



MEDIA ADVISORY
For January 25 to 27, 2019

Media Contact/Interview Request:
media@democracykit.org

**MARIA RESSA
TIME MAGAZINE'S 2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR,
JOURNALIST AND "GUARDIAN IN THE WAR ON TRUTH"
TO SPEAK AT DEMOCRACYXCHANGE SUMMIT**

Toronto, ON – Maria Ressa, journalist, author, founder/CEO of *Rappler* and TIME's 2018 Person of the Year is coming to Toronto to give a keynote address on [truth, information and global power structures](#) at Canada's only democracy summit, DemocracyXChange, taking place at Ryerson University — presented and co-founded by Open Democracy Project and the Ryerson Leadership Lab. This will be Ressa's first visit to Canada since TIME's announcement, and in the midst of a politically motivated legal battle.

WHO: Maria Ressa is the founder, CEO and executive editor for *Rappler*, a digital news platform founded in 2012 in the Philippines. In her 33-year career in journalism, she's become a champion for press freedom, democracy and truth. In December she was named *TIME's Person of Year 2018* as one of "The Guardians" from around the world combating the "War on Truth." She's reported from war zones, protests and recently was targeted by Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte's government for *Rappler's* critical coverage of his administration. Recipient of the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award, Ressa shares in TIME, "The kind of civil discourse that used to be necessary for democracy — one, we all agreed on facts, two, we actually exchanged ideas — this is gone."

WHAT: [DemocracyXChange](#) is a new annual summit for Canada's emerging democracy sector to connect, learn and share ideas and methods for driving change from the ground up. The three-day summit will bring together more than 50 speakers, 350 thought leaders, community activists, companies, media-makers, academics, public servants, decision-makers and citizens from multiple countries and across the ideological spectrum. More info at www.democracyxchange.org (limited media passes available).

WHEN: Maria Ressa Keynote — January 27, 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm
Summit — January 25 to 27

WHERE: Ryerson University, Ted Rogers School of Management
55 Dundas Street W Toronto, ON M5G 2C3 [View Map](#)

WHY: Globally, the indicators are clear. We are in the midst of a democratic recession. As Canada enters a federal election year, in an age of polarization, it's more important than ever to connect across borders and political lines to focus on ground-up, community change.

####

Ryerson Leadership Lab is an action-oriented think tank that takes a leadership development approach to today's most pressing civic challenges. Through three activities — research and policy development, education and public engagement — we are building a new generation of skilled, nimble leaders, at all ages and stages, to help build a more trustworthy, inclusive society.

Open Democracy Project is a not-for-profit working to empower everyday citizens to drive change through civic and political action. Open Democracy Project programs include DemocracyKit, a resource library for planning and running municipal election and other civic campaigns; and DemocracyXChange, the annual summit for Canada's emerging democracy sector to connect, learn and share.

Follow Democracy XChange on Twitter at twitter.com/dxcsummit, on Instagram at instagram.com/dxcsummit/ and on Facebook at facebook.com/dxcsummit.