

Welcome

2020 School of Public Policy and Administration *Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards*



Land Acknowledgement

As this meeting is virtual and we are not all gathered in the same space, I recognize that this land acknowledgment might not be for the territory that you are currently on. We ask that if this is the case, you take the responsibility to acknowledge the traditional territory you are on and the current treaty holders. As a member of the York University community, I recognize that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



School of Public Policy and Administration

2020 Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards

6:30pm Land Acknowledgement

6:35pm Welcome

Ashley Cabral, Master of Ceremonies and
2017 Emerging Leader Award Winner, 2019 Alumni
Recognition Award Winner and Chair of Alumni Network

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public
Policy and Administration

6:40pm Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy,
Administration & Law

Ashley Cabral, Chair of York University School of Public
Policy and Administration Alumni Network (YUSPPAAN)
and **Naomi Couto**, Director, Master of Public Policy,
Administration and Law Program

**Judith D'Souza Soares, 2020 Foster-Greene Award
Winner**

6:45pm Keynote Address by Judith D'Souza Soares:
**"What Matters Most: Crucial Leadership Lessons
the COVID-19 Pandemic Has Taught Us"**

7:10pm Practicum Honouree

Fausto Natarelli, Adjunct Professor, School of Public Policy
and Administration

Alexey Togunov, Practicum Honouree

7:20pm Student Award Presentations

Undergraduate Student Award

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public Policy and
Administration

Gurkamal Dhahan, Undergraduate Student Award Winner

Graduate Student Award

Naomi Couto, Director, Master of Public Policy,
Administration and Law Program

Joana Jabson, Graduate Student Award Winner

Best Major Research Paper Award

Brenda Spotton-Visano, University Professor, School of Public
Policy and Administration

Alyssa Offenheim, Best Major Research Paper Award Winner



School of Public Policy and Administration

2020 Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards

7:45pm Student Award Presentations (continued)

Ian Greene Book Prize for Academic Achievement

Naomi Couto, Director, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program

Sara Gajic, Jennifer Lai, Jocelyn McCauley, Kyle Nimmrichter, Alyssa Offenheim

IPAC – CAPPA Case Competition Team Award

John Wilkins, Coach and **Naomi Couto**, Director, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program

Stanley Chikombero, Shriya Dangwal, Chloë Hill, Melissa Khachik, Sindiswa Moyo

High School Essay Contest: What is Your Vision for Canada?

Joanne Magee, Undergraduate Program Director and **Khushbu Dhaliwal**, President, Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA)

1. **Erin Rebello**, Grade 12, Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, Toronto, ON - *Prioritizing the Healthcare Needs of Black and Indigenous Persons of Colour*
2. **Noah Smale**, Grade 10, Middleton Regional High School, Middleton, NS - *A Vision When Time is of the Essence*
3. **Selina Alora**, Grade 11, St. Joseph's College School, Toronto ON - *Climate Change in Canada*

8:20pm Emerging Leader Award

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration

Asare Kester-Akrofi, Emerging Leader Award Winner

8:30pm Alumni Recognition Award

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration

Marco Giancarlo, Alumni Recognition Award Winner

8:40pm York University School of Public Policy and Administration Alumni Network Update

Ashley Cabral, Chair, YUSPPAAN

8:50pm Closing Remarks

Ashley Cabral, Master of Ceremonies

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration

Judith D'Souza- Soares (MPPAL, Class of 2013)

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

Keynote Address
**"What Matters Most:
Crucial Leadership Lessons the COVID-19
Pandemic Has Taught Us"**



Judith D'Souza Soares currently works at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as a Director in charge of the Occupational Disease and Survivor Benefits Program. She leads a multi-disciplinary team of adjudicators, nurses, occupational hygienists, crisis intervention counsellors and their managers who are responsible for making entitlement decisions in all acute, chronic, and long latency disease claims and fatalities (both traumatic and disease-related). Adhering to governing policy and legislation, and identifying the necessary process improvements, while maintaining strong relationships with external stakeholders, internal partners and WSIB staff from senior leaders to front-line staff are both critical to her role and extremely important to her.

