



THE
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
SOCIETY OF CALGARY



Founded 1966 Patron: Randolph Churchill III
President: Dr. Mark Milke

March 2019

53rd Annual Banquet to feature historian Dr. Andrew Roberts



The 53rd Annual Banquet of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

Friday, May 24th, 2019 at 6:00 pm
The Ranchmen's Club at 710 - 13th Ave. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

**Topic: Churchill: Walking with
Destiny**

Our 2019 Annual memorial Dinner on May 24, 2019

Dr. Andrew Roberts will be our guest and dinner speaker for the 53rd annual banquet and will speak on 'Churchill: Walking with Destiny, from his most recent book of the same name. Daniel Johnson at *Standpoint*, wrote that "Andrew Roberts uses material that has only recently become available, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny* is a stupendous achievement: lucid, erudite, intelligent, but also inspiring. Roberts catches the imperishable grandeur of Churchill's life as no other historian has done. Roberts does full justice to Churchill's superhuman range of activity."

Dinner invitation registrations are included in this mailing (if received in the mail) or you can also register and pay at www.churchillcalgary.ca/events.

Author of *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*. Professor Andrew Roberts took a first-class honours degree in Modern History at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, from where he is an honorary senior scholar and a Doctor of Philosophy. He is presently a Visiting Professor at the War Studies Department at King's College, London and the Lehrman Institute Lecturer at the New-York Historical Society. He has written or edited nineteen books. Based in London, he has delivered the White House Lecture, as well as speaking at Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Princeton and Stanford Universities, and at The British Academy, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sandhurst, Shrivenham and the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

From the President

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary has had another busy, productive and beneficial year for the community.

In June 2018, the Society held its annual memorial dinner, and with British broadcaster and author Lord Watson. The topic, Churchill's Legacy: Two Speeches to Save the World, was an excellent recitation of how Churchill's speeches in Fulton, Missouri and in Zurich, Switzerland, alerted the world to Stalin's growing threat, and the necessity of European and North America unity. Judging by the line-up for Lord Watson's book after the dinner event it was a successful evening by all accounts.

Two socials were held in the past twelve months with the first a joint talk and discussion between Dr. Jaydeep Balakrishnan, president of the Gandhi Society of Calgary, and myself, on October 18th 2018. We had a splendid time discussing approaches to historical figures in the West and in India, including of course Winston Churchill and Mahatma Gandhi.

On February 20th 2019, Dr. Ian Holloway, Dean of the Law School at the University of Calgary, who spoke to both the historical myths that some attach to Churchill and also Churchill's early political reforms. Both events were held at the Ranchmen's Club, well-attended, and with positive reviews from members and guests.

This past year, planning and registration began for the once-in-a-lifetime Society tour to the United Kingdom. Later this spring, 24 Society members and guests are off to the United Kingdom and France for a Churchill- and Second World War-inspired tour.

The Churchill Society's Calgary statue project

As announced at our June 2018 dinner, the Society has moved forward with a public announcement, fundraising, and planning to erect a statue of Sir Winston Churchill at a yet-to-be determined location in Calgary.

I proposed this idea to the board in early 2018 and the board approved the project in our strategic plan. My sincere thank you to Tyler Shandro who has since taken on the task of chairing the committee, and along with James Maxim and Gerald Chipeur are responsible for moving the project forward and have already done so with great speed!

Sir Winston Churchill was simply the most courageous, consequential world leader in the 20th century. In addition to his wartime leadership—often a voice in the wilderness before becoming prime minister—his earlier political efforts led to important social reforms at home. The Society wishes to honour the memory of Churchill for both reasons, but also to introduce Churchill to a newer generation and to commemorate his 1929 visit to Alberta.

Of note, there is also a strong reason for Calgary to commemorate Churchill (Edmonton long ago honoured the late prime minister with a square and statue) given Churchill's 1929 visit to Alberta.

According to Bradley Tolpanen in his book that recounts Churchill's 1929 three-month long visit to North America, Churchill was fascinated by southern Alberta including the Turner Valley oil fields, the Prince of Wales ranch, and the Rockies, where Churchill created several paintings. At the Turner Valley oil fields, he would write to his wife,

Clementine, that were "amazing" and speculated he might buy 1,000 shares in Alberta-based oil firms.

When Churchill arrived in Calgary on a Saturday morning, August 24, 1929, he apparently walked across the CPR train station platform and gazed westward at the Rockies and remarked that "What a glorious day! I can just see the peaks of the Rockies from here!" While in Calgary, Churchill gave a speech at the Palliser Hotel, then Calgary's tallest building at 12 stories, and was given an [off-white Stetson hat](#), a hat that he would keep for his entire life and often be seen with it while painting.

At Lake Louise, Churchill described it as a "truly enchanting scene" and said that the comfort and beauty of Lake Louise had "never been surpassed" in any of his travels over four continents. Overall, the Rockies were later described by Churchill as the equal of anything in Switzerland.

Specifics on the statue project

The Society plans to raise \$300,000 in approximately the next six months, this for the statue, base and ongoing maintenance. We will also soon apply to the City of Calgary through their official process for the approval of public art. (We will not request city funding.) To date, one private donor has generously donated \$50,000 on the condition or matching grants that total at least that amount and we also received a further \$17,500 commitment for a total to date of \$67,500 and with fundraising just under way.

Our goal in 2019 is to raise the \$300,000, work with the City of Calgary on placement, commission the statue, and install it in a prominent public area by or on September 2, 2020, which will be the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War (in the Pacific).

If you would like to help preserve and promote the legacy of Sir Winston Churchill, please contact James Maxim, Gerry Chipeur or myself at WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com. Any one of us will be happy to discuss this legacy project and your own personal tribute to Sir Winston Churchill.

