

# School of Public Policy and Administration

## NEWSLETTER

April 2021– Volume 9, Issue 14

This week we are pleased to present [Rushell Dissanayake](#),

### **3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Honours student and Junior Ambassador of Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA)**

My name is Rushell Dissanayake. I am a third-year student at York University studying in the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours program. I was initially in the Information Technology (IT) program, but after seeing the wide variety of opportunities being offered in Public Administration, I took the biggest risk and switched programs within my first year. I was optimistic and nervous about my decision, however, 3 years in, I do not regret any of it.

I grew up with no interest in politics and law. I never watched the news nor did I care about what was going on with the world. That all changed when I stepped into university. My interests started to change, I became more aware about what was going on in our world, how policies are made, how government works, and so on. With Public Administration being offered as a program at York, I am so grateful that I was able to transition over to this program.

I also learned a lot, especially with the broad range of courses being offered, such as AP/PPAS 2195 3.0 Professional Skills and Communication, where you learn a wide variety of key factors applicable to the work force. You get the opportunity to improve your interviewing skills, enhance your resumé and so forth. PPAS 2195 and PPAS 3135 (Public Law I) are by far some of my favourite courses that I have taken so far in the program.

I also decided to join the Public Policy and Student Association (PPASA). I was always so focused on the academic aspects of my program and failed to take part in the interactive elements. I am currently a Junior Ambassador which enabled me to meet some amazing people who are hardworking and have similar goals as I do. I had the pleasure of attending various networking events with the team, learned more about the public sector and was able to speak to alumni and professionals in the field of public policy and administration.

My journey continues as I look forward to learning more things that are being offered by the BPA program. I am looking forward to the practicum (AP/PPAS 4995 6.0) next year where I will have the opportunity to actually work in the public sector and get a glimpse at the workforce and life after completing my degree. Joining the PPASA was another bonus, where I not only met some amazing individuals, but also helped me acquire knowledge about the field I am in. Transitioning over to the BPA is by far the best decision I have made during this chapter of my life and I cannot wait to see what lies ahead!



## **SPPA course with Professor Thomas Klassen featured in Maclean's**

**Meet the York University changemakers:  
Three members of York University's  
community making a positive difference  
in the world  
By Sarah Laing**

Professor Klassen worked with Professor Sophia Lee at Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea, to provide undergraduate students in their respective classes with a unique international learning opportunity in our Canada's Social Policy course (AP/PPAS 3761 3.0).

Read full article at [Maclean's](#)

## **NATIONAL STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

Call for papers: 2021 Building Better Financial Futures Challenge

The [Building Better Financial Futures Challenge](#) is an undergraduate and graduate student paper competition launched by the [Financial Consumer Agency of Canada \(FCAC\)](#) — a Government of Canada agency. We are inviting paper submissions from all disciplines and perspectives to provide actionable, evidence-based, solutions to current financial challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

**All papers must be submitted by email  
to [Competition@fcac-acfc.gc.ca](mailto:Competition@fcac-acfc.gc.ca) by April 30, 2021.  
Please see [the Competition page](#) for more details**



Financial Consumer  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la consommation  
en matière financière du Canada

**PUBLIC SECTOR ETHICS CONFERENCE  
MAY 20-21, 2021**

**Building Trust in Government  
2021**

Along with the Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, Osgoode Hall Law School, the City of Toronto and the Offices of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada and the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, IPAC is pleased to present the third conference on public sector ethics that will include a diverse panel of perspectives from leaders in the field.

You can [register](#) for the event online



**IAPSS USA & Canada is hosting an ESSAY COMPETITION!**

**May 1, 2021 deadline**

We want to hear from you what you think is the most pressing issue to address in a Covid-19 recovery plan! You may address issues from the environment to student loans to restorative justice but be creative and have a good argument for why this issue is the most important to creating a better post-pandemic society.

Our winners will be judged based on originality, clarity of argument, writing style, persuasiveness, and specificity.

**The prizes are:**

**1st place: \$300 USD**

**2nd place: \$200 USD**

**3rd place: \$100 USD**

Three runners-up will all receive a year-long IAPSS membership.

The work of the winners will be featured on our social media

For more information, please visit the IAPSS [website](#).

## Research Analyst - City of Toronto

Reporting to the Supervisor, Economic Research, and the Research Analyst researches and analyzes economic and cultural data for policy development and to respond to investment and other enquiries. Collects, analyzes, interprets and maintains data about the Toronto economy and its cultural sector.

## Policy Advisor - Technical Safety and Standards Authority

Reporting to the Director, Regulatory Policy, the Policy Advisor supports TSSA in its journey to becoming an outcome-based regulator. As a Policy Advisor, you will bring a 'can do' attitude to the team and play a critical role in developing policy advice that is informed by evidence, considers balanced stakeholder perspectives, and includes modern regulatory principles. Additionally, you will support the development and delivery of policy initiatives that require collaboration and partnership for multi-faceted initiatives. You will coordinate input from government, industry experts, engineers, inspectors, senior management, and other private and public sector stakeholders. Examples of projects can include a range of initiatives that cut across organizational and operational policies and programs.

## Policy Advisor - Canadian Digital Service

CDS is hiring Policy Advisors to work anywhere in Canada. Policy advisors form part of CDS's multidisciplinary product teams, working alongside product managers, developers, designers, and design researchers. We help build and improve government services by working through legislative, regulatory, and policy issues in product development. We dig into processes to find creative solutions.

