

Overflow crowd reacts strongly to the Thursday opening plenary session

Linda McQuaig mixes humour, economics and politics

“We are suffering through a bad global economy. It’s possible to turn things around.” Opening plenary speaker Linda McQuaig wowed a full house Thursday morning, mixing humour, economics, and exploded government myths in explaining the current crisis in public sector funding.

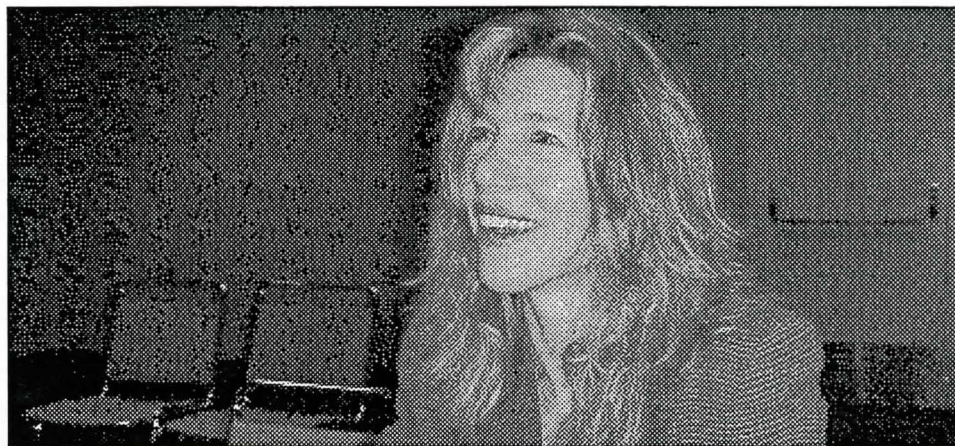
The shifting of public sector jobs to the private sector is contributing to the “inequality of access as individuals. We are moving away from a society where everyone belongs, we’re no longer a whole community when people are forced to look after their individual needs,” said McQuaig.

The activism of OLA impressive

McQuaig is not a prophet of doom. She is “pleased with the activism of OLA” and says we should question what’s happening. It is possible to turn things around and move toward a “good global economy,” as was experienced from the mid-forties to the mid-seventies. This would serve the interest of the broader community.

“Public pressure works,” said McQuaig, and she cited the recent examples of the recall of the MAI Treaty and the rejection of the proposed bank mergers as examples of governments listening to public opinion and not bowing to the financial masters.

McQuaig made numerous references to



her books *Shooting the hippo* and *The cult of impotence*, indicating that governments, are to some extent, faking their powerlessness. This feigned impotence, and the mythology governments create allows governments to be run by the financial market without having to provide the real reasons for harsh social and economic policies.

The government will listen

If her behind-the-scenes glimpses at

how our bureaucracy works weren’t so funny, they’d be downright scary.

“The problem is not globalization or technology. What has changed is the political will of governments to stand up to the financial markets,” said McQuaig. But she remained optimistic. “When the public is motivated and organized around an issue, the government listens.”

Her books are still available at the OLA Store. Worth more than a look.

Autographing schedule

Session	Store	EXPO '99
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Friday

Hugh Brewster	Breakfast and 501		
Ken Oppel	Breakfast and 501	12:10	12:35
ShereeFitch	615	12:10	12:35
Gayle Friesen	720	12:10	12:35
Arlene Perly Rae	614	12:10	12:35
Koehlin/Zwann	712	12:00	12:35
Kady Denton	417	12:35	1:00
David Bouchard	615	12:35	1:00
Norah McClintock	720	12:35	1:00
Marjan Glavak	613	12:35	1:00
William Bell	720	1:00	1:25
Pat Hancock	720	1:00	1:25
Robert Sutherland		1:00	1:25
Arlene Chan	615	1:00	1:25
Peter Sís	813	1:25	1:50
Katherine Barber	510 (meet her at her session)		

Saturday

Peter Sís	Luncheon (autographing after his speech)
Paul Hoffert	1102 (autographing after his session)
Andrée Lacelle	1106 (autographing after her session)

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and Policy is now Booth 520

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Plan is now Booth 522

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Digital Frog International is now Booth 707

Education Safety Association of Ontario is
now Booth 126

Companion is now Booth 704

Louisiana Catalog has changed to 531

Manlea Enterprises is now Booth 620