In closing, I hope to see you all at the May 24th annual memorial dinner—our 53rd—with Dr. Andrew Roberts. I will tour him around Banff the day previous and I know he give a dinner address that you will not want to miss.

My sincere thank you to all board members and members of the Society for your service and continued support in honour of the legacy and leadership of Sir Winston Churchill.

Mark Milke
President
Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

Annual Churchill Society High School Debate Results

By: Elisa Frank

The annual High School Debate tournament sponsored by the society took place on November 27, 2018 at Sir Winston Churchill High School.

This year's topic was inspired by an article written by Sir Winston Churchill and first published in 1924 titled "Shall We All Commit Suicide?" contemplating the future of automated weapons. The prepared topic for debate was 'This House supports the use of fully automated weapons of war'.

This was an engaging topic well-researched by the students in advance of the tournament. The first two rounds of the debate were on this prepared topic with teams debating both sides of the issue. There was a third impromptu round of debate, followed by final debates in both Beginner and Open categories.

The award winners this year include:

Top Three Beginner Teams:

1. Asha Nenshi-Nathoo and Jolie Gan – Churchill
2. Kevin Uzomechine and Chrissa Foscolos – Earnest Manning
3. Eliza Ferguson-Frick and Denise Tyan – Wisewood

Top Three Beginner Speakers:

1. Emile Torwalt – Rundle College
2. Eliza Ferguson-Frick – Wisewood
3. Nithya Gopalakrishnan – Churchill

Top Three Open Teams

1. Sarah Zaitlin and RunLin Wang – Churchill
2. Thomas Code and Karl Buhler – Westmount
3. Roy Han and Kevin Yang – Western

Top Three Open Speakers

1. Sarah Zaitlin – Churchill
2. Thomas Code – Westmount
3. Roy Han – Western

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the tournament and our appreciation to the staff and students of Sir Winston Churchill High School for hosting this event.

Mount Royal University Moot Court Report

By: Lori Williams

Mount Royal University's Moot Court Exercise explores the intersection of law, politics, and the judicial process through examination of precedent-setting Supreme Court of Canada decisions. In this course students research the legal, constitutional, and socio-political context of cases testing the meaning and implications of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While focusing on the legal and political issues involved in a particular case, students research precedents and scholarly analyses to develop formal arguments on the reasonable limitations to rights in a democratic society.

Closely following Supreme Court judicial procedure, arguments are presented by teams of student lawyers to a panel of student justices led by volunteer Chief Justices (sitting justices from the Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench or Provincial Court) and a decision is rendered. Students also have the opportunity to collaborate with/be coached by experienced lawyers as they prepare for the moot hearing, which is held at the Calgary Courts Centre. These educational exercises were supported by the Calgary Courts Centre, Justice Jolaine Antonio, Justice Joshua Hawkes, Judge Harry Van Harten, Bennett Jones counsel Stephanie Clark, Raphael Jacobs, Sam Denstedt, Justin Duguay, Aoife McManus, Lauren Millar, Dana Kiefer, Cayley Rauw, Stephanie Ridge, Kiran Fatima, and Krista Gibson, Brendan Miller of Walsh LLP, *Assistant chief* Crown prosecutor Mike Ewanson and Detective Dave Sweet.

FALL 2018: Mandatory Minimum Sentences: R. v. Nur

On November 29, 2018 MRU students conducted appeals of the Supreme Court's decision to strike down mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes. In a 6:3 decision the Supreme Court found that the impugned mandatory minimums could violate the Charter's s. 12 protection against cruel and unusual punishment in reasonably foreseeable circumstances. The majority raised concerns that a licensed and responsible gun owner who inadvertently violates technical requirements for things like storage of ammunition could face a grossly disproportionate mandatory minimum sentence of three years. They concluded that the s. 12 violation could not be justified as a reasonable limit under s. 1 of the Charter. The hearings, presided over by 'Chief Justices' Harry Van Harten and Joshua Hawkes, came to different conclusions. By a 6:3 decision, one moot group allowed the appeal and restored the mandatory minimum sentences, with the dissent in favour of reading in the requirement that the mandatory minimums only apply where a danger to the public had been established. The other moot dismissed the appeal in a 6:3 decision.

WINTER 2019: Right to a trial within a reasonable time: R. v. Jordan

On March 21, 2019 we will conduct a moot appeal of the SCC decision in *R. v. Jordan*, which considered whether Mr. Jordan's s. 11(b) to trial within a reasonable time was breached, and what the standard for trial within a reasonable time should be.

Board of Directors

A new board was elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 2018 and a new executive elected at the subsequent board meeting. The 2018-2019 officers and board of directors are as follows:

President	Mark Milke
Vice President	James Maxim
Past President	Steven T. Robertson
Executive Treasurer	Landis McEwan
Treasurer	Greg Stebbe
Secretary	Kim Davies
Events-Socials	David Holmes
Events-Annual dinner	Angela Kalias
Communications	Devin Iversen
Mount Royal University Liaison	Lori Williams
High School Debate Liaison	Elisa Frank
Directors at Large:	Sam Armstrong John Baycroft Gerald Chipeur Randall Iversen Gordon Lang Roger Watson

The Society's Mission Statement

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary exists to promote students' facility in the use of the spoken and written word emphasizing oratorical and communication skills as exemplified by the debates, speeches and writings of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill.

The Society also exists to preserve and promote the legacy of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, including his achievements in the face of tyranny and the preservation of freedom, and in so doing commemorate his leadership and achievements.

Our website and e-mail address:

Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

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— Founded 1966 —

Patron: Randolph Churchill III