

## **Jeremy Kinsman**

Jeremy Kinsman gave a candid, animated talk that traced the ebbs and flows of Canada's partnership with Europe. The early post-war decades were marked by Canada's complex relationships with France and Britain, and by an inward-focused program of Canadian economic nation-building. Nevertheless, the 1976 framework on cooperation with Canada marked the European Community's first external political agreement, launching an exchange that grew throughout the 1980s and 90s. Canada and the EU became critical partners in the project of integration and the uniting of post-Cold War Europe, and our shared world view made us effective leaders on the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the ban on land mines and the Responsibility to Protect doctrine. While the last 10 years have seen a lapse in the relationship, new leadership may mean greater Canadian openness and engagement with Europe.

Audience members responded with questions on the theme of change in Europe and what it might mean for Canada's partnership with the EU. Economic and political strains placed on the Union, the ongoing transition of Central and Eastern European member countries, and the rise of extremism all pose serious challenges, but Ambassador Kinsman's perspective on these questions was generally hopeful. The EU may be focused inward in the coming years as it addresses internal challenges, however the long-term prospect for consensus, compromise, and growing partnerships is both positive and inevitable.

One question asked was how attendees can help build the case for Canada-EU integration: the Ambassador highlighted an important role for educators in fostering globalized identities and attitudes already present amongst undergraduate students today.