10 years impacting public policy discourse in Canada

10 years as Canada’s leading policy school
A Message from the Director

Dear partners in policy,

Ten years ago, Dr. Jack Mintz and a group of visionary Canadians saw the need to improve public policy in Canada. They saw the need for an organization that could harness the expertise of both academics and practitioners to create accessible, practical and applicable policy prescriptions. They also knew that by creating such a place, they would have an ideal environment of expertise to educate and train young people who wanted careers related to public policy.

In just ten years, the School of Public Policy has grown from that original handful of people to over 100 fellows, faculty members and staff. And we are now educating our eighth cohort of Master of Public Policy (MPP) students. We have grown from an idea, to Canada’s leading policy school.

With over 400 peer-reviewed publications, each heavily shared to the general public and policy influencers, we have created a body of knowledge that is impacting decisions at all three levels of government. From an original take on homelessness policy, to tax research that is being implemented in countries around the globe, to our plan for a new northern corridor for infrastructure that has gained support from government, stakeholders, Indigenous People and business alike, the School is having an impact like no other in Canada.

Our proudest accomplishment? The graduation of hundreds of highly trained and empirically minded MPP graduates, 95% of whom have landed good jobs in all sectors in their field of study. These graduates are experiencing incredible success and will have an impact on policy decisions that will grow in size and momentum over the years.

We look forward to our next ten years with just as much enthusiasm and confidence. We are Canada’s leading policy school. Please join us. We ask for your support for our work to create policy that will improve the lives of every Canadian.

Sincerely,

Pierre-Gerlier Forest, PhD, FCAHS
Professor and Director
James S. and Barbara A. Palmer Chair in Public Policy
Ten years ago we saw a need for fact-based, empirical and data-driven research on the most important social and economic issues affecting Canada. A school that could break through partisan noise and provide research that is timely, prescriptive and peer-reviewed. We combine the agility and responsiveness of a think-tank with the academic rigour of a university.
We asked thousands of students and senior leaders in business and government what it would take to make this vision a reality. They confirmed our thinking: Make the research focused, accessible and hard hitting. Find the best people with both academic and real-world experience and use that knowledge to drive relevant topics and prescriptive solutions. Then, train a new generation of policy experts to bring empirical skills in policy analysis to government, stakeholders and business.

Simple, but not easy.
The University of Calgary was a natural home for this kind of school. In combination with a generous gift from Calgary lawyer and philanthropist, James S. Palmer, The School of Public Policy was launched with a massive fundraising event ten years ago.

Since then, we’ve continued to build and grow. And we have studied the metrics. We measure our performance just like we measure the performance of governments and programs. The numbers are clear...
Most cited policy school by Canadian academics.

Most cited policy school in Canada by media.

25,000 attendees at national and international conferences and symposia.

50+ Fellows who bring an unprecedented and unmatched depth and range of policy knowledge to bear on research and public discourse.

7 cohorts of remarkably trained Master of Public Policy graduates with 95% practicing in their chosen field.

400+ peer-reviewed research publications.

In short, Canada’s leading policy school.
But metrics of our work are not enough. We track our impact. Because research only matters when it impacts the public policy process.
Tangible Impacts

Dr. Kent Fellows and Andrei Sulzenko were invited to give Senate Testimony on the Canadian Northern Corridor concept, which was a direct result of the initial study.

The Senate Committee endorsed the idea and has worked to promote the corridor concept at the federal government level. This was also one of the elements behind the federal government’s decision to commit $2 billion dollars in funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund.

Basic income project with Government of BC
Dr. Lindsay Tedds co-investigating an examination of the feasibility of a basic income program in British Columbia.

Strengthening Canada-U.K. relations
Shoulder to Shoulder: An annual Canada-U.K. conference that brings together researchers, policymakers and business leaders to discuss opportunities for collaboration in financial markets, security and trade.

External review of pan-Canadian health organizations.
Dr. PG Forest co-chaired an external review of eight pan-Canadian health organizations. The reform recommendations were presented to federal Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor and titled “Fit for Purpose: Findings and Recommendations of the External Review of the pan-Canadian Health Organizations.” The report lists ten recommendations that—if implemented—will result in an overhaul of these organizations, leaving a smaller number of larger bodies better designed to meet the needs of 21st century health systems.

Witness at the House of Commons Standing Committee
On Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities on federal infrastructure programs.

Witness at a Senate of Canada Standing Committee of Social Affairs
Dr. Jen Zwicker on improvements to the disability tax credit.

Round-table discussion and follow-up paper “The Challenge of Integrating Renewable Generation in the Alberta Electricity Market”—significantly helped frame the political and economic debate surrounding how to best achieve the goal of increased renewable generation and integration in Alberta.

