

# GLENDON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



**2024  
REPORT**





# FOREWORD

**Glendon College and York University have a longstanding and collaborative relationship with public policy leaders, in Canada and abroad, in government and non-governmental organizations, and in the education and business sectors.**

The School of Public and International affairs (GSPIA), the first bilingual school of its kind in Canada, is built on a commitment to advancing higher education, while training future leaders who will have an impact in their communities, whether locally or on the world stage. We are pleased to report on the activities and the impact of GSPIA and its master's in Public and International Affairs. This unique program is central to Glendon's mission of fostering awareness and understanding of the political issues that shape today's world, while developing in our students the skills and knowledge they will need to be leaders of change for the future.

Apolline Barillé, student, first MPIA intern at the NATO Security Force Assistance Centre of Excellence, in Rome, Italy.



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# THE DIRECTOR



The Director of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs is Susan Pond M.S.C. Along with talented faculty, staff and Fellows, and supported by generous donors, Mrs. Pond leads several high-profile events, including the popular Glendon Global Dialogue series. As well, she reinstated the highly esteemed study trip to the United Nations in New York, in which 20 graduate students were able to participate this year.

Thanks to her longstanding experience in the field, her vast network, and the contribution of York International, Glendon College, and other supporters, Director Pond provides students with exceptional access to transformative experiential learning opportunities. The aim of the

School is to help create a rich and rewarding learning experience for the next generation of community leaders. These young people directly witness the power of innovative and collaborative approaches to creating positive change, and the 2023-2024 academic year was no exception. Also of note, Mrs. Pond was awarded in November 2023 as Senior Fellow by NATO Security Force Assistance Centre of Excellence.



# STUDY TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS



For many graduate students, the highlight of the academic year was the study trip in April 2024 to the United Nations in New York. The event agenda included the unique opportunity to meet with senior representatives of the UN as well as a one-on-one session with Canadian Ambassador to the UN, the Honourable Bob Rae.



Over the two-day study trip, students held discussions with leaders including:

- Ambassador Greta Gunnarsdottir, Director, United Nations Relief and Works Agency
- Mr. Thomas Kontogeorgos, UN Dept of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
- Ms. Dila Sadinlija, UN Genocide Prevention
- Mr. Samuel Martell, UN Climate, Peace and Security
- Ms. Brett Hanley, World Food Programme
- Ambassador Bob Rae, Canadian Mission to the UN



The experience strengthened the desire to make positive change for many graduate students.



# OUR STUDENTS SAY

“

*Enlightening — opened my eyes to climate, justice, conflict resolution, humanitarian, and disaster relief. I learned about genocide prevention and its correlation to hate speech given my internship at the AntiRacism Directorate at the OPS Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.*

**Alice K.**

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“

*Dispelled the notion of the UN as a distant and inaccessible entity. Prompted me to reflect on the type of impact I want to make and how I can contribute to global progress.*

**Lousiane C.**

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“

*Insight gained from the challenges in the Middle East have underscored the urgent need for international cooperation and humanitarian intervention — and ignited a sense of urgency within me to contribute towards positive change.*

**Yousuf A.**





## WEEKLY COLLOQUIUMS

Heading the master's in Public and International Affairs is Associate Professor Francis Garon, whose fields of expertise include immigration, multiculturalism and transculturalism, politics and government.

Aside from his teaching duties, Professor Garon hosts a weekly colloquium series, conducted over 24 weeks, under the Chatham House Rules. These are small group discussions designed to offer a unique window into the role of practitioners and the challenges faced in public and international affairs. National and international experts introduced students to a wide range of current challenges with an exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' view.

Notable speakers for 2023-2024 included:

- Ms Aleqa Hammond, former Prime Minister of Greenland speaking on challenges in the Arctic
- Ambassador (retired) Jon Allen, speaking on the Middle East

- Col. Malin Persson, Swedish Armed Forces, sharing views on Sweden's decision to join NATO.
- Ms. Nicole Doray, Suzuki Foundation, and Ms. Elizabeth Robertson, addressing the role of archaeological assessment as part of public infrastructure works.

