

Welcome

2022 School of Public Policy and Administration *Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards*

Land Acknowledgement

Ahniin (Ojibwe), Weyt-k (Secwépemc), Bonjour and Hello!

York University recognizes 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 to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

We also acknowledge the many people of African descent whose ancestors were forcibly displaced as part of the transatlantic slave trade, that live and work on ceded and unceded territory.

In accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, we ask that all attendees and participants take a moment to reflect.

Chi Miigwech, Pútucwiye (Secwépemc), Merci, Thank you



School of Public Policy and Administration

2022 Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards

6:30pm Land Acknowledgement

6:35pm Welcome

John Riches, Master of Ceremonies and
2021 Foster-Greene Award Winner

Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public
Policy and Administration

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

Presenters: Professors **Naomi Couto**, **Ian Greene** and
Lorne Foster

2022 Winner: Orelie Di Mavindi (Class of 2019)

6:45pm Keynote Address by Orelie Di Mavindi:
“Courage: The Heart of Transformational Leadership”

7:10pm **Practicum Honouree**

Presenter: **Fausto Natarelli**, Adjunct Professor, School of
Public Policy and Administration to

2022 Practicum Honouree: Marc Rondeau

Associate Deputy Minister, Centre for Public Sector Labour
Relations and Compensation, Treasury Board Secretariat

7:20pm **Student Award Presentations**

Presenter: **Alena Kimakova**, Director, School of Public Policy
and Administration

Practicum Excellence Award (inaugural year)

Rushell Dissanayake, 2022 Practicum Excellence Award

Rean Pelayo, 2022 Practicum Excellence Award

Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy (inaugural year)

Udoka Achilike, 2022 Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy

Undergraduate Student Award

Roberto DiGiovanni, 2022 Undergrad Student Award winner



School of Public Policy and Administration

2022 Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards

7:45pm

Student Award Presentations (continued)

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

Graduate Student Award

Paula Tablon Modica, 2022 Graduate Student Award winner

Best Major Research Paper Award

**Jennifer Holmes Weier, 2022 Best Major Research Paper
Award winner**

Ian Greene Book Prize for Academic Achievement

**2022: Gurkamal Dhahan, Khadeja Elsibai, Heather Finlay, Eva
Fok, Megan Fowler, Christopher Hedley, Jennifer Holmes Weier,
and Alexander McKenna**

(presentation made at Convocation on Oct. 13, 2022)

IPAC – CAPPA Case Competition Team Award

Zac Spicer, Coach and **Naomi Couto**, Director, Master of Public
Policy, Administration and Law Program

**2022: Maggie de Barra, Gurkamal Dhahan, Lauren Dranitsaris,
Arman Hamidian, and Gillian Wassmansdorf**

8:05pm

High School Essay Contest: What Do Indigenous Land Acknowledgments Mean to You?

Presenters: **Alena Kimakova**, Director, SPPA. **Milena
Basciano** and **Nyarai Chidemo**, Public Policy
and Administration Student Association (PPASA)

First Prize: Jonathen Jagan

Chinguacousy Secondary School. Brampton, ON

Second Prize: Aliah Jikineh

John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, Toronto, ON

Third Prize: Jonathan Roswell

**Bishop Paul Francis Reding Catholic Secondary
School, Milton, ON**

School of Public Policy and Administration

2022 Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards

8:20pm Emerging Leader Award

Presenters: **Alena Kimakova**, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration and **John Riches**, Master of Ceremonies

Kiersten Allore-Engel, 2022 Emerging Leader Award winner

8:30pm Alumni Recognition Award

Presenters: **Alena Kimakova and Naomi Couto**, Director and Director-Elect, School of Public Policy and Administration

