

Guy Laforest



Biographical Note

- Institution:** Université Laval
- Position sought:** President-Elect
- Nominated By:** Nominating Committee
- Highest Degrees:** Post-doctorat (Political Science), University of Calgary
PhD (Political Science), Université McGill
- Current Position:** Full Professor, Department of Political Science at Université Laval
- Areas of Expertise:** Modern political theory
Intellectual history
Canadian constitutional politics
Theories of federalism and nationalism

Biography

Guy Laforest is a full professor in the Department of Political Science at Université Laval, where he has been teaching since 1988. He attended university in Canada, at the University of Ottawa, Laval, McGill (where he obtained his doctorate in 1986) and at the University of Calgary. His main areas of teaching and research are modern political theory, intellectual history, Canadian constitutional politics, and the theories of federalism and nationalism. He has written a few hundred scientific publications and papers, and is currently working on various projects related to the reinterpretation of Canadian federalism. He also contributed to the dissemination of the work by philosopher Charles Taylor in France (Guy Laforest and Philippe de Lara, *Charles Taylor et l'interprétation de l'identité moderne*, Paris: Editions du Cerf, 1998). In September 2014, his book entitled *Un Québec exilé dans la fédération: essai d'histoire intellectuelle et de pensée politique*, was published by Québec-Amérique. This book has also been published in English, under the title *Interpreting Quebec's Exile within the Federation: Selected Political Essays*, Brussels, Peter Lang, 2015. Outside of Canada, he has taught at Colorado College in the United States, at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, at the Centre for political and constitutional studies in Madrid, and in summer schools at the University of Graz in Austria. He teaches in French, English, Spanish and Catalan, and he reads in German. In 2014, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2013 was invested as a Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Association des parlementaires de la francophonie, at the National Assembly of Quebec. From 2011 to 2015, he was vice-president (administration and finance) of the Association internationale des études québécoises. He was chair of the scientific committee for the ACFAS Congress at Université Laval in 2013, and was in charge of social sciences for the ACFAS Congress at the same institution in 1998. In 2001, he was chair of the scientific committee for the congress organized by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, on campus at Université Laval. In research, he is co-director of an area of research for a strategic group, the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la diversité et la démocratie au Québec (CRIDAQ). He is also a member of the Groupe de recherche sur les sociétés plurinationales (GRSP). He is married to Andrée Lapointe and is the father of three children (Isabelle, Vincent and Raphaël). He plays tennis and likes to go hiking all across America and Europe.

Statement of Intent

Having been a teacher for almost 30 years now in the Political Science Department at Université Laval, and a full professor since 1996, I am starting a new phase in my professional life this year, and I would like to become more involved in the intellectual life and the institutions of the scholarly community in Quebec and across Canada. I would therefore be pleased and honoured to work with the leaders and members of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences over the next few years. In the following paragraphs, I would like to explain my reasons for wanting to get more involved in the life of the Federation, as well outline the broad elements of my academic profile. As a trained political scientist, I deeply believe in the importance of the humanities and social sciences—the human sciences in all their dynamism and wonderful diversity—for the future of society and that of our country. I also believe firmly in the importance of interdisciplinarity. I



have endeavoured to act on these two beliefs in my academic work. I also believe that any time there is alternation of power, there is a systemic moment of flexibility, thereby raising hopes and offering opportunities to any organizations that are able to take advantage of them. I believe that we are experiencing one of these moments in Canada today with the election of a new federal government. The present context, it seems to me, is highly conducive to strong and deliberate actions from an organization like the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, designed to strengthen our disciplines' place among government players, civil society and other partners from the scientific community. I have attended the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences regularly since 1986, and I think I have a good understanding of the Federation, its place in our scientific system and its present leadership. In 2001, I was the local director of the scientific committee for the Federation's congress at Université Laval. We had prepared ourselves by spending several days with the Federation's team in Edmonton in 2000. I also assumed responsibility for the Canadian Political Science Association's program at Charlottetown in 1992 and at Queen's in 1993. In addition, I was in charge of the social sciences for the ACFAS Congress in 1998 at Université Laval and was chair of the scientific committee for the ACFAS Congress in 2013. As a manager, I was director of the Political Science Department at Université Laval, co-director of the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, and vice-president (administration and finance) of the Association internationale des études québécoises, from 2011 to 2015. A management position at the Federation requires a blend of knowledge and decency, all while respecting both the rules and the people. At Université Laval, my political science colleagues trusted me as chair of the department's Assembly of Members for several years; I was also a member of several boards of directors, including those at the Canadian Political Science Association and the Association internationale des études québécoises. From 2002 to 2004, I was president of the Action démocratique du Québec, and as a result, I facilitated between six and eight meetings of the executive committee each year. I have studied at the University of Ottawa, Laval, McGill and the University of Calgary, and have been involved with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences network since the very beginning of my career. When teaching and conducting research, my focus on political thought, constitutional issues, and federalist and nationalist theories, allows me to exchange regularly with colleagues in the fields of history, law, sociology, philosophy and literature. My keen interest in languages other than French and English (Spanish, German, Catalan), and my continued relationships with Europe and Latin America support the interdisciplinary bent of my record. In the years ahead, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, which is already a strong and dynamic organization, is looking to bolster its position in this country's scientific network and to strengthen the position of the humanities and social sciences, while providing a greater voice and greater weight to the various associations and institutions that make up the network. I am proud of my roots in both the academic and intellectual life of Quebec, and I would cheerfully and happily work on a team with my colleagues in order to contribute to the achievement of the Federation's goals over the next few years.

Guy Laforest

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Member of the Royal Society of Canada