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## CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Deborah Matthews, former Deputy Premier of Ontario and Finance Minister, taught our Capstone Seminar and guided graduate students in developing a policy proposal according to a template for cabinet Submissions.

Student cabinet Submissions covered topics such as:

- Therapeutic-oriented alternatives to solitary confinement for incarcerated individuals with mental health disabilities.
- Taxing sugar sweetened beverages.
- Amending the Vital Statistics Act, and
- Promoting the future Black Lawyers of Ontario Initiative.

# INTERNSHIPS



Bilingual students are a main recruitment demographic for hiring managers across the sector. Internships included the federal government, federal MP constituency offices, the Ontario Public Service, non-government organizations, and the Belgian Embassy in Ottawa.

Thanks to a cooperation agreement signed in April 2023 with the NATO Security Force Assistance Centre of Excellence in Rome, a Glendon student was offered a summer internship assignment in Italy. The graduate student extended the post to the UN and also spent a few days with the UN Department of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration.

The impact of all placements was significant, with several students stating that the placements were ‘transformative’.

Some learning experiences were unexpected. Interns at MP constituency offices also witnessed vicious hate attacks directed at the MPs. Nevertheless, students carried out their duties in a professional way and often under extreme stress. One student was invited to the Prime Minister’s annual garden party, met a number of senior ministers and was invited to attend the Black Caucus meeting.



# OUR STUDENTS SAY

“

*Takes you out of theory and into the real world.*

**Meline D.**

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“

*Nothing short of enriching. Hearing the perspective of Jon Allen on the Israel-Palestine conflict helped me understand more in depth than the information I was receiving from the internet.*

**Denise W.**

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“

*I gained valuable insight, honed my skills in persuasive communications, and learned the art of crafting thoughtful policies that benefit the communities we serve.*

**Ramlah M.**

# EMPLOYER FEEDBACK



*Class A student with a huge amount of potential, incredibly curious and always asks questions. Any employer will be lucky to have him on their team.*

**Supervisor at Minister's Office, Veterans Affairs**

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*Truly exceptional asset to our team. Constantly exceeded our expectations, and demonstrated a commendable level of professionalism and efficiency, including briefing notes for the MP on immigration-related and global affairs matters.*

**Supervisor of MP Constituency Office**



# PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR INTERNSHIP

The internship season 2023-2024 was directed by Ms. Marion MacKenzie, an award-winning senior executive with international experience in both the corporate and consulting sectors.

While some students drew on an existing database of internship opportunities, others used their own research to identify placements that were closely aligned with their professional interests.

In addition, Senior BMO Fellow Andrew Mackey provided students with guidelines on how to draft government memos, background and decision notes. Interns consistently highlight this as an important skill in navigating the challenges of their internship duties.

The work of Ms. MacKenzie, in cooperation with faculty members such as Andrew Mackey, provided the students with a strong foundation to succeed. We are also pleased to report that supervisors assessed 87% of the summer 2024 cohort of interns as either 'Outstanding' or 'Excellent.'

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS: GLENDON GLOBAL DIALOGUE SERIES



Under the leadership of Director Pond, the Glendon Global Dialogue series (GGD) complements the academic program with a focus on urgent global issues and trends.

Open to all students, faculty, alumni, as well as the public, the events provide an important opportunity to bring exceptional talent to the campus to engage with the wider community.

Attendees can take part in-person on campus or join online.

The first GGD was conducted in November 2023 and included a panel of three addressing “Arctic Security: Are we ready for the future?” The panel included Ms. Aleqa Hammond, former Prime Minister of Greenland, as well as Professors Gabrielle Slowey of York University and Kari Roberts of Mount Royal University. The session was opened by the reading of the land acknowledgement in the Nunavik dialect of Inuktitut by Raigilie Mackey, a Glendon student from Nunavik.

