Peter MacKinnon

Peter MacKinnon is a native of Prince Edward Island whose working life unfolded principally in western Canada. In 2012 he stepped down following thirteen years as president of the University of Saskatchewan after serving as dean of law for ten years at the same institution. Since 2012 he served for two years as the inaugural Prime Ministers of Canada Fellow at the Public Policy Forum in Ottawa, and for another two years as interim president of online Athabasca University. Following service as interim president of Dalhousie University in 2019 he was appointed to the Applicant Board charged with setting up the new digital research infrastructure organization (Digital Research Alliance of Canada) that, along with Canarie, will be responsible for digital research infrastructure support in Canada. He now serves as vice-chair of the inaugural board that will oversee the Alliance in its formative stages.

MacKinnon has written many scholarly legal articles, commentaries and reports. He is co-editor of three books, and the author of two recent volumes on universities published by the University of Toronto Press: University Leadership and Public Policy (2014), and University Commons Divided: Exploring Debate and Dissent on Campus (2018). The latter was short listed for the Donner Prize (best public policy book by a Canadian) in April, 2019. His latest manuscript: Canada in Question: Exploring Our Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century has been approved for publication by University of Toronto Press.

MacKinnon is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Queen's Counsel, a recipient of a Canadian Bar Association (Saskatchewan) Distinguished Service Award, and of honorary degrees from Queen's, Dalhousie, Victoria, Ontario Tech University, Memorial and Regina. From 2003-2005, he was chair of Universities Canada - formerly the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. He now resides in Canmore, Alberta