One of the core issues discussed at the panel and in the paper was the desirability and potential design of a capacity market within the Alberta electricity market context for preservation of grid stability. The province of Alberta is currently designing such a market.
“Embodied Emissions in Inputs and Outputs: A Value-Added Approach to National Emissions Accounting” has provided actual hard numbers for the ongoing conversation and debate related to Canada’s share of global emissions and how best to think about emissions reduction strategies within Canada that can translate into emissions reductions at the global level.

This research resulted in invitations from the provincial government (Assistant Deputy Ministers and staffers) and the National Energy Board (board members and staff) who were keen to better understand the results of our analysis.

**Practical recommendations to policymakers**

The International Policy and Trade program hosts various events including the North American Process Symposium: a forum for experts from government and the private sector to discuss North American economic and political relations, which has yielded practical recommendations, distributed to policymakers.

“Public-Interest Benefit Evaluation of Partial Upgrading Technology” was the only source (academic or otherwise) referenced in the Alberta government’s call for proposals under the Alberta Partial Upgrading Program.

This program devoted $1 billion in support ($400m in subsidies and $600m in loan guarantees) to commercialization of partial upgrading technologies based primarily on the strength and clarity of our analysis.

“Who are the Homeless? Numbers, Trends and Characteristics of those without Homes in Calgary” highlighted the importance of using ‘big data’ to develop a better understanding of the experience of homelessness and how best to serve the needs of this population. The authors were invited to use the same empirical approach to examine homeless shelter use in Toronto.

**Yukon Financial Advisory Panel**

Dr. Ron Kneebone and Dr. Trevor Tombe were invited to join the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel by the Government of Yukon to provide independent and expert advice on how to improve the Yukon government’s financial outlook.

**20 topical papers**

on international trade policy including: Understanding U.S. protectionism, the Canada-U.S. softwood lumber dispute, the renegotiation of NAFTA, and Canadian trade relations with China among other topics.
SOCIAL POLICY AND HEALTH
The goal of our Social Policy and Health program is to improve the lives of Canadians by employing an objective, evidence-based approach to assessing existing and proposed public policies. Our research identifies practical solutions that cut through rhetoric designed to polarize debate and freeze policymakers into inaction.

We apply this approach to programs in two policy areas:

• Health Policy
• Social Policy

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Through disciplined research and analysis the Energy and Environmental Policy research division provides practical solutions to Canada’s challenging energy and environmental policy problems. We do this by injecting evidence into policy debates, and by engaging with decision makers, stakeholders and the public to create a forum for open and meaningful dialogue among different perspectives.

The research division has five priority areas for its research and outreach:

• Canadian Network for Energy Policy Research and Analysis
• Canadian Northern Corridor
• Energy for Life
• Energy Policy and Regulatory Frameworks
• Indigenous Policy
FISCAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

The goal of the Fiscal and Economic Policy area is to evaluate the fiscal and regulatory policies of the federal, provincial and municipal governments and propose policies that improve the lives of Canadians.

The research programs cover a wide range of issues including taxation, income inequality, public sector deficits and debt, productivity, financial market regulation, livable cities and economic diversification. Fiscal and Economic Policy provides evidence-based policy analysis and advice to governments, business and the general public on how policies can be reformed to meet the challenges that we face today and in the future.

Fiscal and Economic Policy consists of four research programs:

• Financial Markets Regulation
• Sustaining Prosperity
• Tax & Economic Growth
• Urban Policy

INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND TRADE

A pragmatic program designed to create maximum benefit for Canada in terms of the expansion of trade and the security of our international relationships. A program that is practical, not theoretical; one that provides focus on the economics of international policy, particularly issues related to trade and Canada’s ties to emerging markets, and on improving Canada’s place in the world.

The School has three priority areas for its international policy work:

• International Trade
• Market Diversification
• Security & Defence
Extractive Resource Governance Program

Canada is a world leader in responsibly developing and extracting resources. From mining to oil and gas, Canadians have developed regulatory processes, technologies and corporate policies that are state-of-the-art.

The Extractive Resource Governance Program (ERGP) leverages this Canadian expertise and offers it to the world. Through its policy development and capacity-building services, the ERGP has trained hundreds of government officials and business people around the world in resource extraction best practices.

No other policy school offers anything like it.

Graduates of the ERGP Certificate Course and organizers in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Dr. Bev Dahlby offers expertise during a break-out session of the training program for Mongolian government officials.
Our Global Reach
Alumni with Impact
Meet some of our remarkably trained graduates

SEAN MALLANY
Senior Intergovernmental Officer, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Government of Alberta

Graduation Year
2012

Capstone Project Title
Past the 49th Parallel: An Evaluation of the Beyond the Border Agreements

“The capstone project was particularly applicable—I was able to directly apply my research into my job.”

