

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 3, 2017

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC LEN FINDLAY TO DELIVER AUNBT'S 2017 JON THOMPSON LECTURE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Dr. Findlay's lecture, "Collegial Governance in the 21st Century: Serving a Curious Collegium or An Obedience Machine?", will be delivered on both main campuses of the University of New Brunswick.

November 13, 2017, 5:30 pm
104 Oland Hall, UNB Saint John

November 14, 2017, 5:30 pm
102 Tilley Hall, UNB Fredericton

All are welcome. The lecture is free and will be preceded by a light reception.

"In the United States and increasingly in Canada," writes Henry A. Giroux, Chair of Scholarship in the Public Interest at McMaster University, "many of the problems in higher education can be linked to diminished funding, the domination of universities by market mechanisms, the rise of for-profit colleges, the intrusion of the national security state, and the diminished role of faculty in governing the university". This, according to Dr. Giroux, "contradicts the culture and democratic value of higher education and makes a mockery of the very meaning and mission of the university as a democratic public sphere".

Shared governance has served the Canadian academy well, when entered into in good faith by all parties. However, Dr. Findlay argues, that model has come under regular attack in recent years from managerial unilateralism. Academic staff must not allow such incursions, dilutions, and disfigurements from "above." Shared governance is about much more than the fashionable "shared resource" initiatives of the hour. It is about appropriate control of the university's core academic mission and appropriate attentiveness to the public interest in a publicly funded post-secondary system. How, then, Dr. Findlay asks, can we best protect and enhance shared governance today?

Len Findlay is Distinguished University Professor, Director of the Humanities Research Unit and founding member of the Indigenous Humanities Group at the University of Saskatchewan, and Past President of Academy One (Arts and Humanities) of the Royal Society of Canada. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Free Expression at Ryerson University and a member of the Board of Directors of the Harry Crowe Foundation. He served for almost a decade on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, including two terms as Chair, and he is past Chair of the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association.

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For more information, contact AUNBT President, Sue Blair (506) 453-4661 or sblairunb@gmail.com