

OUR HOST



Andrew Caddell,
President

President of the Task Force on Linguistic Policy since 2022, Andrew Caddell retired from Global Affairs Canada in 2017, where he was a foreign service officer. He was a reporter and political advisor across Canada from 1975 to 1996. From 1996 until 2000, he worked with WHO in Geneva and UNICEF in Macedonia and Bangladesh. He is currently a Councillor in Kamouraska, and a columnist with the "Hill Times" newspaper. He is fluently bilingual and holds a BA in Political Science and a Master's in journalism from Carleton University.

"While we pride ourselves in living in a democratic country, few Canadians are aware of the history, purpose, and impact of Section 33 of our Constitution known as the "Notwithstanding Clause". I proudly welcome our distinguished speakers and panelists to this event. Maître Michael Bergman is lead attorney for the Task Force's legal challenges against Bill 96 and other speakers and panelists are fully independent from the Task Force. They have graciously accepted our invitation to discuss this important topic. I hope this event will be of interest to all Canadians. "



Graham Fraser

Keynote Speaker



Graham Fraser was Commissioner of Official Languages between 2006 and 2016. He was previously National Affairs writer for The Toronto Star from 2000 to 2006. During his career, he has written about municipal, provincial and federal politics, and international affairs. Graham also worked for Maclean's, The Gazette and The Globe and Mail in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa and Washington. He was also a guest columnist for Le Devoir from 1995 to 2000. He is the author of six books, including a biography on René Lévesque. Graham is an officer in the Order of Canada. In 1982, he was the first recipient of the Hyman Solomon Award for Public Policy Journalism. Graham was educated at the University of Toronto (Honours BA and MA in History). He has received five honorary doctorates.



Pearl Eliadis

Guest Speaker



Pearl Eliadis is a senior human rights lawyer in private practice, a member of the Law Society of Ontario and the Quebec Bar Association, where she serves on its Expert Group on Human Rights. Pearl is Associate Professor (Professional) at McGill University where she teaches public policy and law, and she is a full member of the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. She has taught civil liberties for more than a decade. In 2017, she was named Human Rights Changemaker by Equitas, and in 2024 received the Award for Human Rights Excellence from the Atlantic Human Rights Centre at St Thomas University.

The Panelists

ERIC MALDOFF



Eric is a distinguished Canadian lawyer and has served as an advisor to the Government of Canada on constitutional, human resources and health matters. His enduring commitment to public service underscores his dedication to promoting linguistic and cultural rights. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada.

MARION SANDILANDS



Marion practices civil litigation, constitutional and administrative law at Conway Baxter Wilson LLP in Ottawa. She also teaches Constitutional Law at the University of Ottawa. She has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on matters of constitutional law and language rights.

JOE ORTONA



Joe serves as a commissioner and chair of the English Montreal School Board and president of the Quebec English School Board Association. He is a strong proponent of minority language rights and has been actively involved in legal efforts to protect English-language education in Quebec.

MICHAEL BERGMAN



Michael is lead attorney and legal strategist for the Task Force's court challenges. His long list of accomplishments and accolades can be found on the Task Force website www.theTaskForce.ca. Practicing law for over 47 years, he has appeared before courts at all levels on cases involving constitutional protections and civil liberties.