

School of Public Policy and Administration

NEWSLETTER

November 2023 – Volume 11 , Issue 18

Congratulations to our 2023 SPPA Award Winners!

All awards will be formally presented at the [SPPA Annual Awards Dinner](#) on November 16



Alumni Recognition Award

Victor Severino

VP, Business Enablement

WTC. Toronto Region Board of Trade



**Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in
Public Policy, Administration and Law**

Erin Valant

*Area Manager, Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports,
Regional Municipality of Durham*



Emerging Leader Award

Meghan Ditta

Supervisor, Strategy and Transformation

Division Office of the CAO, Township of King



Graduate Student Award

Marierose Talla

Clinic and Programs Advisor

Legal Aid Ontario

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Undergraduate Student Award

Milena Basciano

Legislative Intern

The Ontario Legislative Internship Programme



Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy

Grace Mamberi

Director of Student Engagement

Public Policy & Administration Student Association



Practicum Excellence Award

Milena Basciano

Legislative Intern

The Ontario Legislative Internship Programme



Practicum Honouree Award

Sabina Filipescu

Manager, Safety Program Development Office

Ministry of Transportation

High School Essay Contest:

Share your thoughts and reflect on 'Maintaining Integrity: How influences of Social Media and CHAT-GPT have and will pave the path forward in your school assignments'.

Congratulations to...



1st Prize Winner

Matias Sharofi

**Grade 12, Mayfield Secondary School.
Caledon, ON**



2nd Prize Winner

Zera Yembi

**Grade 12. École Secondaire Ronald-Marion,
Pickering, ON**



3rd Prize Winner

ZiXun Lin

**Grade 10, Bill Hogarth Secondary School,
Markham, ON**

Thank you to MPPAL alumna Rana Nasrazadani !

Rana Nasrazadani (MPPAL '22) championed accessibility work on campus and worked on several projects regarding York University's accessibility initiatives.



During my time at York, I had the privilege of serving on an accessibility consultation committee with members of York's senior leadership, to advise architects on accessible design for the upcoming York University Markham Campus, to ensure that the campus would be inclusive and accessible for everyone. I provided my intersectional perspectives on what the campus would need to be truly accessible, drawing from my own lived experiences as a person with a physical disability who uses a mobility device, and as a student at the university. This work was an extensive process that included meeting with the university's development and construction team and architects to advise on accessibility needs for the campus and review the plans and blueprints of the interior and exterior areas of the campus during the design process. The design of the completed Markham Campus is reflective of my accessible design recommendations.

It was a truly valuable experience and I hope that lived experience and student voice continues to be integrated into the planning and design of future building projects and developments at York.

SPPA students attend [IPAC-Toronto's](#) Emerging Leaders Conference 2023



“**Embracing Change in a Time of Transitions**” attendees had the opportunity to receive incredibly insightful knowledge and advice from public sector leaders. On the topic of disruptions facing the public sector, panel speakers explored recent changes and predictions on the future of the public sector in wake of disruptive technologies, hybrid work models and health crises. Critical topics of workplace mental health, embracing trauma-informed leadership, and creating brave spaces in public service were also covered.

Moderated by our very own, Professor [Joseph Silva](#), the keynote speaker **Dr. Eileen de Villa** reflected on her career path in becoming the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto. In leading the largest local public health agency in Canada, Dr. de Villa spoke to the importance of building therapeutic relationships in your field of work, and the challenges she overcame as a woman belonging to a visible minority population. A special thank you to **Khadeja Elsibai** and all those who worked hard to make this event a great success!

Register Now - the course is filling up fast!



Professor Dagmar Soennecken

AP/PPAS 3000 3.0 M: Politics Policy and Law of Minority Rights

Winter 2024: Thursdays at 2:30pm

(Catalogue #: W57Q01)

[waitlist link](#)

Course Description:

Provides students with an overview of the legal and political issues and public policy concerns pertaining to minority rights. Legal definitions of "a minority" and "discrimination", as well as how claims are made to counter discrimination in different policy areas, will be critically examined. The minority rights jurisprudence to be covered in this course is comprehensive and policy-relevant.