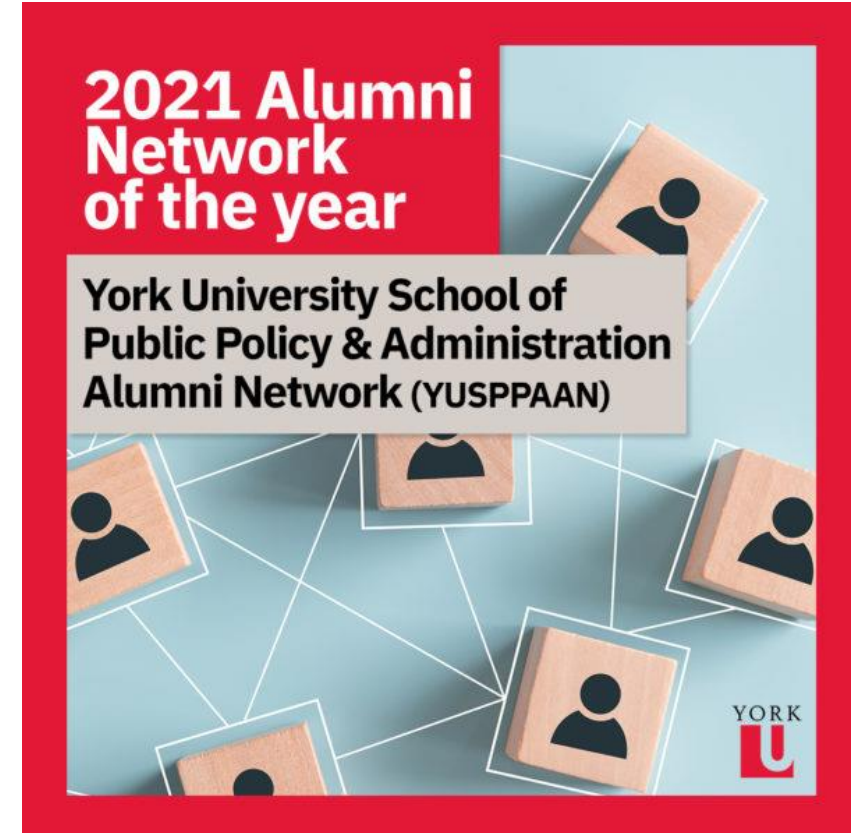
Asare Kester-Akrofi, 2022 Alumni Recognition Award winner

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

Khushbu Dhaliwal, Chair, YUSPPAAN

8:50pm Closing Remarks

John Riches, Master of Ceremonies
Alena Kimakova, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration



John Riches (MPPAL, Class of 2019)

2022 Master of Ceremonies

(2021 Foster-Greene Award winner)



John Riches is Deputy Chief, Operations for Durham Region Paramedic services and an experienced paramedic service leader providing strategic guidance, coaching, and mentoring to paramedics and supervisors. He has also served as the Deputy Chief of Regulatory Compliance & Administration, his responsibilities included overseeing community programs, quality assurance and continuous quality improvement, regulatory compliance, adherence to privacy and access to information legislation, and risk management processes. As part of the Region of Durham's COVID-19 Pandemic Response, John led a team that implemented a Mobile Testing Team as well as a Mobile Vaccination Team to support the overall vaccine rollout. John is the lead representative for the Region on Ontario Health Team partnerships and initiatives and is also involved with the development of the legislatively mandated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. A lifelong learner, John completed his York University Master's Degree in Public Policy, Administration, and Law in 2019. He also holds degrees and certificates/diplomas from Western University, Ontario Tech University, Centennial College, and Durham College.

Orelie Di Mavindi (MPPAL, Class of 2019)

2022 Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy, Administration and Law

Keynote Address

***“Courage: The heart of
transformational leadership”.***



Orelie Di Mavindi is the manager of the Legislation and Adjudication Policy unit under Canada Pension Plan - Disability Directorate at the Income Security and Social Development Branch of Employment and Social Development Canada. Here Orelie is responsible for providing departmental advice in the interpretation and application of CPPD legislation, regulations and policy, including providing adjudication advice on Social Security Tribunal appeals and court proceedings. Orelie is also responsible for developing legislation, regulations and policy for CPPD. Orelie is a former quasi-judicial decision maker at the Federal Court. She was the Project Manager for the Federal Court's Centre for Access to Justice pilot project in Toronto, a resource centre that equips self-represented litigants with tools and resources to navigate their proceedings at the Court. Orelie was also the Court liaison for the Federal Court Legal Assistance Program, a pilot project that matches self-represented litigants ineligible for legal aid, yet unable to afford legal services with pro bono legal representation in immigration and refugee related proceedings at the Federal Court. In her spare time, Orelie is passionate about anti-racism and serves as an identity mentor for women and BIPOC individuals navigating their professional careers.

Marc Rondeau

2022 Practicum Honouree



As the Associate Deputy Minister of the Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation (CPSLRC), Marc has responsibility for the team that supports Treasury Board and Management Board of Cabinet's labour and compensation responsibilities as the Ontario Public Service (OPS) employer and overseer of \$80B of compensation related expenditures covering 1.2M public sector employees that deliver programs and services on behalf of the Ontario Government.

These responsibilities include enterprise-wide policy, delivery and support to ministries on OPS labour relations and total compensation programs as well as central agency oversight and coordination of Broader Public Sector (BPS) labour relations and executive compensation. The CPSLRC team undertakes collective bargaining, grievance management as well as managing the relationship with bargaining agents and also has responsibility for oversight of OPS pensions, benefits, judicial remuneration and related agencies.

