



INSTITUT C.D. HOWE INSTITUTE

The Purpose and Rules of Engagement for C.D. Howe Institute Roundtables and Events

As the C.D. Howe Institute’s friends and supporters know, the Institute’s overarching mission is to strengthen the Canadian economy by promoting smart public policy. A key element of our approach is the convening of invitation-only, off-the-record meetings that bring together leaders from the private sector, the public sector, academia and the professions. These opportunities for high-level discussion are a key input to the Institute’s research program, are valued by the Institute’s supporters, and attract top-calibre speakers.

The success of this events program rests on two foundations.

One of those foundations is the confidentiality of the proceedings, which are off-the-record with very few exceptions. The C.D. Howe Institute’s policy is that attendees will not attribute anything said during the session to any other attendee. The consistent adherence of our attendees to this rule over the years has promoted openness in remarks from the podium and the floor alike that has made these events so attractive to speakers and attendees.

The other foundation is civility: the creation of a “safe” space where participants feel comfortable regardless of individual perspectives and backgrounds – a forum notable for quality of ideas rather than forcefulness of expression. The tolerance and respect our attendees show speakers and each other has also contributed to the high-level, open discussion that has given these events such a high reputation, and attracts outstanding speakers.

We thank our members for their participation in and contributions to these events, and for their consistent respect for these “rules of engagement.” Our roundtable program, and our special dinners, are flourishing as never before, and we look forward to many more high-level interactions among members and Canadian leaders in 2016 and beyond.

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