

Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society presents:

Personal Journeys

Two distinguished panellists speak about the influences that have shaped their lives and led to success in their respective fields.

Panelists

When
May 6 (Thursday)
7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Where
Library & Archives Canada
Auditorium

Admission
Free

Moderator

Michael Bhardwaj

host of *In Town and Out*
on CBC Radio One

Errol Mendes

is a lawyer, professor, author and advisor to corporations, governments, civil society groups, and the United Nations. His areas of expertise include corporate law, governance and social responsibility, international business, trade and public law, constitutional law, and human rights law and policy. He has taught in these areas at law schools across Canada and is presently a full Professor of law at the University of Ottawa. He has also been a human rights Tribunal member in Canada, acted as an international arbitrator and an advisor in Canada's Privy Council Office, and recently served as a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.



While his ethnic roots are from Goa, India, Professor Mendes was born in Kenya, East Africa. He obtained his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Exeter in the UK, and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Illinois. In 1979, he emigrated to Canada and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1986.

Prof. Mendes has lectured and given media commentaries across Canada and throughout the world. He led a project on human rights in China in partnership with Beijing University.

He has authored, co-authored, or edited several other books, including the landmark constitutional law text, *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, 3rd Edition, Carswell, 1996. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Canada's leading constitutional law journal, *The National Journal of Constitutional Law*.

In 2006, Prof. Mendes was awarded the Walter S. Tarnopolsky Human Rights Award by the Canadian Section of the International Commission of Jurists and the Canadian Bar Association for his human rights work in Canada and across the world.

Vincent Lam



was born in London, Ontario, into a family from the expatriate Chinese community of Vietnam. Two years later, they moved to Ottawa where he was raised on his father's stories, and works by C.S. Lewis and Roald Dahl, and developed aspirations to become a writer. Vincent also developed an interest in medicine, and enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Now a writer, and an emergency physician at the Toronto East General Hospital, Vincent's first book, *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*, won the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 2006, the first debut work ever to do so. Vincent is also the youngest writer to win this prize. *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures* was adapted for television and recently broadcast on HBO Canada. His forthcoming novel, *Cholon, Near Forgotten*, tells the tale of a Chinese gambler in 1960's Saigon. Vincent is also writing a biography of Tommy Douglas for the Penguin Canada Extraordinary Canadians Series.

Vincent is a contributor to many publications, and has won a National Magazine Award. He is a Lecturer in medicine at the University of Toronto and has worked in international air evacuation and expedition medicine on Arctic and Antarctic ships. He lives with his wife and family in Toronto.

