

School of Public Policy and Administration NEWSLETTER

November 2023 – Volume 11 , Issue 19

H. Ian MacDonald honoured at SPPA Awards night

Ian MacDonald, York's President from 1974-1984, or as we at SPPA fondly call him "the man, the legacy, the institution" continues to inspire students, faculty and alumni!

Thank you Ian for almost 50 years of service and commitment to York U!



Erin Valant, keynote speaker and recipient of the **Foster-Greene Award** for her contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion, inspired with her words and dedication to public service.

Congratulations to Erin and all of our 2023 Award recipients!



Our Nov. 2023 Career Panel was a Huge Success!

Thank you to our amazing alumni panelists.

Students, alumni, and faculty were inspired by your words, experience, and sage advice.



Ezra Isaacson
MPPAL 2014
Director, Funding Unit,
Sector Support
Performance and
Accountability, Ontario
Health



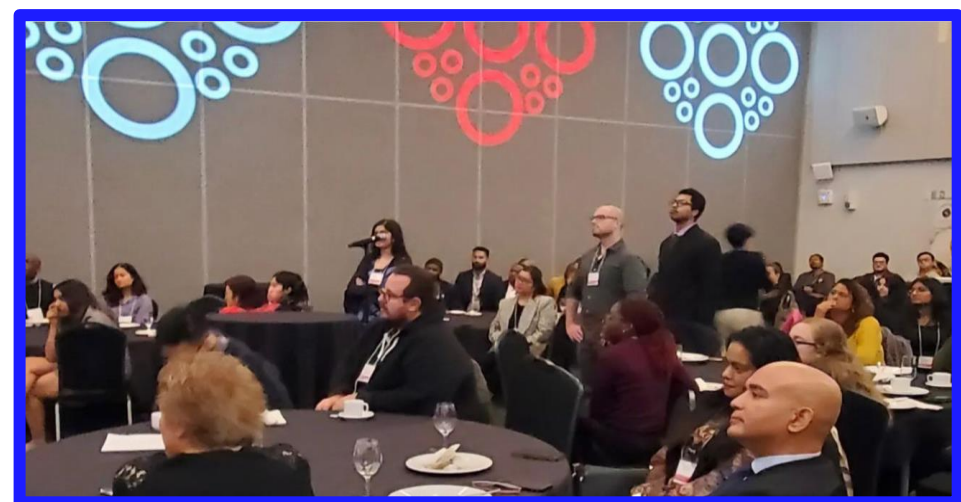
Fuad Abdi
MPPAL 2014
Assistant Deputy Minister
of Infrastructure at the
Ministry of the Solicitor
General



Stefanie Lamonaca
Caputo
MPPAL 2015
Student Success and
Academic Advisor, LA&PS



Rocco Fasano
PPA 2002
Senior Advisor,
Distribution and
Consumer Assistance
Policy Branch, Ministry of
Energy



Join us for another SPPA great event!

Professional Development Workshop I

If you would like to elevate your resume and cover letter, PDW I is the event for you! Join us for cover letter and resume building as well as information on internships and co-op opportunities.



Gurvir Bains

HR Leader in Tech | Transforming
Culture, Coaching & Performance

Benefits:

- Improve your resume and cover letter
- Effectively prepare to apply for opportunities in the public sector
- Network and learn tips & tricks from professionals

**Thursday, December 14 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at
305 Founders College, Keele Campus, York University**

RSVP [Here!](#)

SPPA course, PPAS 4995 Practicum in Public Administration, delivers Success again!



My name is Alana Silva and I am a graduate of the Bachelor of Public Administration, Specialized Honours program with a focus on management. I chose to pursue my undergraduate degree in public administration at York University because I was interested in governance, law, and policy. I'm grateful I took this program because it has opened up many opportunities for me.

In my final year of university, I enrolled in the Practicum in Public Administration course (PPAS 4995). It is an independent, individually-supervised reading and research course which combines volunteer work experience in an agency with an academic analysis of that experience. I did an interview with the professors and was placed within the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, at the Land Registration Services Branch. During my placement I worked on several projects. I worked on a platform called LearnON where I would log data and create certificates for staff members who completed each semester of land university. Additionally, I worked on the COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) where I created evacuation maps for every land registry office in Ontario.

After I graduated from the program, I was hired by the Toronto land registry office as a Registration Services Representative (RSR). In my role as an RSR I work on certifying important land documents (land transfers, charges/mortgages) to confirm legal property title by reviewing documents for compliance with relevant legislation. Additionally, I work on registering survey plans of land, endorsing condominium plans, data entry and other administrative duties.