As part of the series, a speakers’ dinner is hosted by the Director of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs. The dinner brings together speakers, faculty, and students to engage with change makers in an informal setting.



# OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

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*Congratulations on a successful event, I will be doing a deep dive into the issues and particularly how Greenland is evolving.*

**Dorothy J.**

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“

*Fantastic event! Especially touching to hear the Glendon student present the Land Acknowledgement in Inuktitut.*

**Lynn M.**

# NATIONAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CASE COMPETITION

Since 2011, a team of students has competed in the National Public Administration Case Competition organized by the Canadian Association for Programs in Public Administration. Twelve to 15 teams from across Canada take part every year for one of the three top positions. Students are provided a policy question and given one week to present a response to a panel.

In 2024 our team was composed of three students:

Mouctar Bah, Jeremy Ofwono, and Carrie Weiller.

Coached by BMO Senior Fellow Andrew Mackey and Professor Ian Roberge, the topic for February 2024 was related to the issue of contracting. Students were asked to provide an assessment of the challenges and to outline advice for decision-makers.

Students consistently rate the competition as a valuable experience in understanding how decisions are made and the importance of teamwork.

“

*The Case Study Competition was a real eye-opener. I saw the level of detail required by policy analysts in the real world, which I hadn't fully experienced in the classroom. I have a clearer idea of the skills and experiences I need to focus on moving forward.*

**Jeremy O.**

# BMO VISITING FELLOWS

## 2023-2024

Supported by a generous investment from the BMO, Visiting Fellows include former civil servants, academics, journalists and practitioners of national and international standing.

Apart from their personal knowledge and lived experiences, BMO Fellows bring contacts and insights in their respective fields and organizations and are engaged in the mentorship of the next generation of national and international leaders.

In addition to supporting activities in the classroom, BMO Fellows also participate in the Glendon Global Debates, various symposia, and support internships to prepare students for their summer placements.

The list of BMO Fellows is kept under continual review to ensure that we provide students with experts who can address current national and international policy issues.

### BMO VISITING FELLOWS FOR 2023-2024:

#### DR. MILOUD CHENNOUFI

Dr. Chennoufi teaches international relations at the Canadian Forces College (Toronto) where he chairs the Department of Security and International Affairs.

Dr. Chennoufi published his first book in 2003 titled *Grandes puissances et islamisme*, which gathers, in addition to its namesake study, some articles on international security and economic development, as well as political essays. In 2013, he co-edited a volume on strategic studies, *Les études stratégiques au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*.

#### HONOURABLE DAVID COLLENETTE

The Honourable David Collenette, a proud Glendon alumnus, has enjoyed a long career in the public service, serving as a member of Parliament and cabinet minister under three prime ministers

This included leading Canada's security response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in the US. He is the chair of the NATO Association of Canada. In 2024 was invested into the Order of Ontario.

# THANK YOU



The unique learning and professional development opportunities offered to MPIA students would not be possible without the generous support of BMO. Our emphasis on academic rigor and development of leadership, contribute to making the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs a unique institution in the Canadian academic landscape.

In an increasing complex policy environment, an international perspective and global engagement are crucial in preparing leaders for the future.



# APPENDIX

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Total enrolment in the MPIA program for 2023-2024 was 34 students. This included 15 first year students, including three from the Dual Degree with IEP Strasbourg, and one international student.

The cohort of 19 second year students included five exchange students from the Dual Degree with IEP Strasbourg, and one international student. While the majority of domestic students are drawn from Ontario, the MPIA continue to attract students from across the country.

## CONVOCATION

Ten students graduated at the convocation ceremony on June 7, 2024 with a Master of Arts in Public and International Affairs. We wish all our graduates the best as they take their next steps in academia or in the workplace.





**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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