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NORTHERN LIGHTS

*Exploring Canada's Think
Tank Landscape*

By DONALD E. ABELSON

IN-STORE AUTHOR EVENT

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Pub Date - September 2016

"Unique in its rigorous analysis of Canadian think tanks, and its systematic comparison with parallel institutions in the United States, *Northern Lights* both addresses and elaborates upon Weaver's typology while presenting original insights on the core features of think tanks and the trend from research to advocacy." **Kent Calder, Johns Hopkins University**

Think tanks are often thought of as a uniquely US phenomenon. Although the largest concentration of think tanks is in the United States, they can be found in virtually every country. Often overlooked, Canada's think tanks represent a highly diverse and eclectic group of public policy organizations such as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the C.D. Howe Institute, the Fraser Institute, and the Mowat Centre, among others.

In *Northern Lights*, Donald Abelson explores the rise of think tanks in Canada and addresses many of the most commonly asked questions about how, and under what circumstances, they are able to affect public opinion and public policy. He identifies the ways in which Canadian think tanks often prioritize

political advocacy over policy research, and seeks to explain why these organizations are well-suited and equipped to shape the discourse around key policy issues.

The first comprehensive examination of think tanks in Canada, ***Northern Lights*** is both a primer for those looking to understand the role and function of think tanks in the policy-making process and a guide to the leading policy institutes in the country.

“Very little is known about think tanks in Canada, but this volume fills in much of the missing information - who they are, what role they play in the policy process, how they have developed over time. *Northern Lights* is a substantial addition to the academic literature on politics and policy.”

Keith Brownsey, Mount Royal University

Donald E. Abelson is professor and chair of political science at the University of Western Ontario and the author of *A Capitol Idea: Think Tanks and U.S. Foreign Policy* and *Do Think Tanks Matter?: Assessing the Impact of Public Policy Institutes*.

Northern Lights: Exploring Canada's Think Tank Landscape

By Donald E. Abelson

\$32.95 CAD & USD 978-0-7735-4764-3 Paper 6 x 9 392 pages

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