



For Immediate Release

February 18, 2008

DOMINION INSTITUTE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN

Toronto, February 18, 2008 – Rudyard Griffiths, co-founder and executive director of the Dominion Institute, Canada's largest history and citizenship think-tank, announced today he is stepping down after ten years at the organization's helm. Mr. Griffiths will remain with the Institute until a new executive director is hired and continue to sit on the Institute's board of governors.

"Launching the Institute and leading its development over the last decade has been a phenomenal personal and professional experience," said Rudyard Griffiths, 37. "The Institute has always been an organization led by young people for young people. After ten years of building the Institute – its programs, staff, donors and national volunteer network – we are now in a position to make the transition from a founder-run organization to a new generation of leadership."

Charlotte Gray, historian, Institute governor and chair of the search committee for the Institute's new executive director, commented on Rudyard Griffiths' ten years of stewardship: "Rudyard has made an outstanding contribution. He has made history matter to a new generation, through the imaginative use of interactive media, public opinion polling, documentaries, and books that explore rather than avoid the touchy and controversial issues of Canada's past."

Ms. Gray said that the Dominion Institute is launching its search process today and is anticipating an impressive list of candidates coming forward. "This is a unique opportunity for someone to assume the leadership of a successful national organization that tackles issues that Canadians care deeply about. The Dominion Institute has a great track record, and a sterling reputation for innovation, excellence and relevance," stated Ms. Gray.

Under Mr. Griffiths' direction, the Dominion Institute has grown from a one-person office with a budget of \$150,000 in its first year of operation into a national organization with annual revenues of \$1,500,000. In addition to raising over \$15 million to undertake dozens of initiatives to promote greater knowledge and appreciation of Canadian history and citizenship, Mr. Griffiths spearheaded the creation of a series of nationally recognized educational programs that bring local community volunteers – primarily veterans and recent immigrants to Canada – into classrooms to talk about Canadian history and citizenship with a quarter of a million young people each year.

For further information please contact:

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The Dominion Institute (www.dominion.ca) is a charitable organization devoted to building active and informed citizens through greater knowledge and appreciation of the Canadian story.



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THE DOMINION INSTITUTE BY THE NUMBERS

- Toronto-based, national charitable organization dedicated to promoting greater knowledge of Canadian history and active and informed citizenship
- Founded Canada Day 1997 by Rudyard Griffiths, Michael Chong, M.P. for Wellington-Halton Hills and Erik Penz, a litigator with the law firm Macleod Dixon
- Rudyard Griffiths has been the full-time executive director since 1997
- Start-up funding of \$150,000 from the Donner Canadian Foundation
- \$15,000,000 in new funds raised since inception
- Dominion Institute initiated research and projects mentioned in over 4,000 print, radio and television stories since 1997
- Notable “one-off” initiatives:
 - Re-Trial of Louis Riel with CBC Television and the National Post (2002)
 - World’s first text messaging Q&A between politicians and voters (2004 federal election)
 - National campaign for a State Funeral for the last veteran of World War One (2006)
- Notable “on-going” projects:
 - Annual Canada Day history quizzes with Ipsos-Reid (1997-2007)
 - Memory Project helps 1,500 veterans talk with 750,000 school children since 2001
 - Passages to Canada helps 600 immigrant leaders talk with 50,000 youth since 2003
 - Web archive captures the oral histories of over 1,000 World War Two veterans since 2003
 - Our Story Award Competition recognises 350 young Aboriginal writers since 2004
- Public opinion research featured in the *New York Times*, *Fox News*, *The Economist*, *The BBC*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and countless Canadian publications
- 18 hours of original television production on history and citizenship themes
- 14 trade book publications including three Canadian best sellers
- Commissioning over \$1.5 million of public opinion research on Canadians’ knowledge and attitudes about their country’s history, citizenship, and national symbols