FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. David Suzuki to Deliver the 2014 Milton K. Wong Lecture at UBC

VANCOUVER, BC (March 31, 2014): UBC Continuing Studies and The Laurier Institution are pleased to announce that Dr. David Suzuki will deliver the 2014 Milton K. Wong Lecture, titled The Global Eco-crisis: Diversity, Resilience and Adaptability. The lecture takes place on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 7pm at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia, and will be followed by a question period.

Stephen Quinn, host of CBC Radio One’s On the Coast will moderate the evening and Dr. Suzuki’s lecture will be recorded for future broadcast on IDEAS, CBC Radio’s premier program of contemporary thought.

Tickets to the lecture are free, but must be reserved online in advance. Doors open at 6pm; tickets must be redeemed at the door by 6:45pm to be valid. For more information about the lecture and how to reserve tickets, view cstudies.ubc.ca/public-lectures/milton-k-wong-lecture.html

About This Year’s Lecture

“Humans emerged in Africa 150,000 years ago when the plains were filled with animals in variety and abundance beyond anything we know today. As we moved into new territory, with simple tools like spears and stone axes, we were able to capture animals and even drive them to local extinction. Over time, we had to move to new territories or stay and learn to live in balance with resources at hand. Soon, the planet’s continents were fully occupied and developed with indigenous cultures that understood the hard-won lessons of sustainability.

But over the past five centuries, a wave of immigrants to new lands came with a radically different sense of the land from the indigenous people. Land to them was opportunity, a commodity to be exploited, developed and sold.

Over the past century, we have had the remarkable confluence of population growth, technological innovation, hyper-consumption and a globalized economy. This is the Anthropocene Epoch. Humans are now the dominant factor shaping the planet, but in the process, we are undermining the very life-support systems of air, water, soil, photosynthesis and biodiversity.

In such uncertain times, we must look to biology to find a strategy for survival. The key is diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Canada is an experiment in diversity through its program of multiculturalism. I believe that, as in biological diversity, our diverse backgrounds provide a rich resource of perspectives, experience and ideas that will be important in an increasingly uncertain world.”

--Dr. David Suzuki
About David Suzuki

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author, and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. He is Companion to the Order of Canada and a recipient of UNESCO’s Kalinga Prize for Science, the United Nations Environment Program medal, the 2012 Inamori Ethics Prize, the 2009 Right Livelihood Award, and UNEP’s Global 500.

Dr. Suzuki is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and holds 28 honorary degrees from universities around the world. He is familiar to television audiences as host of the CBC science and natural history television series The Nature of Things, and to radio audiences as the original host of CBC Radio’s Quirks and Quarks, as well as the acclaimed series It’s a Matter of Survival and From Naked Ape to Superspecies.

In 1990 he co-founded with Dr. Tara Cullis, The David Suzuki Foundation to “collaborate with Canadians from all walks of life including government and business, to conserve our environment and find solutions that will create a sustainable Canada through science-based research, education and policy work.” His written work includes more than 54 books, 19 of them for children. Dr. Suzuki lives with his wife and family in Vancouver, BC.

About the Milton K. Wong Lecture

The annual Milton K. Wong Lecture is Canada’s premier lecture on multiculturalism. It is named after Milton K. Wong, UBC alumni and the founder of the Laurier Institution, in recognition of the remarkable contribution he made to our understanding of the value of our cultural diversity and to the advancement of pluralism in Canada.

“A visionary, business leader and social activist, Milton K. Wong had a love of cultivating new ideas that changed the face of Canada. Considered one of the most innovative financiers of his generation, Wong’s passion for social change extended into a vast array of successful endeavours that touched the lives of countless Canadians. Among his many accomplishments, he played a pivotal role in establishing Vancouver institutions including Science World, the UBC Portfolio Management Programme, and the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival. He was the recipient of the Order of Canada.”

(www.wongfoundation.ca)

The 2014 Milton K. Wong Lecture is presented by UBC Continuing Studies, The Laurier Institution, and CBC Radio One, in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation, alumni UBC, and explorASIAN.

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Media Contact:
Don Black, Director, UBC Continuing Studies, Community Programs and the Centre for Cultural Planning and Development
Phone: 604.822.1460
Email: don.black@ubc.ca

Photos of Dr. Suzuki available upon request.