NRES / CSAM RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FRIDAY

OCT. 7, 2005

3:30 - 4:30 pm

LECTURE THEATRE 9-200 (Medical Building)

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 3:15 PM

NOTE NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN LECTURE THEATRE

The Honorable Frank Oberle, PC

At Odds with History and Convention

Frank Oberle was born in Forchheim, Germany, and survived the turmoil of Hitler's Germany and post-war chaos before immigrating to Canada in 1951. His career has ranged from logger, gold miner, rancher and town mayor before he served six consecutive terms as Member of Parliament for the Prince George Peace River constituency. In 1985, Frank became Canada's first German-born federal cabinet member as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made him Minister of State for Science and Technology when the famed Canadarm was sent into space. He was also the last man ever appointed to a federal forestry portfolio, where he proved to be a man of vision, willing to confront the clear-cutters and to demand sustainable forest management. He received the Canadian Forestry Achievement Award in 1992 and was a founding member of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

His first book, *Finding Home: A War Child's Journey to Peace* is set against the backdrops of the Second World War and the raw British Columbia frontier. It covers Oberle's fascinating life story up until the time he returned to Germany for a visit, after having lived a decade in Canada. His second book, *A Chosen Path: From Moccasin Flats to Parliament Hill* continues his life story, combining reflection and the perspective of retirement to shed light on what he believes is right and wrong in our political world.

Frank Oberle lives with his wife in Nanoose Bay, B.C. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

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