Overall, I would highly recommend the Practicum in Public Administration course to anyone who is interested in gaining hands-on experience. This course provides many amazing placements and opportunities in different areas of government and through it, I was able to make connections and gain experience in a new field.

Check out our Hands-On Courses [here!](#)

Register Now – 4th year level – one of a kind course!



Professor Garrett MacSweeney
AP/PPAS 4190 3.0 M: Ethics and the Public Service
Winter 2024: Thursdays at 7:00pm
(Catalogue #: B07Z01)

[waitlist link](#)

Read all about Prof. MacSweeney [here!](#)

Course Description:

This course analyzes the basic ideas that underlie ethical principles and values in the public sector in democratic countries, with emphasis on Canada. The course examines ethics standards and current events in politics and the public service, situating these standards within the broader principles of ethical management, policy making, and public administration. Ethical government is important to our democracy, and it is therefore crucial for students of politics and policy to be able to understand what rules of ethical conduct exist, how those rules are administered and/or enforced, and to be able to think critically about how those rules might be improved. This course introduces students to important concepts, including: critical and ethical decision and policy making; corruption; conflicts of interest; lobbying and lobbyist registration; whistleblowing in the public sector; patronage and conventions of public service neutrality and loyalty.

Register Now - Public Sector Budget Process



Course Director: Robert Siddall FCPA, FCA

AP/PPAS 3524 3.0 (cross-listed to AP ADMS 3524 3.0) Section O

Winter 2024: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00pm

Catalogue #: H23F01 (AP PPAS) or N76T01 (AP ADMS)

This is a Blended course - Some classes will be held on Zoom and others will be in HNES 031

[This is a required course for the BPA Honours and the BPA \(Specialized Honours\) Management and Policy Analysis Streams.](#)

Robert Siddall's career has spanned over 40 years of senior management experience, covering a wide range of strategic and financial functions, in both the private and public sectors. For example, he has held the position of Provincial Controller with the Province of Ontario and has been the Chief Financial Officer for both Waterfront Toronto and Metrolinx. He was also a founding member of the Canadian Chapter of Accounting for Sustainability (A4S). He is currently a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, CPA Canada's Business Sustainability Advisory Board and PSAB's Public Sector Accounting Discussion Group.

Robert continues to bring his passion to teaching, mentoring, sustainability, climate change, natural capital and diversity and inclusion: all issues he believes will continue to be critical to future generations of Canadians.

Calendar Course Description

This course examines the key issues and context of the budget process and the increasing importance of oversight, transparency and accountability in the public sector in Canada. It assesses current approaches to budget policy, fiscal management and accountability frameworks. Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, AP/ADMS 2500 3.00 (or AP/ADMS 1500 3.00 or AP/ADMS 1550 3.00). Course credit exclusions: None.

Prerequisite Enforcement: The three prerequisite courses are all required courses for the BPA Honours and Specialized Honours degrees (all streams) and must be completed before ADMS 3524. Students in other programs who have completed two courses in introductory economics and the one course in introductory accounting or have equivalent work experience and would like to know whether they meet the prerequisite requirements should contact the course coordinator, Professor Joanne Magee jmagee@yorku.ca

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.

Check out SPPA's Professor Klassen's insight on retirement in the following article: [The Walrus, The End of Retirement.](#)



Student Opportunities:

[ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship 2024 – ThinkSwiss](#)

Application Deadline is Sunday, December 31, 2023

The ThinkSwiss program provides scholarships for Canadian students in all fields interested in doing research in Switzerland as visiting students for two to three months. This program is designed for students who are enrolled at a U.S. or Canadian university and who have completed their sophomore year. The scholarship is open to students from all fields if they have an acceptance letter from a professor at a Swiss university for a research stay in their group.

[Winter Graduate Workshop Series – Faculty of Graduate Studies](#)

The Graduate Student Wellness Services (GSWS) is partnering with Learning Skills Services to offer a certificate in personal wellness and learning skills.

The program is free and open to all York graduate students. The certificate program includes five sessions offered weekly on Tuesdays in the fall and winter semesters. This five-week free program focuses on social connection, personal wellness, and learning skills. Topics covered include stress-reduction, overcoming procrastination, enhancing motivation, time management, and skills from the field of positive psychology including mindfulness, gratitude, and self-compassion. The program also focuses on creating opportunity to connect with peers and learn more about wellness supports at York.

[Fun Writing Videos – Prof. Stevie Bell, Head of MacLaughlin College](#)

Here are some fun writing videos provided by Professor Stevie Bell to help make academic essays less mysterious. Be sure to check out these playlists:

[Demystifying Thesis Statements](#), [Commas](#) and [Citations](#)!