## Lead, Demand Side Strategy – IESO

The Lead, Demand Side Strategy, will be recognized within IESO and the energy sector for their thought leadership and intellectual contributions to electricity and energy sector development and evolution from a demand side management perspective. The Lead will have a leadership role in setting, driving and delivering on IESO's objectives in the areas of efficient electrification and demand side resources. The Lead will be responsible to develop, maintain and extract value from new and existing relationships with the highest levels of federal government, external agencies and other stakeholders in support of the achievement of forward looking policy enhancements, programs and services. The Lead will prepare and deliver recommendations and proposals, informed through advanced research and analysis, that demonstrate value added solutions to influence policy and regulatory changes needed to advance IESO's demand side management goals.

## **Four positions - Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness**

CAEH is expanding and adding [three improvement advisors](#) to work with communities to design and deliver strategies and [one data specialist](#).

## Policy Research Analyst - Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

Participate in WSIB benefits and revenue policy development and contribute to large scale research projects by undertaking research and analyses, drafting policies, developing policy/position/issue papers and project-related documentation as well as preparing documentation packages for the approval and minuting process. Respond to enquiries from internal and external stakeholder issues by providing policy interpretation and intent of the WSIA and by preparing general and executive correspondence.

## **Researcher, Mission-oriented Innovation Policy - Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

The Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy project team at the Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship is seeking an experienced researcher to join our team on a 4-5 month contract, during an exciting period of research, policy analysis and synthesis to develop actionable recommendations. The work will take place from July until November.

## **Research Associate, Political Behaviour of Citizens and Elites - Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy**

The Policy, Elections, and Representation Lab (PEARL) in the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto invites applications for a Research Associate (Limited Term) for a 1-year appointment. The anticipated start date is May 1, 2021. The Research Associate will manage the lab on a day-to-day basis and will report to Professor Peter Loewen, the Lab Director. The Research Associate will be responsible, in consultation with the Lab Director and collaborators, for leading research projects across a range of topics including but not limited to: the COVID-19-related attitudes and behaviours of citizens and political elites; the electoral performance of Canadian political candidates; public perceptions of the electability of political leaders in Canada and the United States; citizens' attitudes toward party leader debates in Canada; citizens' judgments of public figures accused of sexual misconduct; and citizens' preconceptions of politicians compared to individuals working in other professions.

## **Public Affairs and Policy Analyst - Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada**

The Public Affairs & Policy Analyst is a vital member of our operations team. Reporting to the Director, Operations and Strategic Initiatives, this individual plays an active role in conducting research, providing technical expertise, and engaging with stakeholders for a range of national-scale projects and initiatives of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. This position also works closely with the Manager, Government and Media Relations. While the head office is in Ottawa, remote work will be considered.

## **Research and Policy Intern - Ryerson Leadership Lab**

The Ryerson Leadership Lab are looking for a Research and Policy Intern to help them conduct research and policy analysis on pressing public policy challenges facing Canada. This role will support the Ryerson Leadership Lab in building a robust, data driven and, public policy-informed picture of major issues related to public policy in technology, democracy, climate change and youth issues in Canada.

## **Senior Policy Advisor (3 positions) - Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Three opportunities to work in the Deputy Minister's Office at the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Provide strategic policy advice, expertise and recommendations to the Deputy Minister, Executive Leadership Team and Ministers' Office staff on long-term care policies and programs.

## **Policy Advisor and Planning and Policy Advisor - Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario**

The AGCO is posting for two positions to work on their policy and regulatory agenda in alcohol, gaming, horse racing, and cannabis.

## Bilingual Senior Analyst, Official Languages – CMEC

The Bilingual Senior Analyst supports overseeing the development and progress of the work of the Official Languages unit, including the language-learning and exchange programs (i.e., Odyssey, Explore, and Destination Clic); the negotiation of the Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction; and the pan-Canadian projects of two committees: the French as a First Language Consortium Committee and the French as a Second Language Consortium Committee. This role will appeal to individuals with strong research and writing skills (to produce briefing notes, discussion/reflection papers, and reports for a range of stakeholders, including deputy ministers and ministers of education), with the intellectual curiosity and rigour to monitor and investigate emerging developments in education in Canada and internationally, and the ability to make the appropriate linkages with topics discussed at expert and ministerial meetings. The analyst reports directly to the Coordinator, Official Languages, and works closely with a team of analysts and administrative professionals.

## Director, Government and Community Relations - City of Hamilton

Reporting to the City Manager, and supporting the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), your primary responsibility as Director, Government & Community Relations will be to oversee and direct the City of Hamilton's intergovernmental relations, community relations activities including Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) strategies as well as the Community Enrichment Fund, and corporate adherence to the City's Public Engagement policy. This key role will lead the City's government relations strategies with direct oversight of government and stakeholder relations, community initiatives, and the building of stakeholder relations to advance EDI in the community.

## Transportation Policy & Projects Specialist – York Region

Reporting to the Manager, Transportation Strategy and Innovation is responsible for providing support to strategic policy programs, planning, development, evaluation and implementation and for coordination across the Department; monitoring developments, opportunities and trends that may impact the department operations/planning or policies; undertaking research and analysis to assess impacts of initiatives and the development of strategies and policies; providing project support to the Manager, and across the department; leading and executing program strategies to support Department projects associated with corporate and strategic planning; developing stakeholder relationships that foster collaboration and innovation; and preparing reports and presentations.



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