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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Margaret Atwood to receive 2018 Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship**

*Celebrated author and activist to be honoured at 6 Degrees Toronto*

**TORONTO, July 18, 2018**—The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) is pleased to announce Margaret Atwood as the 2018 laureate of the Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship. The prize will be presented in Toronto on September 26.

“Margaret Atwood will be the first woman and the first Canadian to receive the Prize,” said the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson. “We want to honour this remarkable citizen of Canada for all she has done in her personal and professional life to make us aware that we are citizens of a country like Canada and of a planet that is our precious earth. In her brilliant writing career and her personal activism locally, nationally and internationally, she is a dynamic force in the world today.”

Established in 2016, the Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship is awarded annually to a leader whose life work has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the ideals of belonging and inclusion. Through words, actions and results, recipients encourage thought, dialogue, approaches and strategies that strive to remove barriers, change attitudes and reinforce the principles of tolerance and respect. The first two recipients were His Highness the Aga Khan (2016) and Ai Weiwei (2017).

Atwood’s literary works and social activism galvanize people everywhere. Her brilliant writing and dedication to civic participation demonstrate a fearless commitment to the ideals of belonging and citizenship, and to the principles of tolerance and respect. Published in more than 35 countries over five decades, her works have garnered domestic and international acclaim, including the Governor General’s Award for Poetry (*The Circle Game*), the Governor General’s Award for Fiction (*The Handmaid’s Tale*), the Giller Prize (*Alias Grace*) and the Booker Prize (*The Blind Assassin*). Her writing has been adapted for film and television, and the ongoing web television adaptation of *The Handmaid’s Tale* is an international cultural phenomenon. Her evocative portrayals of totalitarianism, female identity and ecological disaster continue to electrify the world.

**Tickets to 6 Degrees Toronto, including the Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship, are available at [www.6degreesto.com](http://www.6degreesto.com).** 6 Degrees drives a global conversation on citizenship and inclusion. Presented by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, it includes an immersive annual three-day event in Toronto, as well as a series of one-day pop-ups across Canada and around the world. 6 Degrees is about connection, conversation, artistic representation and the power that comes from bringing people together. It counters rising nativism and exclusion, and instead, invites everyone to find a place in our circle. This year, 6 Degrees Toronto will take place September 24–26 at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, and the Great Hall.

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### About Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than 50 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her novels include *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Alias Grace*, both of which were recently serialized for streaming; *The Blind Assassin*, which won the Booker Prize in 2000; *Oryx and Crake*, which was nominated for the Giller and Booker prizes; *The Year of the Flood*; the *MaddAddam Trilogy*; *The Heart Goes Last*; and *Hag-Seed*, a novel revisiting of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Her most recent collection of poetry is *The Door*. Her non-fiction works include *Survival*; *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*; and *A Writer on Writing*. Her most recent graphic series is *Angel Catbird*. She has served in various capacities with several organizations, including PEN International and BirdLife International. In 2017, she was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the Franz Kafka Prize, and PEN Center USA's Lifetime Achievement Award. She continues to be surprised by human behaviour, both noble and not.

### About the Institute for Canadian Citizenship

Powered by a passionate and committed national network, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) delivers programs and special projects that inspire Canadians to be inclusive, create opportunities to connect, and encourage active citizenship. Partnering with community volunteers and iconic cultural institutions, the ICC celebrates new Canadian citizens at more than 75 community citizenship ceremonies each year. The Cultural Access Pass is unique in the world, offering new citizens free access to more than 1400 cultural attractions during their first year of citizenship. Ideas & Insights is a leading source of research on citizenship and inclusion—social, cultural, political and economic. 6 Degrees extends the reach of the ICC's work through a global conversation on inclusion and citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The ICC is a national charity co-founded by the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul.

### Contacts

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