



TWENTY-SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

IS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AN ENEMY OF FREE SPEECH OR DOES IT HELP CREATE A MORE JUST SOCIETY?

Michael Eric Dyson, Michelle Goldberg, Stephen Fry, and Jordan Peterson convene in Toronto to debate political correctness.

March 5, 2018 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution for the 22nd semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, May 18, 2018. The Spring 2018 Munk Debate will move the motion: ***Be it resolved, what you call political correctness, I call progress.***

For some, the argument is clear. Political correctness is stifling the free and open debate that fuels our democracy. It is also needlessly dividing one group from another and promoting social conflict.

Others insist that creating public spaces and norms that give voice to previously marginalised groups broadens the scope of free speech. The drive toward inclusion over exclusion is essential to creating healthy, diverse polities in an era of rapid social change.

Arguing **for the resolution** will be author, broadcaster and Georgetown University professor **Michael Eric Dyson**. Dyson hosts NPR's "The Michael Eric Dyson Show," is a contributing editor for the *New Republic* and has written more than a dozen books on race, culture and politics in the United States. He will be joined by **Michelle Goldberg**, a journalist, *New York Times* columnist and bestselling author. Goldberg is a frequent political commentator on MSNBC and has had her writing featured in *The New Yorker*, *Newsweek*, *The Nation*, the *New Republic*, *The Guardian*, and is the author of three books.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be English actor, author and film director **Stephen Fry**. Fry is best known for playing Lord Melchett in the television comedy series "Blackadder." He has also written and presented several documentary series, including "Stephen Fry: The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive." He will be joined by **Jordan Peterson**, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, a clinical psychologist and author of *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*. His online self-help program, The Self Authoring Suite, and his online lectures have been viewed more than 40 million times on YouTube.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, says: “The purpose of the Munk Debates is to tackle the big issues roiling public discussion and this why we have chosen political correctness as the theme for our 22nd annual contest.”

The Munk Debates are Canada’s preeminent forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the autumn. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British prime minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Samantha Power, Paul Krugman, Fareed Zakaria, Dambisa Moyo, Mia Farrow, Malcolm Gladwell, Simon Schama, Louise Arbour and Glenn Greenwald.

The Munk Debates are a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

“Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada,” said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. “Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education, and informed discourse.”

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The Debate on Political Correctness will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, May 18, 2018** at 6:45 p.m. EDT. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 15. Any remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 10:00 am on Monday, March 19.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on Political Correctness, visit www.munkdebates.com.

Our archive of commercial-free, HD videos of past Munk Debates is now free for unlimited viewing to all Munk Debate members. For a free membership, and to view past debates, visit www.munkdebates.com.

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