Student Opportunities:

[National Student Paper Competition for Graduate Students – Canada School of Public Service](#)

Application Deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023

The Canada School of Public Service organizes this annual initiative to attract talented Canadian graduate students to improve public service excellence. The National Student Paper Competition (NSPC) offers a unique opportunity for graduate students to connect with senior public servants, expand their networks, nurture their leadership skills, and foster employment opportunities with the federal public service. We invite you to spread the word about the NSPC and make this incredible opportunity available to as many graduate students as possible by promoting the NSPC on websites, newsletters, social media platforms, and other channels.

Events and Conferences:

[Learning Skills Workshops – Student Community and Leadership Development](#)

We offer online and in-person workshops to help you learn all the skills you need to achieve your academic goals. Our workshops are open to York University students from all programs and years and are designed to help you learn how to manage your time, study and learn more effectively, keep up with readings and course work, and get the most out of your studies.

[York's Winter 2023 Writer-in-Residence – Faculty of LA&PS and Department of English](#)

Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 6:30 to 9:20pm – Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre

Writer-in-Residence, Shyam Selvadurai, will host internationally revered filmmaker, Deepa Mehta, for a screening and discussion of her latest documentary film collaboration, *I Am Sirat*, followed by an audience Q&A.

[CANIS International Conference 2024 – School of Public Policy](#)

March 21-22, 2024 – Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Alberta, Canada

The Canadian Network on Information & Security (CANIS) is hosting an exclusive, invitation only international conference to explore the challenges of foreign international interference in elections. This transdisciplinary conference will bring together researchers, government officials, and practitioners from an array of social science, public policy, engineering, and legal fields to promote collaboration and exchange ideas. The conference will also feature emerging trends in industry, as well as best practices in the information environment from domestic and international actors, and how they could apply to the Canadian context. Exclusive ticket price of \$150 CAD (Discounted price for students at \$50 CAD). Please contact CANIS Coordinator Tatiana Oshchepkova if you have questions or need more information: tvoshche@ucalgary.ca.

[York Circle Lecture Series – York University Alumni](#)

Saturday, November 25 – 9am to 1pm – Life Sciences Building, Keele Campus, York University

We invite you to Keele Campus for the York Circle Lecture Series, presented in collaboration with our York Circle Chair, Jennifer Steeves (BA '94, MA '96, PhD '01), Associate Vice-President Research (AVPR). Join us on Nov. 25 and hear from York's leading faculty members about a variety of topics that touch on some of York's key themes. The York Circle Lecture series is held four times a year and is open to our community of alumni and friends. Tickets are \$5 and include coffee, light snacks and lunch.

Manager, Programs and Research – Institute on Municipal Finance and Government

The Manager, Programs and Research position will take a leadership role in the activities of the Institute, overseeing the Institute's operations and designing major research programs in municipal finance and governance, as well as other projects. The Manager, Programs and Research position would be responsible for the supervision of staff, working closely with authors to manage the production of publications, and establishing and sustaining relationships with stakeholders. In addition, the incumbent represents the Institute externally on high-level task forces and committees as required.

Director – Canada Infrastructure Bank

CIB is seeking to add a Director to its Board of Directors, which is responsible for overseeing the management of the business activities and affairs of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, including recommending the CEO, approving the CEO's annual objectives and assessing their performance; Overseeing the CIB's strategic direction and corporate objectives.

Chief Electoral Officer – Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

The Chief Electoral Officer is an Independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly. The office-holder is appointed on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Nunavut Elections Act. The position exercises a range of powers and responsibilities under the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the conduct of territorial general elections and by-elections, as well as elections to municipal councils and other bodies.

Regional Communications Manager, South Bruce – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

We are currently seeking an experienced Regional Communications Manager to join our energetic and fast-paced Site Selection team. Based out of our Community Office in Teeswater, the successful candidate would be responsible for leading strategic communications planning and associated activities in the area. The Regional Communications Manager will be a spokesperson for the NWMO, responsible for managing media inquiries, building strong relationships, including interfacing with colleagues with responsibilities for digital and internal communications. Additionally, the successful candidate will support external relations and engagement functions in the area.

Policy Development Officer – City of Toronto

Policy Development Officer will provide advice and lead the preparation of reports with recommendations related to Sign Variances, Sign By-law Amendments, the Third-Party Sign Tax, and other policy and procedural matters related to sign regulation in the City of Toronto. The Policy Development Officer will also provide information and advice to City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Divisions on sign regulations, as well as facilitate capacity building and knowledge transfer on signs and sign policy at the staff level.

