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



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## Press Release

### Kid's Historical Fiction Series on PMs Aims for Jason Kenney's 'Deeper Sense of Citizenship'

Toronto, August 11, 2009:

A new book featuring the early life of John Diefenbaker kicks off an ambitious new series on the prime ministers by Fireside Publishing House. *The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder: An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*, written by Roderick Bennis, is geared to ages 10-14.

The book and series are partly inspired by the ongoing message of Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney, who has advocated for a form of civic nationalism that is both aware and appreciative of Canadian history. For instance, in an April 2009 interview in *Macleans*, Kenney spoke about the need for Canadians to reclaim "a deeper sense of citizenship...a kind of civic nationalism where people understand the institutions, values and symbols that are rooted in our history."

According to the book's author, there is an emerging groundswell of support for such a message. "There is a sense of urgency for a new kind of Canadian nationalism. This isn't anti-American but simply an abiding insistence that we must know our own stories," said Bennis, something the Dominion Institute has been encouraging for years.

The author says the new book and forthcoming series is a small contribution to this movement and strong support is expected from parents and grandparents concerned about the loss of Canadian identity. "We hope these historical fiction books focusing on the prime ministers will provide effective entry points into our collective stories as a nation."

*The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder* is set 100 years ago in Saskatchewan at the Diefenbaker homestead where the 13<sup>th</sup> prime minister grew up. While the storyline is fictional, the environment in which he lived, his family life dynamics, his values and the foreshadowing of his professional life are all authentic.

Visit [www.roderickbennis.com](http://www.roderickbennis.com) for more details and a complete media room, including images.

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