

Careers in Government and Beyond: Meet our Alumni

Thursday, October 24, 2019 (6-7PM) @ ACW 306

Lisa Gonsalves

(BA SP H in PPA, Class of 1991)

General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services Branch, Community and Health Services

Lisa is an accomplished public sector professional who has led countless human services and policy initiatives over her 28-year career. For the past 19 years, Lisa has worked for York Region in multiple positions which included working in the Regional Clerk's office and in the Office of the Chairman and CEO. Since 2010, Lisa has been the Director of the Strategies and Partnerships Branch of the Community and Health Services department, where she oversaw community investment allocations, strategic social policy, research and analysis, and strategic communications. She recently took on the role of General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services, providing operational oversight for paramedic services and the Region's two long-term care homes. Lisa has also worked for the provincial government: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Community and Social Services, the cabinet office providing support to the Premier's Office, and with the management board. Lisa has a B.A. in public policy and administration from York University and an M.A. in political science from the University of Toronto.



Deqa Egal

(MPPAL Class of 2017)

Policy Advisor, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

Deqa earned her undergraduate degree at York University in Sociology focusing on systematic and discriminatory oppression faced by newcomers and Indigenous Canadians. She then completed a Master's degree in Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL), during which she aimed to add to the limited body of literature on the topic of cyberbullying in Canada. Deqa has worked in regional, national and international sectors, including e.g. in South Korea for a climate fund under the United Nations, the Ontario Public Service and more recently, for an association that represents 15 of the auto trade manufacturers. As a Policy Advisor, Deqa is often called upon to liaise with Canadian and American counterparts on regulatory compliance matters and collaboration initiatives. As a Policy Advisor for the Federal Government, Deqa supports the Business Scale-up and Productivity stream who help accelerate the growth of high-potential firms in southern Ontario. Deqa has volunteered for: Indigenous Women shelter's, Muslim food shelters, and various organizations dedicated to Somali Youth.



Gidon Gruss

(BA SP H in PPA, Class of 2011)

Manager, Pharmaceutical Strategy, Ontario Public Service

As Manager, Pharmaceutical Strategy within the Ontario Public Drug Programs, Gidon leads and manages the activities of professional staff engaged in inspection and audit of pharmacies and the extensive analysis and interpretation of data for the branch. Key activities of Gidon's team include: Providing oversight of payments to pharmacies for drug claims and professional services reimbursed under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program; providing education/relationship management with over 4,500 pharmacies to ensure compliance with legislation, regulations and other ministry policies and procedures; and preparing analysis and developing recommendations to address matters related to pharmacy billing practices and other pharmacy behaviors related to the administration of Ontario Public Drug Programs including consultation with divisional colleagues, the Ontario College of Pharmacists and the Ontario Pharmacists Association.



Ajay Nandalall

(MPPAL Class of 2016, BPA Class of 2014)

Management Associate, Toronto-Dominion Bank

Ajay has held various roles within both the public and private sectors, in the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and the Toronto-Dominion Bank, respectively. Currently Ajay is part of the Management Associate program at TD Bank, which is a 24-month leadership & talent development program, consisting of different rotations across the organization. Associates take on roles with full responsibility in their selected area. Ajay has worked e.g. as a Product/Project Manager within the Digital & Technology group on the Bank's strategy for Open Banking, data-sharing partnerships with international banks, international and domestic regulators, governmental agencies, policy groups and think-tanks, as well as other industry actors to help develop standards around privacy, customer/consumer consent, cyber security and data stewardship. He also completed a rotation with the Commercial Bank, leading an organization-wide project for the Cannabis Industry - interpreting policy and legislation for operational risk controls for the Bank and its customers involved in the industry.



For more information:

Please contact the School of Public Policy and Administration

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To RSVP: <https://laps.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?>

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