Rushell Dissanayake (BPA, Class of 2022)

2022 Practicum Excellence Award



Rushell completed our Practicum in Public Administration with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, ServiceOntario, Central Production and Verification Services Branch (Land Registry) where his positive attitude and willingness to take on any challenge or assignment were much valued. His supervisors also recognized an exceptional level of judgement and discretion to take on significant projects. So much so, his placement supervisor indicated “At times, we felt that Rushell was no different than our full-time employees”. In light of Rushell’s contributions, his performance was also recognized by way of an exceptional evaluation and a 10/10 score.

Rushell also volunteered for our Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) during his studies, initially as Junior Ambassador and later took on the role of Director of Outreach. Rushell graduated from the Management stream of the BPA program and currently holds the position of Registration Services Representative at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery - Land Registration Services Branch (Ontario Public Service). Rushell joined our Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program in September 2022.

Rean Pelayo (BPA, Class of 2022)

2022 Practicum Excellence Award



Rean completed our Practicum in Public Administration with the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Sport's Destination Ontario where they found Rean to be extremely hard working, conscientious, and her contributions excellent. The quality of her work was found to be superior, excellent time management and task prioritization capabilities, and the need for minimal supervision enabled her to complete several projects concurrently while working with different teams. Leveraging these skills, Rean contributed to several major projects and initiatives, supported the development of presentations, slide decks, communications strategies, and jurisdictional scans. Rean's contributions were recognized by way of an exceptional performance evaluation and a 10/10 score. Further, she was asked to stay on through a Summer Experience Program paid placement.

Throughout her studies in the BPA program, Rean also volunteered for our Public Policy and Administration (PPASA) as Junior Ambassador and later as Director of Marketing (2019-2021).



Udoka Achilike

2022 Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy



Udoka joined our Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours program, Policy Analysis stream in Summer 2021 as a mature student with an engineering background from Lagos, Nigeria and a keen interest in public policy. The SPPA Awards Committee was impressed with Udoka's volunteer engagement with Advocacy Peel. Service, social justice engagement and leadership are core values that we encourage in our students at the School of Public Policy and Administration. Udoka is currently completing a practicum placement with the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat, Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation, Policy and Fiscal Oversight Unit.

Many thanks to Professor Lorne Foster for his generosity that made this award possible. Professor Foster holds the York Research Chair in Black Canadian Studies & Human Rights. He is the Director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR), which is the leading university-based survey research centre in Canada. He is a descendent of a Black indentured servant who is believed to have arrived in Accomack County, Virginia from Angola, Africa in the mid- 1600s.

Roberto DiGiovanni (Class of 2023)

2022 Undergraduate Student Award Winner



Robert has been an engaged student throughout his studies. He served our Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) as Director of Internal Affairs, and then as President of the club during the 2021-22 school year. Robert also sat on the Office of the University Registrar's Student Advisory Committee for one full-year term, as well as on the Library and Archives Canada Youth Advisory Committee for two years during his degree. Robert is in the final year of his Bachelor's degree, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration. For the past 1.5 years, Robert has worked with the Ministry of Education in the Digital and Online Learning Branch where he has had the opportunity to work on the development and continued implementation of Ontario's new Online Learning Graduation requirement, as well as leading the administration of the province's 4-year Math Strategy. Robert started as a Policy Co-op Student through the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS) Internship Program, and currently works as a Junior Policy Analyst. He worked in the OPS each summer throughout his degree through the Summer Employment Opportunities Program and credits his involvement with the School for learning about opportunities in the public service during his first year of study.

Paula Tablon Modica (MPPAL, Class of 2022)

2022 Graduate Student Award Winner



Paula Tablon Modica obtained her Master in Public Policy, Administration and Law in October 2022. She was the 2021 GSAPPAL President and her MRP explored stakeholder experiences, the co-production process between researchers and community members, and the psychosocial factors that impact people with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their well-being. Paula is currently a Policy Analyst at the Strategic Policy Division, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

One of Paula's nominator wrote:

"Her ability to maintain engagement and lead the club through many pivots throughout the year is a massive accomplishment and it required pristine dedication to the cause; both to the benefit of the graduate students within MPPAL and the SPPA."