Judy holds two Masters degrees. The first is a Master in Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) from 2013 and more recently a Global Professional Master of Laws (GPLLM), which she completed in late summer 2020. In addition, she holds post-graduate certificates in Strategic Leadership, Dispute Resolution, and Project Management, as well as being a certified Law Clerk and Paralegal. Judy's interest in education, both educating herself and helping to educate others, is profound. She carried this interest to serve as the **Co-Chair of the National Education Program Committee for the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) where she also served as a National Board Member.** Social activism and the pursuit of equality, fairness, and justice, especially for women and girls, has always been at the cornerstone of Judy's community involvement which involved serving as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Women's Support Network or York Region for 6 years.

Leading with purpose and ensuring that all persons have equal access to opportunities and resources is extremely important to her as she selected career, academic and volunteer pursuits. Law-based education has not only helped raise her own awareness but also helped inform, educate and empower those around her. **She embodies "education is power" through her own fervent commitment to self-learning and teaching others both in her professional and personal life.**

Alexey Togunov

Practicum Honouree



Alexey Togunov is passionate about transforming public sector services to become more lean and modern, delivering greater value to users. With over 12 years experience leading modernization and process improvement initiatives for the Ontario government, he has a strong understanding of how to navigate around the challenges of delivering innovation in the public sector. In his current role as **Manager of the Project Management Office at the Ministry of the Attorney General**, Alexey is responsible for realizing the ministry's vision to bring justice services online. Previously he led improvement initiatives in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Before his career in government, Alexey worked in financial services supporting continuous improvement projects.

Alexey also mentors aspiring change champions, helping them realize their potential and developing capacity to deliver innovation. Alexey is an Industrial Engineering graduate from the University of Toronto specialising in Information Systems, a Project Management Professional and a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt.

Gurkamal Dhahan (BPA, Class of 2020)

Undergraduate Student Award Winner



Gurkamal is a recent graduate of our Bachelor of Public Administration Specialized Honours program, Management stream and **Intern with the non-partisan Ontario Legislature Internship Programme**, providing backbench Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) with staff assistance. He also provides research assistance to the Information Services branch, which focuses on the delivery of the Assembly's digital infrastructure and archival work. Gurkamal has served our Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) in a number of roles throughout his studies: Junior Ambassador, Director of Recruitment and in 2019-2020 as President. He has approached all these roles with a sense of responsibility, professionalism and enthusiasm. In addition to his role as PPASA President, he served as peer mentor for 1st year students to guide them through their transition to university studies, and as PASS leader for our statistics course, while also completing a practicum placement with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and a number of upper-level research-intensive courses with group work and deliverables to external partner organizations. He is a seasoned student leader and an ultimate team player, who has balanced all these roles with ease and graduated as a member of the Dean's Honour Roll.

School of Public Policy and Administration
2020 Student, Alumni and Recognition Awards

Joana Jabson (MPPAL, Class of 2020)

Graduate Student Award Winner



Even before Joana was accepted to our Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program, she was already committed to the activities and programs of the School by attending networking events as an MPPAL candidate. Her commitment continued into her 1st year in the MPPAL program when she volunteered as a First-Year Representative for her classmates. Working alongside the Graduate Students' Association of Public Policy, Administration and Law (GSAPPAL), she represented the interests of her fellow students, but most importantly, increased engagement among the first-year students. In the 2nd year of the program, she took on the role of Vice President of GSAPPAL. Joana demonstrates passion, dedication and determination. Her commitment and willingness to work across the undergraduate and alumni associations on various projects – from graduate events to School-wide initiatives (i.e. panels, orientation sessions, medium to large sized networking events) were essential to success and creating a supportive environment for everyone. During her MPPAL studies, Joana secured two promotions – to Executive Assistant and to **Senior Program Advisor, Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of the Solicitor General**. She remains engaged as an alumna and serves as Director of Events and Programming for our alumni network, YUSPPAAN.



Alyssa Offenheim

(MPPAL, Class of 2020 and BPA, Class of 2019)
Best Major Research Paper Award Winner



Alyssa is a public sector professional with diverse experiences in provincial and municipal governments. She brings her skills in policy analysis, coordination and strategic advice to her role as **Policy Analyst at the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General**. In her spare time, Alyssa volunteers with local climate action initiatives and acts as the Director of Memberships and Partnerships for the York University School of Public Policy and Administration Alumni Network. She holds a Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law and a Bachelor of Public Administration with Honours, Management stream from York University. Her major research paper in the MPPAL program was titled ***The Impact Assessment Act, Climate Change, and Political Priorities in Canada*** and was completed under the supervision of University Professor Brenda Spotton Visano.

