

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 20, 2009**

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

**Michael Geist, Charles Lammam, Brett Skinner, Ken Lum, David Berlin, and  
Karen Takacs join The Mark, Canada's new 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.

*"We're delighted to welcome this outstanding, diverse group of new contributors," says Jeff Anders, CEO of The Mark News. "Artists, academics and politicians of all political stripes – this group is a microcosm of our 400-person strong community of contributors."*

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."

[Dr. Michael Geist](#) is a law Professor at the University of Ottawa where he holds the Canada Research Chair in internet and e-commerce law. He has obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees from Cambridge University, UK, and Columbia Law School in New York, and a Doctorate in Law (J.S.D.) from Columbia Law School. He has written numerous academic articles and government reports on internet law and was a member of Canada's National Task Force on Spam. He is an internationally syndicated columnist on technology law issues with his regular column appearing in the *Toronto Star*, *Ottawa Citizen*, and the BBC.

[Mr. Charles Lammam](#) is a Policy Analyst in the Fiscal Studies Department at the [Fraser Institute](#). Since joining the Institute on a full-time basis in July 2008, he has worked on a wide range of public policy issues including charitable giving, public-private partnerships in transportation, and the consequences of an aging population. Mr. Lammam is co-author of "Government Failure in Canada, 2007 Report," a major study examining the instances and costs of government failure in Canada. He holds a B.A. in economics and is completing a Master's of public policy from Simon Fraser University.

[Mr. Brett Skinner](#) is the Director of Bio-Pharma & Health Policy, Director of Insurance Policy



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Research, as well as Managing Director of the Institute's Toronto office. He is a Ph.D candidate specializing in public policy, at the University of Western Ontario where he has lectured in both the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Political Science Department. He earned a B.A. through the University of Windsor and an M.A. through joint studies between the University of Windsor and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

[Mr. Ken Lum](#) is a Canadian conceptual artist of Chinese heritage who lives and works in Vancouver, British Columbia. His work is primarily concerned with issues of identity as related to language and portraiture. He is currently working on a permanent public art commission due to open in 2010 for the city of Utrecht, The Netherlands, in a troubled, but dynamic, multi-ethnic district undergoing redevelopment. A book of his writings from Walther Koenig Books (Cologne) is forthcoming. In 2008, he completed a book project, titled *Ultimo Bagaglio* (Three Star Press, Paris) with French philosopher Hubert Damisch.

[Mr. David Berlin](#) is an award-winning writer and editor. His work has appeared in *Saturday Night, The Literary Review of Canada* (where he was the editor-in-chief from 1998-2001), *The Globe and Mail, The National Post, and Haaretz Newspaper*, among others. He is a founding editor of *The Walrus*. He is the author of *What is Left?* (Mosaic Press, 1998), and the forthcoming *The Dream State* (Random House, Fall 2010). He received a Ph.D from the University of Chicago (1982) after attending medical school at Tel Aviv University (1970-1974).

[Ms. Karen Takacs](#) is the Executive Director of [Canadian Crossroads International \(CCI\)](#), an international development organization working to eradicate poverty, mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS, and achieve women's equality. She has extensive experience working in partnership with communities to help them meet their objectives. She has worked with women's groups, and low-income and marginalized communities in Canada and internationally. She has also written on numerous social policy issues addressing women's equality, poverty, homelessness, and mental health, as well as volunteer cooperation and international development. She is a former director with the International Forum on Development Service, an international association of Volunteer Cooperation Agencies, and is currently Chair of the Board of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC). She holds a Master's of Management for National Voluntary Sector Leaders from McGill University.

#### 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.



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