Jennifer Holmes Weier (MPPAL, Class of 2022)

2022 Best Major Research Paper Award Winner



Jennifer Holmes Weier is an accomplished, value-driven non-profit executive who brings a diverse portfolio of strategy and leadership experiences gained navigating and influencing complex global charitable federations. She is an experienced senior executive with local, provincial, national, and global responsibilities. Jennifer is trusted in managing reputations, delicate issues, and critical stakeholder relationships, she's a big picture thinker who always finds the way forward.

Jennifer's nominator wrote:

"The conclusions and recommendations that logically flow from the analysis and findings are nuanced, balanced and supported by evidence. The central conclusion that decentralization of policy staff would not in and of itself increase diversity and inclusivity in the civil service is important and should inform the work of public administrators."

In addition, congratulations to Jennifer for winning the **2022 IPAC/CAPPA National Student and Thought Leadership Award in Public Administration** for this research paper *"Bursting the Ottawa Bubble: Government dispersal and localization in the context of a diversity strategy"*.

Ian Greene Book Prize for Academic Achievement

MPPAL Class of 2022



**2022
Ian Greene
Book Prize
Recipients!**

Congratulations!

The Ian Greene Book Prize recognizes outstanding academic performance in the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program.

Christopher Hedley



Heather Finlay



Megan Fowler



Alexander Mckenna



Gurkamal Dhahan



Khadeja Elsibai



Eva Fok



Jennifer Holmes Weier

2022 IPAC-CAPPA Case Competition Team



**Maggie de Barra
Gurkamal Dhahan
Lauren Dranitsaris
Arman Hamidan
Gillian Wasmandsdorf and
Coach Zac Spicer**

2022

High School Essay Contest:

What do Indigenous land acknowledgements mean to you?

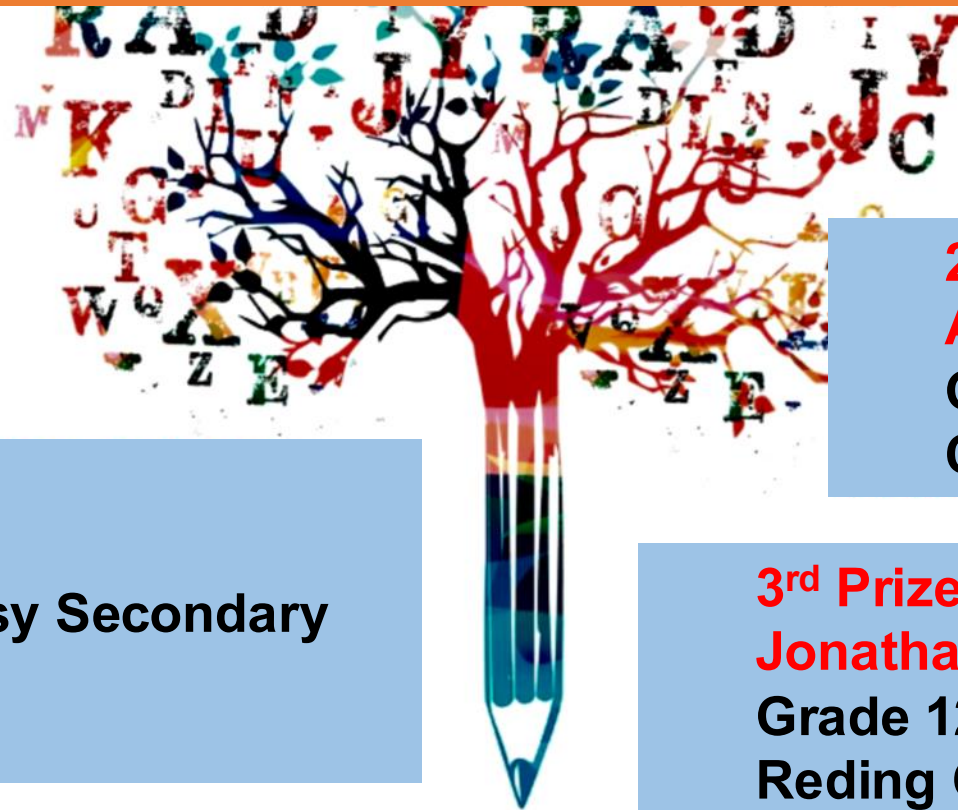
Share your thoughts and reflect on Indigenous land acknowledgements in Canada, their meaning and the change you hope they will bring about in society and in terms of how they can shape and impact public policy.

