



## ***NINETEENTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED***

### ***CAN DONALD TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN?***

***Newt Gingrich, Laura Ingraham, Robert Reich & Jennifer Granholm convene in Toronto, Canada, to debate the U.S. election.***

**August 9, 2016** – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution for the nineteenth semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, September 30, 2016. To engage with the issues and personalities fueling an extraordinary U.S. election season, the Autumn 2016 Munk Debate will move the motion: ***Be it resolved, Donald Trump can make America great again...***

For some, Donald Trump's brash, politically incorrect campaign is the panacea for the Washington and Wall Street elites that have saddled the country with endless wars, an anemic economy, and growing racial division. His boosters believe Trump will usher in a Reagan-like era of domestic prosperity at home, and free America from a destructive global web of counterproductive trade agreements and military entanglements abroad.

Trump's critics are having none of this. They see not a president in waiting, but a dangerously unstable and inexperienced demagogue; one who threatens U.S. democracy, and global peace and security. Rather than being a harbinger of the country's renewal, Trump's candidacy is supposedly destroying the social fabric of America by demonizing minorities, denigrating women and exacerbating racial differences.

Arguing **for the resolution** will be former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, **Newt Gingrich**. Called "the indispensable leader" by the *Washington Times*, he is a *New York Times* bestselling author, and *Time* magazine Man of the Year. He will be joined by **Laura Ingraham**, nationally syndicated radio talk show host and the most-listened to woman in America, and a regular contributor to Fox News Channel.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be **Robert Reich**, who has been hailed as one of America's top ten thought leaders by *The Wall Street Journal*. He has served in three U.S. administrations, including as Secretary of Labor under Bill Clinton. Also speaking against the resolution will be former two-term governor of Michigan, **Jennifer Granholm**. Ms. Granholm was the first woman to be elected as governor of Michigan, and was re-elected with the largest number of votes ever cast for governor.

**Rudyard Griffiths**, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, says: “The American election has become a referendum on Donald Trump and his suitability to be president of the United States. Given the caliber of our presenters, we have every reason to expect a fiercely contested debate on Roy Thomson Hall’s stage just three days after the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.”

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, Nigel Farage, Simon Schama, Louse 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 the U.S. Election will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, September 30, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. EDT. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30. Any remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 1.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit [www.munkdebates.com](http://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 the U.S. Election, visit [www.munkdebates.com](http://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](http://www.munkdebates.com).

Media inquiries should be directed to:

Sherry Naylor

[sherry@munkdebates.com](mailto:sherry@munkdebates.com)

416-368-8253