CHRIS APPS
Director of Lands and Resources, Kitselas First Nation

Graduation Year
2012

Capstone Project Title
Real Talk: The Search for Clarity and Certainty in Aboriginal Consultation

“The Master of Public Policy built the foundation of my understanding of how governments and courts shape consultation and relationship building with Indigenous groups.”

NEUCZKI MATHURIN
Project Engineer, Methane Emissions Compliance, TC Energy (formerly known as TransCanada)

Graduation Year
2018

Capstone Project Title
Drilling into Policy Effectiveness: An Evaluation of Carbon Pricing Policies in Oil and Gas Jurisdictions

“The MPP program helped me develop the skills to interpret and analyze the new methane regulations. It also helped me understand political and environmental drivers of these regulations and other climate change policies.”
Mikaela McQuade
Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

Graduation Year 2014

Capstone Project Title Formalizing Expectations: The Duty to Consult and the Canadian Extractive Resource Sector

“The Master of Public Policy provided me with both the theoretical framework and practical skills required to contribute meaningfully to the Canadian public policy field.”

Robert Falconer
Research Assistant, Social Policy and Health, The School of Public Policy

Graduation Year 2018

Capstone Project Title Leaving Homes to Finding Housing: Refugee Housing Affordability and Homelessness in Calgary

“The Master of Public Policy helps me interpret and communicate policy in a rapidly changing world. It helps employers and volunteer organizations act promptly with the best knowledge available.”

Mckensi Patterson
Project & Policy Coordinator, the City of Ottawa

Graduation Year 2014


“The program provided a practical introduction to topics—like law and finance—with real-world Canadian examples. Importantly, it provided me with exposure to areas of public discourse beyond my interests.”
Unparalleled Depth of Expertise

DISTINGUISHED POLICY FELLOWS

Thomas d’Aquino
Distinguished Policy Fellow

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C.
Distinguished Policy Fellow

Tom Jenkins, O.C.
Distinguished Policy Fellow

Nancy Southern
Distinguished Policy Fellow

ACADEMIC STAFF

Eugene Beaulieu
International trade

David Bercuson, O.C.
Military policy and national defence

Bev Dahlby
Tax policy and fiscal federalism

Pierre-Gerlier Forest
Health reform and federalism

Ron Kneebone
Fiscal and social policy

Myles Leslie
Health quality and senior care

Kevin McQuillan
Population change

Jack Mintz, C.M.
Tax policy

Norma Nielson
Financial markets policy

Jean-Sébastien Rioux
International conflict and foreign policy

Lindsay Tedds
Tax and economic policy

Bryce Tingle
Corporate finance and corporate governance

Jennifer Winter
Energy and environmental policy

Jennifer Zwicker
Economics of health interventions

EXECUTIVE FELLOWS

Uzi Arad
National security and defence policy

Deborah Archibald
Community engagement and resource development policy

Matt Ayres
Energy and environmental policy

Leonardo Beltran
Extractive resource governance

Vivian Bercovici
Foreign policy and business

Brian Bietz
Energy and environmental policy

John Carruthers
Energy and Indigenous partnerships

Laura Dawson
Economic policy and U.S.-Canada relations

Jim Dilay
Resource extraction policy

Wendy Dobson
International policy, trade and finance

Serge Dupont
Natural resources and international finance

Robert Fonberg
Trade, security and cyber-issues

Matthew Foss
Energy policy, taxation and economics

Peggy Garrity
Tax and economic growth

Robert Hage
Foreign affairs and international trade

Ron Hallman
Environmental assessment

Eddy Isaacs
Energy and environmental technologies

Sheila Leggett
Extractive resource governance

John Lester
Tax, innovation and entrepreneurship

Brian Livingston
Energy policy and law

Janice MacKinnon
Fiscal policy and federal-provincial relations

Robert Mansell
Resource economics and regional policy

Richard Masson
Energy project development

Dan McFadyen
Extractive resource governance

Margaret Melhorn
Fiscal and economic policy

Ted Morton
Politics and energy policy

Marcia Nelson
Social policy, health, tax and economic growth

Paul Precht
Petroleum fiscal structures and resource governance

Colin Robertson
International relations and defence, security and trade

Nobina Robinson
Innovation, higher education and skills policies
Lawrie Savage
Financial regulation, insurance and risk management

Colum Smith
Health networks and cancer policy

Hugh Stephens
International trade and Canada-Asia relations

Andrei Sulzenko
National infrastructure and trade policy

Almos Tassonyi
Municipal and urban policy

Ron Wallace
Tax and economic growth

Scott Wilkie
International taxation and tax treaties

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Paul Boothe
Economic and environmental policy

