

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Mark Kingwell to discuss global citizenship and *The World We Want***

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WATERLOO – What does it mean to be a citizen in a world where borders have lost their traditional significance and logos are more identifiable than national flags? Author and cultural critic Mark Kingwell will discuss these issues and his new book, *The World We Want: Virtue, Vice and the Good Citizen*, on Tuesday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre.

In *The World We Want*, Kingwell draws on the history of Western philosophy – responding to philosophers from Plato in ancient Greece to Walter Benjamin in the mid-20th century – to help solve today's most pressing dilemmas. He argues that citizenship addresses our need to belong and brings the ethical commitments of care and respect back to communities. Canada, he contends, is one of the few countries best prepared to accept the open-ended models of citizenship needed in the next century.

"Mark Kingwell persuades us of the importance of thinking of things we don't otherwise take seriously – that is, media and popular culture," says communication studies professor David Black, who will introduce Kingwell at Tuesday's event. "The role of the transnational citizen is, for him, the ways in which people can humanize and democratize globalization."

Kingwell is an award-winning political and cultural theorist, and a philosophy professor at the University of Toronto. He has written for magazines such as *Shift*, *Saturday Night*, *Descant* and *Adbusters*, and is the author of five books, including *Dreams of Millennium: Report from a Culture on the Brink* and *Better Living: In Pursuit of Happiness from Plato to Prozac*.

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– Mark Kingwell / 2 –

This is the most recent event in the Laurier Bookstore's Meet the Author series. In the past 15 years, the Laurier Bookstore has brought to the community such world-renowned authors as Margaret Atwood, Timothy Findlay, W.O. Mitchell and Jack Granatstein.

– 30 –