

ABC 2012 Confirmed Speakers



Senator Don Plett
Delegates Breakfast – Monday June 25, 2012

Senator Donald Neil Plett was born to parents Archie and Ruby on May 14, 1950. He grew up in a small town of 900 people at the longitudinal center of Canada, Landmark, Manitoba. Don attended and graduated from Red River College in Winnipeg. As an alumni member Don served on the Board of Governors of the College. Don is also an active member of the Amadeus Steen Foundation board of directors. Archie Plett, Don's father, started Landmark Mechanical, a heating and ventilation company in 1957. In 1987 Don took over from his father and built a strong foundation for the family business. In 2007 two of his sons took over the successful business with a seamless transition. Family is very important to Don. He has been happily married to wife Betty Plett since 1968 and they have four sons together as well as seven adorable grandchildren. Don has shown a huge commitment to his Manitoba community by being active in sports, church, politics and other volunteer efforts. Don has always had a passion for politics. Don's

political involvement includes:

- ◆ Volunteering federally, campaigning for the Honourable Jake Epp, at the young age of 15.
- ◆ Serving as the President of the Chamber of Commerce, a Village Council Member, the Chairman of the Village Council and the Chairman of the Utilities Board.
- ◆ Serving as a board member and president of the La Verendrye PC association.
- ◆ Serving on the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba Executive Committee.
- ◆ Numerous Progressive Conservative Federal campaign teams as a strategist and planner.
- ◆ Vice President of the Provencher Alliance Party Board of Directors.
- ◆ Successfully managing the 2000 Alliance campaign for the Honourable Vic Toews.
- ◆ Serving two years on the Alliance National Council.
- ◆ President and Chief Operating Officer of the Alliance Party of Canada.
- ◆ Worked tirelessly on the merger of the Conservative parties.
- ◆ Becoming the first President and subsequently twice re-elected as the President of the Conservative Party of Canada.

On August 27th, 2009 Don was appointed to the Senate of Canada by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and is the second Mennonite to be appointed to the Senate since Confederation. In the Senate he serves on the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the National Security and Defence Committee as well as the Veterans Affairs Committee, where he serves as the Vice-Chair. On learning of Don's appointment, Dan Lett of the Winnipeg Free Press has been quoted as saying that "we should all want the Don Pletts of the world in the Senate."



Jeffrey Simpson, Leading Canadian Columnist
Business Session #1 – Monday June 25, 2012

National affairs columnist with The Globe and Mail, Simpson has been recognized with Canada's top literary awards: the Governor-General's award for non-fiction writing, the National Magazine Award for political writing, and the National Newspaper Award for his newspaper columns. Award-winning journalist and current events expert Jeffrey Simpson has his finger on the pulse of Canada and the world.

National affairs columnist with The Globe and Mail, Simpson has been recognized with Canada's top literary awards: the Governor-General's award for non-fiction writing, the National Magazine Award for political writing, and the

National Newspaper Award for his newspaper columns.

Simpson's presentations are alive with the same unique and thought-provoking insight as his columns. With clarity and detail, he offers a concise interpretation of Canada and the world around us.



Dr. Linda Duxbury
Business Session #2 – Monday June 25, 2012

Dr. Linda Duxbury has published widely in both the academic and practitioner literatures in the area of work-family conflict, supportive work environments, stress, telework, the use and impact of office technology, Linda Duxbury is a Professor at the Sprott School of Business, Carleton University. She received an M.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Management Sciences from the University of Waterloo. Within the past decade she has completed majors study on Balancing Work and Family in the Public, Private Sectors and Not For Profit Sectors; HR and Work-Family Issues in the Small Business Sector; Management Support (What is it and Why does it Matter?); Career Development in the Public Sector and in the High Tech Sector; generational differences in work values.



John Stanton - ING Marathon 2006

John Stanton
Delegates and Companions Breakfast – Tuesday, June 26, 2012

A three-kilometer fun run with his sons in 1981 was the catalyst for the then out-of-shape, overweight John Stanton to realize he had to change his lifestyle. A food industry executive who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, he began running secretly before dawn because he felt self-conscious about having his neighbors see "this chubby little guy" who could only run from lamp post to lamp post before having to take a walk break.

John went on to run over 60 marathons, hundreds of road races, and numerous triathlons, including the Hawaiian World Championship Ironman competition. His pre-dawn runs would ultimately become John Stanton's 10:1 run/walk combination that has helped close to a million people do everything from learn to run to complete marathons, upright and smiling.

The first store a meeting place for runners, opened in 1984 in an 8x10 foot room of an old house shared with a hairdressing shop in Edmonton. More than 25 years later, the Running Room is one of North America's most recognized names in running and walking. His sons John Jr. and Jason are now partners with John in the family-owned company which has more than 100 stores and 1,300 employees in Canada and the USA.

A best-selling Canadian author of eight books on running and walking, John Stanton released his newest book in April 2010, the much anticipated *Running: The Complete Guide to Building Your Running Program*. Maclean's magazine's Canada Day Honour Roll named the Running Room founder one of 10 Canadians making a difference in our nation for his contribution to health through fitness. John Stanton is a member of the Alberta Business Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of the Dr. Harold N. Segall Award of Merit, recognizing his significant contribution to the prevention of cardiovascular disease and the promotion of cardiovascular health in Canadians. In 2010, The Canadian Medical Association awarded him the Award for Excellence in Health Promotion. He is a Member of the Order of Canada and the Hon. Lt. Col. of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI) and most recently inducted into the Canadian Retail Hall of Fame.

John is regularly featured on CBC, CTV, Global Television, the National Post, the Globe and Mail, and numerous radio and television programs across Canada and the United States.



Keynote Speaker – Tuesday, June 26, 2012

A paraplegic from the age of 13, Chantal discovered a passion for sports while seeking a physical activity suited to her post-accident condition. Wheelchair racing helped her to regain confidence in her abilities and sharpened her desire to test her limits. Her coach was struck by her determination and less than a year later, Chantal competed in her first race. In 1991, coach Peter Eriksson taught her how to handle the mental aspects of her sport and how to avoid becoming intimidated by opponents. Twice breaking the world record time in the 100m and now a multiple Gold medal Paralympian, Chantal's perseverance and discipline has allowed her to triumph over any obstacle impeding her success. There is not a limit that Chantal does not strive to beat.

In June 2009 Chantal was honored with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame and then July 2009 she was appointed as Companion of the Order of Canada (the highest level of the Order) for "her achievements as a Paralympic champion known internationally as an inspiration, and for her commitment to developing sports for athletes with a disability.

The Beijing Games would be the last time she would be participating in track competitions, Chantal Petitclerc nevertheless continues to train as she intends to take part in road marathons over the next few years.

Chantal Petitclerc is a highly sought after speaker, and shares her story with dozens of groups each year, both throughout Canada and abroad. She participates in projects by various Paralympic athletics and sports organizations, in addition to working as a spokesperson for Défi Sportif in Montréal and as an ambassador for the international Right to Play organization.

Chantal was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. Chantal is among the remarkable athletes who serve as a profound reminder of the depth and breadth of our nation's rich sporting landscape.