

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 5, 2009**

## THE MARK NEWS WELCOMES A BATCH OF NEW AND NOTABLE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTORS

James Laxer, Charles Pachter, Michael Valpy, Roland Pemberton, and Frank Addario become the newest contributors to The Mark, Canada's online source for news commentary and debate.

Toronto, ON-- [The Mark News](#), Canada's daily online forum for news, commentary and debate, is pleased to welcome a new group of talented Canadians as contributors.

*"The addition of these outstanding Canadians to our roster of contributors is a great development for The Mark," says Jeff Anders, CEO of The Mark News. "The diversity and quality of this group of new contributors – artists, a politician, a lawyer and a journalist, each outstanding in his field – will give readers insight into the themes, trends and developments in news worldwide."*

The Mark recruits [contributors](#) using two criteria: professional credibility and a connection to Canada. The Mark does not select contributors based on how they vote, where they live, or what language they prefer, and certainly doesn't dictate what they write. The result is a community of thinkers and doers that reflects all points of view on politics, business, science and technology, and the arts. Though The Mark encourages contributors to express their bias, The Mark is not anchored to any one ideology itself, following the motto "You think, [we](#) curate."

### JAMES LAXER

Media commentator; Professor of political science, York University.

Mr. Laxer is regularly asked to comment on current national and global issues by the Canadian media, and frequently writes columns in major newspapers and periodicals. In 1969, he was one of the founders of the Waffle Group, Canada's largest New Left political movement. In 1971, at the age of 29, he ran second for the national leadership of the New Democratic Party. In the mid 1970s, he was a leading crusader against the power of multi national petroleum companies. In 1984, the National Film Board of Canada hired him to be host narrator, for a series of documentaries on the changing global economy and Canada's place in it. The Reckoning series has won awards in both the United States and Canada. One of its films won the blue ribbon (first prize) at the prestigious American Film and Video Festival for best political documentary.

### CHARLES PACHTER

Contemporary Canadian artist; Member of the Order of Canada.

[Mr. Pachter](#) is one of Canada's leading contemporary artists. He is Toronto born and represented in public and private collections worldwide. His murals of the Montréal Canadiens face the Toronto



THE MARK

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Maple Leafs in Toronto's College Subway Station. His images of the queen, moose, and maple leaf flag are pop icons of Canadian contemporary art. Books include *The Journals of Susanna Moodie*, his celebrated collaboration with poet Margaret Atwood, and the children's book, *M is for Moose*. He is a member of the Order of Canada, a Chevalier of France's Order of Arts and Letters, and holds honorary doctorates from Brock University and the Ontario College of Art & Design.

### MICHAEL VALPY

Award-winning journalist and author.

Mr. Valpy is an award-winning Canadian journalist and author. He writes for *The Globe and Mail* where he made his reputation on both political and human interest stories. Through a long career at the *Globe*, he has been a reporter, Ottawa-based national political columnist, member of the editorial board, deputy managing editor, Africa-based correspondent during the last years of apartheid, and religious affairs columnist. He also has been a national political columnist for *The Vancouver Sun*. He has won three National Newspaper Awards, and one nomination, co-authored three books (two on Canada's Constitution and the third on the 21st-century generation of new Canadian adults), produced public affairs documentaries for CBC Radio, contributed chapters to several books on public policy issues and written for *Maclean's*, *Time Canada*, *Policy Options*, *Shambhala Sun*, and *Elm Street*. In 1997, he was awarded an honorary doctorate (D.Litt) from Trent University. He also received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002. He is a senior fellow at Massey College at the University of Toronto.

### ROLAND PEMBERTON

Rap artist; Poet Laureate, Edmonton.

Mr. Pemberton, aka Cadence Weapon, continues to firmly establish his legacy as a pioneer in a passionate crusade to push the rap and electronic music envelope. At 23, he is internationally recognized as an innovative and accomplished writer, producer, rapper, touring artist ... and now Edmonton's Poet Laureate. In the course from his debut album *Breaking Kayfabe* to his sophomore record *Afterparty Babies*, he came of age. While most young people were struggling to focus on a sneaker brand for more than a week, the young (and underage) Cadence would slip into clubs to play shows with Spank Rock, Lady Sovereign, Jurassic 5, TTC, New Pornographers, Final Fantasy, and De La Soul. All before he was barely legal, he rocked guest performances with The Klaxons, Hot Chip, and Islands; he remixed Lady Sovereign, Kid Sister, Disco D, Busdriver, Rick Ross/Simian Mobile Disco; he was featured on tracks with Buck 65, Anti MC, A-Trak, Shout Out Out Out Out and Shuttle; he inked deals with legendary labels, Epitaph USA and Big Dada for the UK and Europe.

### FRANK ADDARIO

President, the Ontario Criminal Lawyers' Association.

Mr. Addario's practice focuses on criminal and constitutional litigation. He has appeared as counsel in every level of Court in Ontario and in the Supreme Court of Canada. He is a regular speaker on criminal and constitutional law at continuing education programs. For most of the last decade, he taught trial advocacy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and appellate advocacy for the



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Advocates Society. He has published several articles of interest to both the legal community and the wider public. He has a history of community involvement, having been a director on such diverse boards as Jessie's Centre for Teenagers, Toronto Artscape Inc., Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, and the Canadian Conference of the Arts. He is the President of the Ontario Criminal Lawyers' Association (an organization of over 1000 members across Canada), a Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and an Advocacy Advisor for the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He received his law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1985.

#### ABOUT THE MARK

The Mark is Canada's daily online forum for news commentary and debate. It is founded on the idea that thousands of credible Canadians, here and abroad, have important things to say but cannot reach a national audience. For these Canadians, The Mark is their platform. *The Mark* is unique in that its content is written by a hand-picked community of experts and not by journalists or professional writers. It publishes high-quality original written, audio and video content for distribution through the web, print, radio, television and live events.

#### **For More Information, Please Contact:**

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