Saskatchewan Order of Merit (13 May, 2015)\(^1\)

Dr. David E. Smith, O.C., F.R.S.C.
(Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON; - previously Saskatoon & Regina)

University of Saskatchewan Professor Emeritus Dr. David E. Smith is a teacher and scholar of great distinction. Dr. Smith spent his entire professional academic career in Saskatchewan, as a professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and later as Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina. In 2012, Dr. Smith retired and now resides in Ontario where his academic output continues to be remarkable.

Dr. Smith chose to make his contribution to education in Saskatchewan by shaping the thinking of thousands of Saskatchewan post-secondary students; through his writing he brought national and international attention to scholarship in Saskatchewan. Dr. Smith used his writing to advance Saskatchewan’s voice and drive home the realization that to know the West is to know Canada. His work is deeply rooted in the Prairie, bringing Saskatchewan political history into the mainstream of Canadian political science. He is credited with producing the definitive works on each of the major institutions of the Canadian government, such as the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons, and recently completed a book on the history of the Official Opposition in this country.


Dr. Smith has served on numerous boards, advisory committees and panels, including the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the Saskatchewan Archives Board, the Royal Society of Canada and Forum for Young Canadians.

He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, the recipient of the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is also a recipient of the Jules & Gabrielle Léger and the Killam Research Fellowships. He has received the Distinguished Researcher Award at the University of Saskatchewan and also received an Honorary Doctorate from Ryerson University. His acclaimed writings have garnered the Donner Prize (2007) for his book *The People’s House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention* and the Canada Prize in Social Sciences (2014) for the book *Across The Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics*.

Dr. Smith lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake with his wife, the Honourable Gene Anne Smith, former Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. They have two adult children, Joshua and Sarah, and three grandchildren, Emma, Deanna and Ryder.