

## **Keynote Speaker**

### **His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C.**

Rethinking Development: Local Pathways to Global Wellbeing

June 20-24, 2005

St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

Man of letters and engaged public intellectual, **His Excellency John Ralston Saul** has won an international readership for his novels and essays while animating and enlivening our public discourse by challenging Canadians to think anew about themselves and their country.

Mr. Saul has had a significant impact on political and economic thought in many countries; a reputation that was firmly established with his 1995 Massey Lectures. The resulting book, *The Unconscious Civilization*, won the 1996 Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction and the Gordon Montador Award for the Best Canadian Non-Fiction Book on social issues. His other works include *Voltaire's Bastards*, *The Doubter's Companion*, *On Equilibrium*, *Reflections of a Siamese Twin*, and five novels.

Active in the cause of freedom of speech, Mr. Saul is the former president of the Canadian Centre of International PEN (1987 – 1992) and now its Patron.

Mr. Saul has received an honorary doctorate from St. Francis Xavier University.

### **Public Debate Advocate**

Mr. Saul is engaged in many activities designed to encourage national debate among Canadians of all ages on issues, including the future of Canadian democracy and bilingual education.

Through the annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Conference, John Ralston Saul encourages Canadians to come together in a national debate on the future of Canada's civic culture. By looking back at the historical context of our democratic roots, he feels, we are in a better position as a society to discuss the way we imagine ourselves and our evolving democracy.

### **French Language Advocate**

Since 1998, Mr. Saul has been bringing together French immersion and francophone students across the country for the annual *French for the Future/Français pour l'avenir conference*. The conference has grown from a one-community event in 1997 to a cross-country forum, in 2003 linking students in twelve different cities from Vancouver to St. John's.