



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHAMBER OPENS UP MORE SEATS FOR STEPHEN HARPER EVENT Reacts to Former Prime Minister lunch selling out in one week

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber is excited to announce that after working with its partner hotels, it has been able to change the venue for former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to the City Tuesday March 12. This enables those who were not able to get in on tickets the first time to join the conversation with the former Prime Minister.

As a result of overwhelming demand, the event is being moved to the Delta Grand allowing for more people to attend. "We are extremely grateful to both the Coast Hotel for their patience as we worked through the planning for this major event and to the Delta for their assistance in making their ballroom available," says Dan Rogers, Chamber Executive Director. Current ticket holders are being contacted this week by the Chamber.

Mr Harper's recently published *Right Here, Right Now: Politics and Leadership in the Age of Disruption* includes messages that resonate with Kelowna audiences. The event, an "In Conversation with" format, includes a three-course luncheon. All attendees receive a copy of his book. Registration is available through the Chamber website www.kelownachamber.org.

Carmen Sparg, Chamber President said when announcing the move to a larger space, "We're delighted that our members and the public at large have shown a strong appetite to come and hear the 22nd Prime Minister of Canada in this rare public visit to Kelowna. We're really looking forward to hearing first-hand about some international current events, including populism issues in developed countries."

Mr Harper will present his thoughts following luncheon service, "In Conversation" in a Q&A format with a moderator, and then take questions from the audience. The event is Tuesday March 12 at the Delta Grand.

The *National Post* noted that Harper writes about "the so-called 'deplorables' who have voted establishment figures out of office and that they deserve a careful hearing. Their concerns point to deep problems with globalization — and they aren't going away."

Harper's many years as an elected MP from Alberta (from 1993 to 1997 and 2002 to 2015) have made him a familiar face to many ex-pat Albertans now living in Kelowna. He holds a BA and an MA in Economics from the University of Calgary.

Stephen J. Harper is an economist, entrepreneur, and former G-7 leader who served as Canada's 22nd Prime Minister for nearly a decade, from February 6, 2006 to November 4, 2015. Today, he is the Chairman and CEO of Harper & Associates Consulting, helping clients navigate global business risk. He speaks regularly to global audiences about investment trends, international trade and geopolitics. In 2018, Harper was elected Chairman of the International Democrat Union, the world's pre-eminent alliance of centre-right political parties.

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