



GLOBAL  
CENTRE FOR  
PLURALISM

CENTRE  
MONDIAL DU  
PLURALISME

GLOBAL  
PLURALISM AWARD

PRIX MONDIAL  
DU PLURALISME

## Rapporteur Final Assignment

**Author: Lisa Hartman**

**November 2017**

### **A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Global Centre for Pluralism 2017 Award**

This week, Ottawa will welcome ten outstanding activists from around the world who boldly work to foster a value much needed in today's society: inclusion. And why Ottawa? The ten individuals and organizations will be honoured by the [Global Centre for Pluralism](#), which is hosting its inaugural [Global Pluralism Award](#) Ceremony. The Award Ceremony will recognize ten [finalists](#) who strive daily to ensure that human diversity is protected and valued. From this group, three award winners were chosen and will be awarded \$50,000 Canadian dollars to continue their work.

In advance of the ceremony, we will give you a sneak peek into how and why the finalists were chosen. Over the past two years, the Global Centre for Pluralism reviewed approximately 200 nominees from over 40 countries who work to combat division, xenophobia, oppression, and violence based on difference. A Screening Committee narrowed the list down to 30, and then handed the difficult task over to the independent jury.

The [jury](#) for this year's prize contains leaders in business, government, and civil society from around the world. The jury included the Right Honourable Joe Clark (Former Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada), His Worship Naheed Nenshi (Mayor of Calgary), Advocate Bience Gawanas (Lawyer and Special Advisor to the Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare of Namibia), Dr. Dante Caputo (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina), and Ms. Pascale Thumerelle (Former Vice-president, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Vivendi).

Tasked with a challenging but inspiring job, the jury chose ten finalists who exhibited remarkable and sustained achievements – often individuals or organizations that worked selflessly on issues that others found too dangerous or impossible to tackle. All ten finalists will attend the ceremony this week in Ottawa to showcase their impactful work.

At this point, the staff of the Global Centre for Pluralism dug even deeper into the tremendous work the finalists were performing. The staff criss-crossed the globe to meet with the finalists, interview them, and film videos about the work of the winners.

After this due diligence process, the Jury chose three award winners who best embody the Global Centre for Pluralism's definition of pluralism. The goal of the award is to give recognition to individuals and groups who work tirelessly – in all walks of life – to create more inclusive societies.