-a-kind and special program that will pay dividends for many future generations to come. Unfortunately, as we are currently operating as a private corporation, at this time we cannot issue any tax receipts for donation purposes.

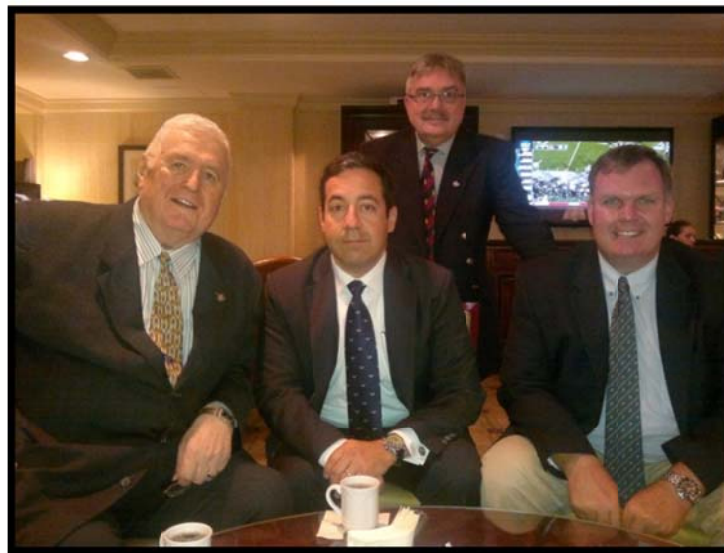
Inquiries

If you have any questions about our program, please visit: www.distinguishedscholars.ca or contact our Chief Operating Officer, George Platsis, directly at:

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Building ties and making existing ones with our American friends is critical not only for the benefit of the program, but for the prosperity of both our nations. Developing future leadership today, and having Scholars work together, on both sides of the border from a young age, gives them the capacity and capabilities to make a tangible international difference in the future.

Creating a stronger Canada-USA relationship and building on the greatest relationship any two nations could ever have

Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey of the US Navy with members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Lieutenant-Colonel Walter J. Perchal (Chairman, Distinguished Scholars of Canada Foundation), Major Michael Wiesenfeld, and Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Brunberg at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC

Principals



Lieutenant-Colonel Walter J. Perchal, Ph.D.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

- Graduate and Undergraduate Faculty, Disaster and Emergency Management York University
- Program Director, Centre of Excellence in Homeland Security and Resiliency, Schulich Executive Education Centre, York University



George Platsis, MBA, MA-DEM, LL.M. (Can.)

Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer

- Director, Research Center, National Defense Foundation (Washington, DC)
- Program Director, Centre of Excellence in Homeland Security and Resiliency, Schulich Executive Education Center, York University



Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey

Board of Directors

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- Chairman, The Flag and General Officer's Network



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