For more information about the course, please contact Prof. Soennecken at dsoennec@yorku.ca

Dagmar Soennecken is cross-appointed between the [School of Public Policy and Administration \(SPPA\)](#) and the [Law and Society Program \(Department of Social Science\)](#). From 2016 to 2020, she served as the academic director of the Master in Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program. In 2019, she became the Editor-in-chief of [Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees](#), one of the oldest academic, peer-reviewed journals on forced migration.

Prof. Soennecken's research focuses on comparative public policy in the EU and North America. She is particularly interested in questions concerning law and the courts as well as citizenship and migration. She has been nominated for 2 teaching awards: The Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Award and the Ian Greene Award for Teaching Excellence.

PPASA Welcomes the new 2023-2024 Junior Ambassadors



Armena Malekzadeh



Maanya Dhama



Noah Kerr



Philomena Abidogun



Sephrah Luke



Reshad Hakimi

Student Opportunities:

[Submit a Blog Post – Ottawa Law Review Blog](#)

The *OLR* Blog is an online platform dedicated to publishing short legal commentary on contemporary legal issues. Our blog aims to provide a space where scholars, practitioners, and students can engage in discussions on a wide range of legal topics, including emerging legal issues and recent developments in the field.

Submissions must adhere to the Blog Submission Policy, found on the main website. The policy outlines content, formatting, and reference requirements. To submit a blog post, the author needs to fill out the Blog Submission Form, found on the main website, and send it via email along with the blog post submission to rdo-olr.enligne-onlinr@uottawa.ca. All submitted blog posts will undergo a peer-review process, ensuring the quality and accuracy of the content. The identity of the author remains anonymous throughout the review process. Accepted blog posts will be published on the *OLR* Blog, with proper attribution and recognition.

We believe that the contributions from members of your programs can make a significant impact and help us in our mission to diversify legal publications and provide relevant content to the legal community. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at rdo-olr.enligne-onlinr@uottawa.ca.

[Call for Entries – Ramjas Economic Review](#)

January 7, 2024

Ramjas Economic Review, an undergraduate academic journal, invites students to write and submit original research papers and articles on topics related to the field of economics to be published in its 2023-24 edition. The journal is an initiative that aims to shift the focus of learning from textual knowledge to being more investigative and intuitive through a 'research-based' approach. Students who write for the journal end up developing their independent research and critical reasoning skills.

Events and Conferences:

[\(Re\)imagining Sanctuary through the lens of higher education – Centre for Refugee Studies](#)

Thursday, November 2 – 12:30 to 2:00pm

We explore the elasticity of sanctuary as a term primarily used to understand praxis, through positioning ideas on a spectrum, reflecting a continuum (as opposed to conflicting) perspectives transitioning from (re)bordering to abolition. We draw on this spectrum and our practitioner expertise to (re)imagine sanctuary as a nexus of access, welcome and protection. This nexus is underpinned by abolitionist sanctuary principles, intersectional praxis and grounded in the lived experience of people who have experienced displacement and who feel the borders most acutely. Guest speakers include **Rebecca Murray** and **Tanya Aberman**.

Events and Conferences:

[The Empire Club at 120: A celebration of an Iconic Institution](#)

Thursday, November 23 – 11:30am to 2:00pm – Fairmont Royal Park, 100 Front Street W, Toronto M5J 1E3

Join us for a luncheon that takes you through the Club's remarkable journey, with special guests sharing iconic stories and magic moments from thousands of speeches delivered over the past twelve decades.

THE HISTORICAL BIRTH OF THE EMPIRE CLUB

Gordon McIvor, President, Empire Club Foundation & Past President 2015-2016, Empire Club of Canada

POLICY ISSUES AND THE EMPIRE CLUB with our very own --

H. Ian Macdonald, Past President 1969-1970, Empire Club of Canada

THE YEAR THE FIRST WOMAN BECAME PRESIDENT

Catherine R. Charlton, M.A, Past President 1984-1985, Empire Club of Canada

REFLECTIONS ON SECURING FAMOUS ACTRESS AUDREY HEPBURN

Anthony A. van Straubensee, Past President 1988-1989, Empire Club of Canada

EMBRACING A CULTURE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

Kelly Jackson, Past President 2021-2022 & Board Director, Empire Club of Canada

[Safeguarding Yourself Online – Bearing Witness](#)

Thursday, November 9 – 12:00 to 1:00pm – Media Creation Lab, Scott Library, York University

This workshop provides a sobering glimpse into the nature of research harassment and provides an empowering approach to managing your risk and online safety through the use of threat modelling and strategic action.

