

This panel will explore the elements that work for – and against – the advancement of a healthy and civil society. Panellists will discuss ideas and movements that have “captured the culture” and framed critical issues of social justice and morality as ceaseless power struggles between victims and oppressors rather than opportunities for rational discourse and consensus-building.

A constructive dialogue whose purpose is finding common ground must be conducted through respectful, but candid exchange in an atmosphere governed by the principle of free intellectual inquiry.

The panellists will argue for a rejection of the damaging ideal of a “socio-cultural utopia”, which is always the enemy of the achievable good.

The Neeje Association for Women and Family encourages women of all ages to strive for excellence in every area of their lives: professional, family, cultural and spiritual. Neeje helps women to discover the balance they need by providing support to build families and a better society.

Promoting understanding, respect and friendship is at the heart of Neeje’s mandate (the word neeje means friend in the Ojibway language).

Visit: www.neeje.ca.



Joining us from outside Ottawa?

A small block of **guest rooms** is being held at Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel for this conference until February 20. When reserving a room, in order to receive our special rate of \$139 per night, please mention that you will be attending the “Neeje Association Panel Conference”.*
Reservations: 1-800-441-1414
www.fairmont.com

*To also enjoy free local phone calls and high speed Internet access in your hotel room, join the Fairmont President’s Club online (www.fairmont.com/fpc), at no charge, before checking in at Chateau Laurier. Club membership benefits are applicable to all Fairmont hotels for an unlimited time.
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FREEDOM OF SPEECH:

Restoring Reason, Truth and Civility
to the Public Square



The Neeje Association for Women and Family
presents

A Panel Conference



Barbara Kay Robert A. Kenedy Nicole Scheidl Tarek Fatah



Brian Lilley
Panel Moderator

Friday, March 20th, 2009

6:30 - 9:30 pm

Château Laurier, Ottawa, On

Adam Room



Panellists:



Barbara Kay

The role of media in furthering ideology-driven cultural myths and stereotypes

Barbara Kay graduated from the University of Toronto in Honours English Language and Literature in 1964. She attended McGill University's graduate school on a Woodrow Wilson fellowship and received her M.A. in English Literature in 1966. For many years, Barbara taught literature and composition at Concordia University and various Montreal cegeps. She also emerged as a popular book reviewer on the study group circuit and taught courses in critical reading skills in libraries and cultural institutions. During her children's formative years, Barbara devoted most of her time to homemaking and community volunteerism.

During the lead-up to the 1995 Referendum, Barbara became politically active. She joined the board of Cité libre, and was a frequent contributor to the magazine until its cessation of activities in 2001. This experience stirred up a desire for a continuing role in public debate on political and ideological issues of the day, leading eventually to her current job, since 2003, as a weekly columnist for the National Post.



Robert A. Kenedy

Political correctness

Robert A. Kenedy (PhD) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at York University, Canada. He has been studying identity issues since 1989 with much of his research focusing on collective identity, ethnic communities, and the Fathers' Rights Movement in Canada. Dr. Kenedy's pedagogical interests include writing on pedagogical partnerships, library learning commons, and post-secondary critical thinking. Professor Kenedy is the winner of the York University Wide Teaching Award and the Glendon College Principal's Teaching Excellence award. He is also the two-time winner of the John O'Neill award for Teaching Excellence in York's Department of Sociology.

Professor Kenedy has been married for almost 14 years and lives north of Toronto with his wife and two sons.



Tarek Fatah

Multiculturalism

Tarek Fatah is host of the weekly TV show, the Muslim Chronicle, and a frequent contributor to the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, and the National Post. For

his work and perseverance as a writer and broadcaster the National Press Club of Canada awarded Fatah the 2007 Press Freedom Award. Macleans magazine named Fatah as one of 50 people it described as «Canada's most well known and respected personalities.» In 2002, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his work in the community.

Born in Pakistan, Fatah started his career in journalism with the now defunct Karachi newspaper, the SUN, before moving to the Pakistan television network PTV where he won a number of awards for his work as a pioneering investigative reporter. In 1977, Fatah moved to Saudi Arabia where he worked for 10 years in the advertising industry, before migrating to Canada in 1987.

Tarek Fatah lives in Cabbagetown, Toronto with Nargis Tapal, his wife of 33 years, and their two daughters Natasha and Nazia.



Nicole Scheidl

Cultural consequences of sexual "liberation"

Nicole Scheidl is a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Ontario and practiced for a number of years with the law firm Cunningham, Swan in Kingston. After completing a Master's in Law at Queen's University, she served as Lower School Principal at Hawthorn School for Girls, an independent school in Toronto, and as Business Development Director for Agile Communications Group in Tampa, Florida. While in Florida, Nicole began her own consulting company, the Hawthorn Group, and upon returning to Canada began working with Prolity Corporation as the Director of Business Development.

During her professional career she has also been busy raising seven children with her husband of 22 years Andrew Scheidl, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces.



Brian Lilley

Panel moderator

Brian Lilley is the Ottawa Bureau Chief for radio stations 1010 CFRB in Toronto and CJAD 800 in Montreal. A member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Brian's reports on the political happenings in Ottawa and reaches an audience in excess of 750,000 each week. In addition to his daily political reporting, Brian is also Associate Editor for Mercatornet.com, an online journal focussing on human dignity, parenting, family issues, and bioethics. In the past, Brian's work has also been carried by CBS Radio, CNN, The Hamilton Spectator, and Sun Media.

Brian lives in the south end of Ottawa with his wife Barbara and their four children.

Event details

Venue: Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel — Adam Room
1 Rideau Street, Ottawa

Programme

6:30 — 7:00 pm Arrival and registration
Light Hors-d'oeuvres (cash bar)

7:00-9:00 pm Panel discussion and question period

9:00 — 9:30 pm Networking

Registration fee:

\$40 in advance, mail-in cheque or online (**until March 13th**)
\$50 at the door (cash or cheque only).

Visit www.neeje.ca/march2009conference to purchase tickets online. Or:

Mail form with your cheque by **March 13** to:
Julieta U. - Conference Registrar
1003-10 Driveway
Ottawa, On K2P 1C7

Registration form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Phone number () _____

e-mail: _____

No. of tickets required: _____

Total payment enclosed (\$40 per ticket) : _____

Please write your cheque to:

Neeje Association for Women and Family

For information regarding your advance mail registration or on-line ticket purchase, contact registrar at registration@neeje.ca.