Break Out Session



Ian Greene Book Prize for Academic Achievement MPPAL Class of 2020

**Sara Gajic,
Jennifer Lai,
Jocelyn McCauley,
Kyle Nimmrichter,
Alyssa Offenheim**

2020 IPAC-CAPPA Case Competition Team



**Stanley Chikombero,
Shriya Dangwal,
Chloë Hill,
Melissa Khachik,
Sindiswa Moyo
and coach John Wilkins**

THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
POLICY, ADMINISTRATION & LAW (GSAPPAL)

2020 - 21

EXECUTIVE TEAM



PRESIDENT
MELISSA KHACHIK



VICE PRESIDENT
SHRIYA DANGWAL



TREASURER
SARAH MIDANIK



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YORK MPPAL

ESSAY CONTEST

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR CANADA?

Share your ideas about what the priorities for public policy and administration should be and how you would go about implementing them as future leaders.

Congratulations to:

1st Prize Winner

Erin Rebello, Grade 12, Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, Toronto, ON
- *Prioritizing the Healthcare Needs of Black and Indigenous Persons of Colour*



2nd Prize Winner

Noah Smale, Grade 10, Middleton Regional High School, Middleton, NS
- *A Vision When Time is of the Essence*

3rd Prize Winner

Selina Alora, Grade 11, St. Joseph's College School, Toronto ON
- *Climate Change in Canada*



PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION STUDENT ASSOCIATION

LAW - POLICY ANALYSIS - MANAGEMENT

Email: ppasa.york@gmail.com

Instagram: [@ppasayu](https://www.instagram.com/ppasayu)

Discord: <https://discord.gg/2st6aw9>

YU Connect-PPASA

PPASA website:

<https://ppasayorku.wordpress.com/>



Asare Kester-Akrofi (MPPAL, Class of 2020)

Emerging Leader Award Winner



Asare entered the public service only in 2015 after working in the private sector as a successful team lead with a strong track-record of customer service. These qualities and values are apparent in everything that he does. Towards the end of his 1st year in the MPPAL program in 2019, Asare secured a promotion to **Program Manager, Business Licensing & Regulatory Services, Municipal Licensing & Standards Division with the City of Toronto.** Balancing MPPAL studies with the supervision of a large number of staff and responsibility for major projects and modernization initiatives, Asare made it all possible. During the unfolding pandemic, he demonstrated leadership by re-focusing his work to provide administrative support to front-line workers and homeless shelters. At the same time, Asare has remained an excellent student in the MPPAL program with strong academic achievement and extensive volunteer engagement with our student and alumni associations. Asare has a long-standing relationship with United Way and has actively sought out roles in which he can provide support to the organization and its social justice objectives. He is also part of the United Way GenNext Cabinet, which encourages young people in their 20's and 30's to become involved with the organization and its fundraising campaigns.

Marco Giancarlo

(MPPAL, Class of 2015 and BA PPM, Class of 2009)

Alumni Recognition Award Winner



Marco completed both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at our School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) in 2009 and 2015 respectively, and has been an engaged alumnus ever since. He exemplifies what it means to be part of the SPPA family, and we would not be able to provide all the supports to students and alumni without individuals like him who take the initiative to give back. He represents the heart and soul of our network of alumni due to his dedication, values and dependability. A great role model for our students and other alumni, Marco holds the position of **Regional Program Manager - Emergency Management Department of Indigenous Services Canada**. His other recent positions have been with the infrastructure and governance directorates. He has managed major capital projects - water treatment plants, bridges, roads and wastewater treatment systems - for a portfolio of First Nation communities in Ontario. Working in a governance role, he has also worked with the Indigenous Representative Organizations (IRO) of Ontario in advancing their membership needs. Marco enjoys rewarding work in high-pressure environments, and is always accessible to our students.

YUSPPAAN Presentation