[In Defence of Democracy 2023 – Samara Center for Democracy](#)

Thursday, November 9 – 6:30 to 8:00pm – Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge Street, Toronto M5B 1M4

Join us for an evening of candid discussion about the importance of local civic engagement and the role of the media in safeguarding democracy. This year, our featured speaker is internationally recognized journalist Lisa LaFlamme, who will be in conversation with Nahlah Ayed, host of CBC Radio's IDEAS.

[Commission Registrar – Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

Reporting to the Vice-President of Legal and Commission Affairs, the Commission Registrar is accountable for the effective and legally-sound operation of the organization's quasi-judicial administrative tribunal component. CNSC employees can work some mix between in-office and from a telework location. Physical onsite presence in Ottawa, Ontario will be required during Commission proceedings and likely 1-2 times per month.

[Senior Policy Advisor – Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#)

The Delivery Planning and Implementation Support Branch is hiring four Senior Policy Advisors to advance its mandate of solving policy problems and improving the way services are delivered to Ontarians. The role involves leading analysis, developing recommendations and supporting delivery of changes to key policy priority files; assisting partners to implement human-centred design, project management, prototyping and action-oriented testing practices; and analyzing data and assessing performance measurement strategies and evaluation methods.

[Manager, Policy and Governance – The College of Opticians of Ontario](#)

The Manager, Policy and Governance supports the work of three College committees: Governance Committee, Screening Committee, and Patient Relations Committee. The Manager also helps the College research, develop and implement policies relating to practice standards, professional ethics, continuing competence and governance. Responsibilities include: drafting briefing materials for Committees and the Board of Directors; carrying out project directives as set by the Committees and/or the Board; undertaking stakeholder consultations; and engaging in environmental monitoring to assist the College in identifying key issues relevant to the public and/or the practice of opticianry.

[Table Research Clerk – Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#)

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario provides non-partisan administrative and procedural services to all MPPs, as well as operational support for the daily activities of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. They are seeking a Table Research Clerk who will join their Table Research Office within the Procedural Services Branch. This position conducts research and offers advice on subjects relating to parliamentary procedure, practice, custom and tradition, and the administration of Parliament, and writes on these matters in-depth, including: developing and writing papers, briefs, book chapters, and other projects; and drafting rulings and other communications.

[Special Advisor - Ministry of Energy](#)

The Ministry of Energy is seeking a Special Advisor to contribute to the development of its policy vision for the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The Special Advisor will oversee the development and implementation of initiatives related to the OEB to ensure that governance and program directions are consistent with strategic priorities. They will also provide advice to senior executives on effective collaboration with the OEB that recognizes its independence from government and is consistent with legislation, regulation and directives, as well as maintain awareness and expertise regarding ongoing policy and program issues related to the OEB with special emphasis on issues relating to governance and administration.

[Assistant Deputy Minister with the title Comptroller General - Ministry of Finance, BC](#)

The CG provides leadership in financial management, financial oversight, financial reporting, and financial systems. Together the CG and the OCG serve as a resource for professional topic advice and guidance to public service organizations on accounting standards and practices.

[CEO/Registrar - Health Profession Regulatory Colleges, BC](#)

A major healthcare regulatory body amalgamation initiative is underway, supported by the BC Ministry of Health as part of the provincial government's plan to modernize the health regulatory system to better serve patients and the public. The new structure will better promote team-based care, provide for a single point of contact for patients, public and registrants alike and aid in ensuring the system is accessible, deeply inclusive, culturally safe, and firmly rooted in the principles of anti-racism, equity, and Indigenization. This is not just a job, but an opportunity to pioneer a profound transformation in healthcare across British Columbia and beyond.

