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The Mystery of the  
Moonlight Murder  
*An Early Adventure of  
John Diefenbaker*

## Press Release

### Diefenbaker Chosen as First Leader in Kids' New Historical Fiction Series on the Prime Ministers

*From northern issues, Arctic strategies, a new icebreaker and now a new children's book, the Chief seems to be everywhere.*

#### *Is Canadian Nationalism Revived?*

Toronto, August 13, 2009:

The ghost of John Diefenbaker seems very much alive as the Conservative government ramps up its Arctic sovereignty strategy, invoking the 13<sup>th</sup> prime minister's 'Canada of the north' at every opportunity. Now, Diefenbaker has been chosen to kick off an ambitious new book series on the prime ministers by Fireside Publishing House, featuring the early life of the Tory maverick. The *Mystery of the Moonlight Murder: An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*, written by Roderick Bennis, is geared to ages 10-14.

"Diefenbaker talked about a 'new world emerging above the Arctic Circle,'" said Bennis. "He was big on knowing our own stories, constructing our own myths that bring us closer together as a nation. He saw the north as one of those enduring myths that could be strengthened to Canada's benefit."

The book is set 100 years ago in Saskatchewan, where Diefenbaker grew up. The province had just been carved from the Northwest Territories under Laurier. The author says there is an emerging groundswell of support for all things connected to the national identity lately and this is good news for the country – including Canadian kids. "I'd go so far as to say that a new Canadian nationalism is emerging. But this time around we're choosing to celebrate who we are, rather than worry about what we are not."

Fireside Publishing House aims to reach kids and get them excited about Canadian history early, using the entry point of historical fiction involving each prime minister when they were about 12 years old. The book series breaks new ground in its treatment of the prime ministers this way.

Visit [www.roderickbennis.com](http://www.roderickbennis.com) for more details and a complete media room, including images. To order a signed copy visit [www.firesidepublishinghouse.com](http://www.firesidepublishinghouse.com)

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