

**Title: How Higher Education is Ruining the Future.**

**Date: Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Speaker: Peter Brown**

**Time: 12-2pm**

**Place: Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West, Ottawa**

Cost: \$25 general admission; \$20 for members, their spouses and student guests. The downstairs ante-room and dining area will be open at 11:30 a.m. for those who wish to meet and greet friends and colleagues prior to lunch.

Please confirm attendance by replying to this e-mail on or before Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that CACOR is responsible for payment of guests who have registered. If you register and need to change your commitment, please inform us as well before Monday November 16<sup>th</sup> thank you for your assistance in this matter. We unfortunately will follow up with an invoice for those who were not able to honour their commitment.

In order to accommodate all members, associates and guests please indicate your presence to this event as soon as possible. Please indicate as well your dietary needs: vegetarian, vegan or other.

**About the presentation:**

The current economic system rests on a number of false assumptions from the Enlightenment and is now destabilizing the Earth's life support capacity. This is just the tip of the iceberg concerning the need to rethink and reground our thought systems. Finance, political liberalism, ethics, "property" are all in arrears in addressing the crises of the Anthropocene.

**About the speaker:**

Peter G. Brown is a Professor at McGill University where he holds appointments at the School of Environment, and the Departments of Geography and Natural Resource Sciences. He holds a BA from Haverford College; an MA from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in the philosophy of religion; and a PhD from Columbia University in philosophy. His career has concentrated on the practical uses of philosophy to think critically about the goals of society. Since the 1980s this work has centered on the deterioration of Earth's life support capacity and the thought systems that facilitate and legitimate this decline.

He is the author of *Restoring the Public Trust: A Fresh Vision for Progressive Government in America*, and *The Commonwealth of Life: Economics for a*

**Flourishing Earth.** He is also a co-author of a book on macro-economics and global governance entitled **Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy**; and co-edited/authored **Water Ethics: Foundational Readings for Students and Professionals**. His **Ethics for Economics in the Anthropocene** was recently published in the Teilhard Series. He is a contributor to, and co-editor of, **Ecological Economics for the Anthropocene: An Emerging Paradigm** published in August of 2015 by Columbia University Press. He has edited numerous other books, and written many articles and chapters. Before coming to McGill he taught at St. John's College, the University of Maryland (where he founded the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, the School of Public Policy, and the School's Environmental Program), and Princeton University.

He is currently the Principal Investigator of **Economics for the Anthropocene: Re-grounding the human/Earth relationship**, a partnership between McGill, the University of Vermont, and York University in Toronto. With a budget of over five million dollars it aims to educate up to 60 PhD's in the foundations of ecological economics; offer critical perspectives on the foundations of neo-classical economics, finance, law, governance and ethics; and offer first hand experiences in responding the pressing issues relating to water, energy, and climate justice, and stimulate and participate in global efforts to respond to the challenges of the Anthropocene.

He is involved in tree farming and conservation efforts in Maryland, Maine, and Quebec--in all three locations his land is under permanent conservation easements ("servitudes"). He is a **Certified Quebec Forest Producer**; was named "**Tree Farmer of the Year**" in Garrett County, Maryland; has served as the "**Steward**" of Walker Pond in Hancock County, Maine; and helped to found major conservation initiatives in Maryland and Quebec. In 2012 he established a brook trout sanctuary on the upper Savage River in the mountains in Maryland, in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

He is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and the Club of Rome.