Brendan Boyd
Energy and Environmental policy

James Coleman
Energy, trade and transport policy

Brian Conger
Tax and economic growth

Dan Dutton
Social data and policy

Herbert Emery
Regional economics

Egête Ferede
Tax policy and fiscal federalism

Carol McAusland
International environmental economics

Kenneth McKenzie
Energy, taxation and fiscal policy

Katrina Milaney
Social and economic policy

Michal Moore
Resource and energy economics

Lucija Muehlenbachs
Water, resource and energy policy

Martin Olszynski
Environmental law

Norma Padron
Data analytics and AI

Maya Papineau
Economics of climate change

Nicholas Rivers
Environmental and renewable energy policy

Blake Shaffer
Energy and environmental policy

Wayne Simpson
Labour and urban policy

Robert Skinner
History and geopolitics of energy policy

Fenner Stewart
Energy law and federalism

Leah Stokes
Energy and environmental policy

Trevor Tombe
Trade and economic policy

André Turcotte
Public opinion research and communications

Alina Turner
Homelessness and affordable housing

Harrie Vredenburg
Energy and environmental policy

Lana Wells
Social policy and violence prevention

Jean-François Wen
Taxation and social insurance

Tom Wilson
Forecasting, fiscal and tax policy

Joel Wood
Environmental economics

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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Health economics

Zak Biggs
International relations and trade

Daria Crisan
Tax analysis

Sarah Dobson
Resource taxation frameworks

Stephanie Dunn
Disability and social policy

Kent Fellows
Energy and regulatory policy

Brittany Finlay
Disability policy

Victoria Goodday
Legal frameworks for water resources management

Robin Gray
Health policy analysis

Mukesh Khanal
Regional economic policy

Akram Khayatzadeh-Mahani
Population health

Braeden Larson
Extractive resource governance

Craig Scott
Health innovation policy

Margarita Wilkins
Social policy indicators

Krystle Wittevrongel
Disabilities and employment barriers
Distinguished Policy Fellows

The Distinguished Policy Fellowships are awarded on an annual basis and recognize distinguished individuals for their lifetime commitment to the betterment of public policy in Canada. The award recipients have exemplary records as leaders in public policy research, education, development, implementation or advocacy.

2017

Allison Robins, MPP’15, presents the Distinguished Policy Fellow award to The Rt. Hon. Stephen J. Harper, P.C.

Tom Jenkins, O.C. accepts his Distinguished Policy Fellow award from Sunny Kullar, MPP’15.

2018

Nancy Southern accepts her Distinguished Policy Fellow award from Jennifer Rumas, MPP’12.

Neuczki Mathurin, MPP’18, presents the Distinguished Policy Fellow award to Thomas d’Aquino, C.M.
Scientific Council

The contribution of external expertise has been a decisive factor in the emergence of The School as an independent and authoritative voice in the Canadian policy landscape. The Scientific Council aids The School of Public Policy in the strengthening of our research activity and contributes to the valuable professional networks we have established across academia, government and the private sector.

THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
ALSO INCLUDES:

- Douglas Cumming
  DeSantis Distinguished Professor of Finance and Entrepreneurship, College of Business, Florida Atlantic University

- Monica Gattinger
  Associate Professor, Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa

- Patrick James
  Dornsife Dean’s Professor of International Relations, University of Southern California Dornsife

- Michael Keen
  Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund

- Adonis Yatchew
  Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Toronto

Robin Boadway
Emeritus Professor, Economics Dept., Queen’s University

Katherine Cuff
Professor, Canada Research Chair in Public Economic Theory, Dept. of Economics, McMaster University

Keshia Pollack Porter
Associate Dean and Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Gerry Boychuck
Professor, Dept. of Political Science, University of Waterloo

Evelyn Forget
Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

Michael J. Prince
Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, Dept. of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria

Aurélie Campana
Professor and Director of the Terrorism and Extremism Research Team, Department of Political Science, Université Laval

Sarah-Myriam Martin-Brulé
Associate Professor, The Politics and International Studies Department, Bishop’s University

Barry Rabe
J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
The Next 10 Years

Canada needs The School of Public Policy now more than ever.

Society is increasingly polarized and divided. Trust in institutions is declining and Canadians are not sure whom or what to believe.

Citizens and policy makers alike need a source of policy direction that is credible, uses hard data, relies on empirical analysis and is non-partisan.

The School will continue to focus on what it does best, while growing our size and reach. We will remain the leaders in extractive resource governance, energy policy, the social determinants of health and responsible fiscal policy.

In ten years, we became Canada’s leading policy school. In ten more years, we intend to be recognized internationally as one of the leading policy schools in the world.
Become a Partner in Policy

The School of Public Policy wants you to become a partner in policy. By supporting our work, you are advancing effective and practical policy solutions. Working together, we can inform and influence policy at all levels of government for the betterment of all Canadians.

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