Congratulations to:

1st Prize Winner

Jonathen Jagan

**Grade 11, Chinguacousy Secondary
School. Brampton, ON**



2nd Prize Winner

Aliah Jikineh

**Grade 12. John Polanyi
Collegiate Institute, Toronto, ON**

3rd Prize Winner

Jonathan Roswell

**Grade 12, Bishop Paul Francis
Reding Catholic Secondary School,
Milton, ON**

Kiersten Allore-Engel(MPPAL, Class of 2020) 2022 Emerging Leader Award Winner



Kiersten Allore-Engel is the Manager of Community Safety and Well-being at the Region of Durham. She is a Registered Professional Planner with over 15 years of experience in policy development, project management and community engagement. Most recently she led the development and implementation of the Region's Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan. The goal of the CSWB Plan is to ensure residents of Durham Region feel safe and have a sense of belonging, and their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression are met.

Kiersten's nominator wrote:

"Kiersten is an emerging leader who very much represents the ideals, values and abilities of sound, responsible and engaging public policy and administration in congruence with the School's vision to promote Good Governance. She is extremely deserving of this recognition."

Asare Kester-Akrofi (MPPAL, Class of 2020)

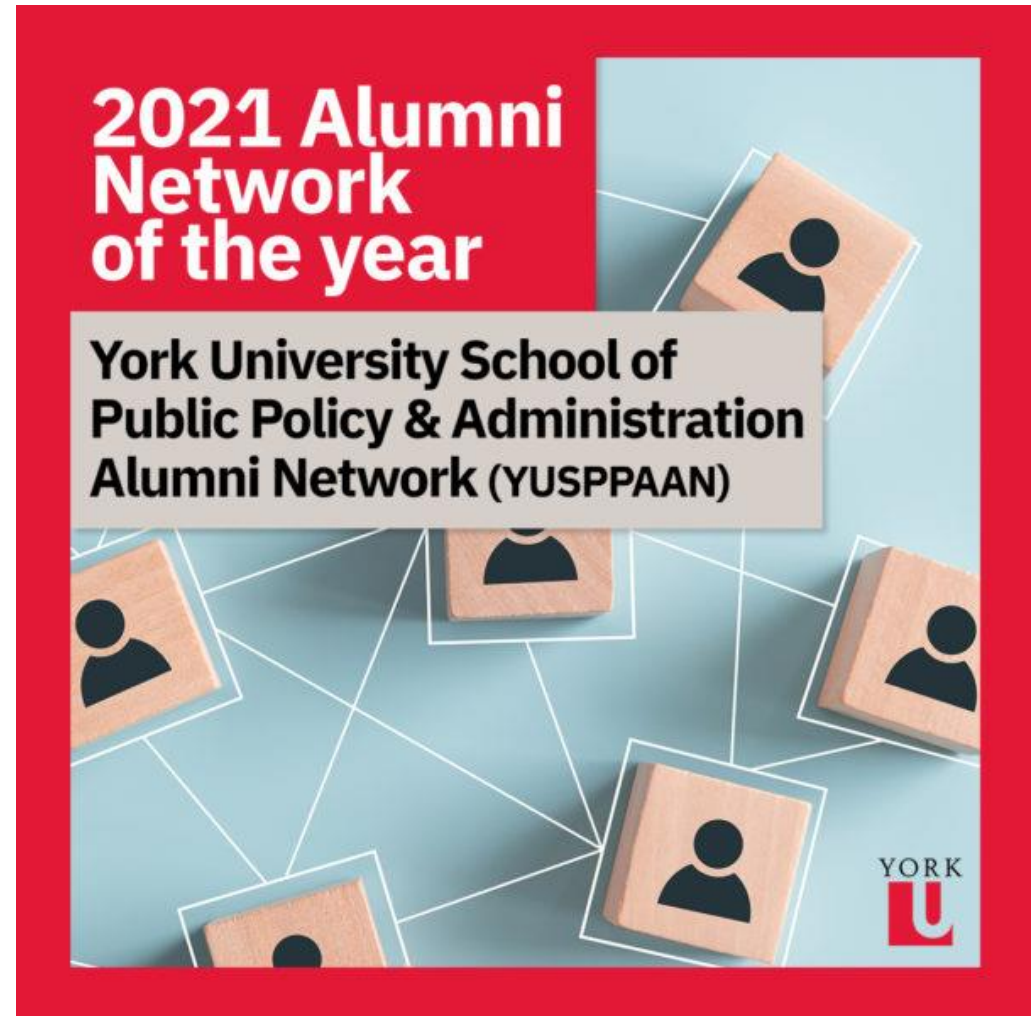
2022 Alumni Recognition Award Winner



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. Asare is currently Acting Manager, Program and Strategic Support to Deputy City Manager of Corporate Services, City of Toronto.

YUSPPAAN Presentation

Khushbu Dhaliwal,
Chair



liberal arts &
professional studies