Chief Civilian Director – Independent Investigations Office of BC, Ministry of Attorney General

The Independent Investigations Office of BC (IIO) is an independent, civilian-led agency with jurisdiction to investigate serious harm and fatal incidents involving police, in order to determine whether or not an officer may have committed an offence. The IIO has jurisdiction over all provincial policing agencies, including municipal police agencies, the RCMP, the South Coast BC Transportation Authority Police Service, and the Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service.

[Associate, Impact Management – Rally Assets](#)

We're hiring an Associate, Impact Management to join our team. This is a chance to influence impact investment strategies and drive real change. Reporting to the Head of Impact Management, you'll liaise with key stakeholders, coordinate the implementation of these capacity-building programs, and evolve our IMM function. If you're a strong relationship manager, highly organized, analytical and impact-driven, we want to hear from you.

[Junior Associate, Private Investment Research – Rally Assets](#)

As a member of the PIR team, work closely with colleagues to originate a universe of private market impact investment opportunities and maintain a database of potential products. Support and conduct investment, operational and impact due diligence through direct research and analysis, primarily on private market fund and products. Manage relationships with various fund managers and product issuers. Manage relationships with internal stakeholders like portfolio managers and compliance and impact teams. Support follow-up engagement with fund managers and product issuers to assess impact and financial progress and performance against original expectations.

[Manager, Community Investments and Partnerships – Rally Assets](#)

Our Manager, Community Investments and Partnerships will provide essential leadership and implementation, working across both internal teams and external relationships, to identify, nurture and manage partnerships with both community investment partner organizations as well as capacity-building providers. Getting to know partners across Canada, the Manager, Community Investments and Partnerships will connect and guide organizations and fund managers with resources to drive more investment into impactful strategies. This role will report into the Portfolio Manager for Realize Fund I.

[Tenure Track position in Food Policy – Toronto Metropolitan University](#)

In this role you will engage in a combination of teaching, scholarly research or creative activity and service duties while maintaining an inclusive, equitable, and collegial work environment across all activities. Teaching duties will entail teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels, supervision of students and/or curriculum development. The successful candidate will pursue a strong, innovative research program or creative activity that is externally funded and that produces cutting-edge, high-quality results.

[Head Marketing and Customer Experience – Toronto Transit Commission](#)

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is North America's third-largest transit system and has been recognized as one of the top places to work in the Greater Toronto Area. Guided by a forward-thinking strategic plan, the TTC's vision is to be a transit system that makes the City of Toronto proud.

[Senior Policy Advisor – Ministry of Long-term Care](#)

Are you an innovative individual who is looking for a challenge? Join the Long-Term Care Operations Division, Operational Policy and Implementation Branch, and provide your expertise in leading health system strategy and policy initiatives to improve health outcomes.

[Coordinator, Community Mobilization – City of Regina](#)

This impactful position of Coordinator, Community Mobilization leads the corporation's development and implementation of strategies and policy pertaining to the City of Regina's role in community safety and well-being. The work includes the coordination and collective efforts in bringing together community and relevant sectors to address issues related to community safety and well-being.

[Senior Specialist, Indigenous Policy and Relations – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#)

The Senior Specialist, as part of the Indigenous Policy and Relations, leads the development and implementation of the functional strategy at a national level for internal and/or external stakeholders. They also lead intelligence-gathering efforts and provide strategic input into policy, programs, and other government priorities on reconciliation. In addition, they play a critical role in ensuring positive relationships with housing experts and key associations along with identifying opportunities to inform and communicate policy and key corporate messages and collaborate, therefore helping CMHC make housing affordable for everyone in Canada.

[Director of Policy and Government Relations – Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centers](#)

OFIFC is seeking a Director of Policy and Government Relations to guide the development, implementation and distribution of external and internal policy objectives that are aligned with OFIFC's long-range strategic plan. The Director's work consists of policy management, including directing and leading monitoring and research of legislative proposals; communications and partnerships; and supervising and managing a team.

[Head Government Relations and Public Affairs – Interac Corp](#)

The Head, Government Relations & Public Affairs will champion the organization's Government Relations and External Affairs strategies and programs to elevate Interac's profile and solidify trusted relationships across government, public sectors, and external ecosystem stakeholders. Responsibilities in this role might include driving public sector engagement to establish Interac as a recognized expert and resource in the digital transaction ecosystem and developing and implementing innovative strategies to effectively identify and influence public policy impacting the corporation.



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