[Table Research Clerk - The Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#)

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario seeks a Table Research Clerk who will join our Table Research Office within the Procedural Services Branch in Toronto, ON. This position conducts research and offers advice on subjects relating to parliamentary procedure, practice, custom and tradition, and the administration of Parliament, and writes on these matters in-depth, including: developing and writing papers, briefs, book chapters, and other projects; and drafting rulings and other communications.

[Coordinator – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Specialist - YouthLink](#)

Centering Anti-Black Racism in our systems and policies, this position will create a fair and equitable workplace for our Black staff. Taking direction from the HR team and an elder from the Black community, the DEI Specialist will conduct an assessment of systems using an equity and ABR lens to identify areas that require modernization; analyze current HR policies and processes using an equity lens; map opportunities for improvement; implement opportunities including arranging needed training and evaluation.

[Training Program Evaluation Officer – Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

You will have the opportunity to use your skills in the area of personnel training to work collaboratively with other specialists and provide input into the planning, implementation, and evaluation of regulatory programs applied to all classes of nuclear facilities.

[Policy Analyst - Ministry of Finance](#)

The Pension Policy Branch is hiring a Policy Analyst to conduct policy development, research and analysis related to the pensions sector and the regulation of pension plans in Ontario. The role involves analyzing policies, administrative practices and proposals related to employment pension plans and the Pension Benefits Act; preparing research and analysis reports, policy statements, briefing notes, and other policy products; and providing research support through environmental scans and data analysis.

[Senior Legislative Design Specialist – Ministry of Finance](#)

The Personal Tax Policy and Design Branch is hiring a [Senior Legislative Design Specialist](#) to help shape the design, development, and amendment of tax policies and income/payroll tax legislation. The role involves preparing briefing materials that present research, analysis, policy and legislative design options and recommendations; drafting legal specifications for changes to personal income tax and benefit programs required to implement policy decisions; and monitoring the preparation of tax legislation or regulations.

[RESEARCH & POLICY ASSOCIATE – City of Toronto](#)

The Research & Policy Associate will support the development, coordination and implementation of programs, strategies and policies to contribute to the continuous improvement initiatives of Solid Waste Management Services. They will conduct research into assigned areas, review promising practices and plans in various industries, support the preparation of briefing notes on policy initiatives, and develop options and recommendations for policies and procedures.

[Senior Advisor – Ontario Energy Board](#)

We are currently seeking an energetic and collaborative individual to join our team as a **Senior Advisor** in the Energy Transition Department of our Strategic Policy Division to lead work related to sector evolution. This is an exciting opportunity for an individual who likes intellectually challenging work in a collaborative environment that fosters innovation and creativity. In this role, you will be responsible for building sector partnerships to support the development and implementation of policy options to keep pace with a changing energy sector. You will provide analysis and decision support to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and other Business Units. This position reports to the Manager, Energy Transition.

[Senior Program Advisor - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Senior Program Advisor will lead and support the collection and analysis of municipal data and information to inform evidence-based service delivery. They will develop and conduct wide-ranging and sensitive surveys with stakeholders and external clients to assess and evaluate program implementation.

[Team Lead - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

The Team Lead will supervise activities of assigned land use planning and analytics staff, and provide direction, advice and leadership. They will lead the research, data collection and analysis of multiple land use planning approval applications, issues and projects, and ministry and corporate initiatives. They will also provide information and recommendations to senior management on contentious land planning issues, and serve as an expert land planning witness to protect government interests.

[Policy Analyst – Ontario Finance](#)

The Income Security and Pension Policy Division is seeking a Policy Analyst to conduct policy development, research and analysis related to the pensions sector and the regulation of pension plans in Ontario. The Policy Analyst will also assess the regulatory and operational implications of proposed policy changes, prepare research and analysis reports, conduct environmental scans, and provide support on data and statistics. This is a good opportunity for recent graduates or candidates with 1-2 years of professional experience with academic backgrounds in public policy, economics and/or related fields of study.

[Government Executive, Education – Apple](#)

Apple is seeking a Government Executive to develop and grow Apple Education's overall strategic relationship with key government stakeholders including federal, provincial, and other key stakeholders in public, private and non-profit organizations. The Government Executive will build strategic relationships with the executive and legislative branches of federal and provincial governments, key customers and advocates in the education community. They will also work to influence the creation of new, funded education technology pilots or initiatives, and remove legislative and regulatory barriers that impede the ability of Apple to successfully conduct business.

City Manager – City of Warman

Recognizing the importance that strong organizational leadership plays in delivering the very best of services to its residents and visitors, the City Manager will be responsible for all required duties set out in the Cities Act and all other provincial legislation relating to the position of City Manager plus all financial administration and financial management of the City.

Executive Director and Chief Information Security Officer – Ministry of Citizens’ Services

The Ministry of Citizens’ Services (CITZ) delivers accessible, multi-channel services through a single-point-of-contact service approach to people in urban and rural communities through Service BC and delivers the digital face of government at www.gov.bc.ca. CITZ also provides support for the expansion of high-speed internet connectivity throughout the province, leadership across government to modernize information management and technology resources, trusted data services to government agencies, prompt and relevant responses to freedom of information requests, and statistical and economic research, information and analysis to businesses and the public sector.

Executive Director, Courts Information Management and Technology – Government of Alberta

In this role, you will be under the leadership of the Chief Justice of Alberta, the Chief Justice of the Court of King’s Bench of Alberta, the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta, and report administratively to the Deputy Minister of Justice or their designate. You will modernize the delivery of core Information Management and Technology (“IMT”); champion the creation of the Courts’ IMT strategic planning and reporting; lead the resolution of complex service challenges; and build capacity to ensure new services and continued process improvement opportunities enhance the delivery of court services to Albertans and support reliability, modernity, adaptability, and scalability that are demanded in a rapidly evolving electronic world.

Appeals Commission for Alberta Workers’ Compensation – Government of Alberta

The Minister is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as Hearing Chairs for the Appeals Commission for Alberta Workers’ Compensation (Appeals Commission). Up to five full-time vacancies are to be filled. Hearing Chair appointments are made by Order in Council for an initial term of one year, with re-appointment for terms of up to three years, to a maximum of 12 years of service. Hearing Chairs are designated as either representative of the interests of workers or employers.

Senior Program Advisor - Bilingual (English/French) - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

The Senior Program Advisor provides leadership, expertise and advice in the development of legislation, policies and procedures as related to the implementation of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program and the Ontario Immigration Act. The candidate will maintain knowledge of national and international immigration selection issues; identify trends, directions and emerging issues requiring legislative reform, policy or program responses; and present policy options and recommendations to senior management for decision making purposes.

Manager, Supportive Housing Unit - Ministry of Health

The Mental Health and Addictions Programs Branch within the Ministry of Health is seeking a Manager for the Supportive Housing Unit to provide stewardship over directly funded programs and oversee policy and program development to improve community housing initiatives. The Manager will lead a team of professionals, provide expertise and advice to senior management and staff on policy options, risk, and issues management strategies, and lead stakeholder relations and consensus building in developing, promoting, and delivering policies/programs.



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[Manager, Government Relations, French as Second Language \(FLS\) Specialist - Accerta Services Inc](#)

The Managers will act as key points of contact in developing and maintaining relationships related to the Ontario Autism Program and administration of AccessOAP. They will also identify and analyze issues affecting the Ontario autism landscape and recommend a course of action to manage or address them. The Indigenous Specialist will focus on partnerships with Indigenous communities, pathways to reconciliation, and the development of an Indigenous relations strategy, while the French Specialist will focus on partnerships with and support for French-speaking communities.

[SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER – City of Toronto](#)

As a member of the Environment & Climate Division's Policy & Research team, the senior Environmental Planner will support implementation of Toronto's Electric Vehicle Strategy and TransformTO Net Zero Strategy through policies and programs that support and encourage the transition to electric vehicles in Toronto. Responsibilities include: developing requirements, application forms and guidelines, reporting protocols and risk management frameworks; and ensuring program policies and procedures are consistent with Council policy and relevant provincial and federal legislation.

