



THE SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY

# Necessary Steps

A strategic outlook for  
The School of Public Policy

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



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# What is a school of public policy?

A school of public policy brings together scholars and practitioners interested in finding sound and practical solutions to the public problems that a society faces, using the methods of science. At the junction of different disciplinary traditions such as economics, public administration or law, policy research is usually strongly empirical and aimed at informing public deliberations and government decisions. In addition, most schools host one or more teaching programs, providing future analysts with the knowledge and skills required to develop and implement policies in a variety of organizations, public or private.

## History of the School of Public Policy

2018

First students enter joint JD/MPP degree program

March 2016

Dr. Pierre-Gerlier Forest appointed Director and James S. and Barbara A. Palmer Chair in Public Policy

2014

First students enter joint MPP/MBA program

Fall 2011

First cohort enters the Master of Public Policy program

May 2009

The School of Public Policy officially launched with an event that netted \$1 million in donations

January 2008

Dr. Jack Mintz appointed Palmer Chair in Law and Public Policy and Director of the School

The School of Policy Studies established – name changed subsequently



# A focal point for policy learning

## Master of Public Policy

The centrepiece of teaching and training at the School is the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program. Established in 2011, the program is a one-year, course-based, professional Master's program. Such programs are growing in popularity in Canada and elsewhere as students opt for graduate programs that are shorter in duration and designed to prepare them for an immediate career.

## MSc in Sustainable Energy Development

This new academic year will see the arrival of the very successful Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Development (SEDEV). The program provides students with a graduate-level understanding of the science and policy aspects of sustainable energy. The program is truly interdisciplinary and involves the active participation of the Haskayne School of Business, the Schulich School of Engineering, the Faculty of Law, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

## Extractive Resource Governance Program

The Extractive Resource Governance Program (ERGP) offers international training and capacity-building programs tailored to the specific needs and timelines of different countries. These programs provide objective advice, based on Canadian and international best practices, to educate officials involved with developing their resource sectors.

## Executive Training

In the next years the School will establish academic credit certificate courses in health policy and energy policy. These will be aimed at professionals at work in these fields who wish to upgrade their academic knowledge.

In addition, the School will explore a part-time MPP stream as well as a Doctor of Public Policy degree.





Research Timely Independent  
Rigour Factual Bold  
Relevant Peer-Reviewed

## Our research programs

### Social Policy and Health

Applying an evidence-based approach to stubborn problems in health and social policy.

### Energy and Environmental Policy

Providing practical solutions to Canada's challenging energy and environmental policy problems.

### Fiscal and Economic Policy

Prescribing fiscal and regulatory policies to improve Canada's competitiveness and stimulate economic growth.

### International Policy and Trade

Questioning Canada's international role and supporting the expansion of Canada's trade and market access.

**425+** peer-reviewed research publications.

**MOST CITED**

policy school by  
Canadian academics.

**25,000**

attendees at national and  
international conferences  
and symposia.

**75+**

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

**8**

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

**IMPACT**

**MOST  
CITED**

policy school in  
Canada by media.

**\$65 million +**

raised in philanthropic and grant funding for research,  
scholarships, outreach and student experience.

**500+**

events, both national and international.



# Why are we Canada's leading policy school?

1 The MPP program has demonstrated that a series of dedicated courses progressing from fundamental concepts of policy science and policy analysis to concrete policy solutions meets the demands of our increasingly complex world. To achieve this goal, the School works with our surrounding community and takes advantage of being part of one of Canada's top research universities.

2 Our work on policy issues at all levels of government, on a multitude of topics as diverse as national sovereignty, taxes, emissions pricing or social policy, truly distinguishes the School. Most, if not all, of our faculty members and executive fellows have concrete experience in policy development and policy implementation. Their expertise is regularly sought out by the media and government to provide real-world perspectives on the issues that matter most.

3 A large proportion of the School's resources are the fruit of a determined strategy to associate the end-users of our research to its financing. The diversity of our funding sources and close adherence to the most demanding academic standards has preserved our independence and integrity, and established our reputation as a leading source of credible policy advice.





We aim to be an internationally leading centre for policy research and policy training.

## The School of Public Policy in 10 years

“During its first 10 years, the School grew to become Canada’s leading policy school. We have developed unique research approaches based on data analytics and interdisciplinary work. We have focused our attention on crucial policy problems. We have attracted a diverse group of faculty members and research staff, well trained and policy savvy. Our graduates bring their analytical skills and broad policy culture to the hundreds of public and private organizations that have hired them.

We aim to be an internationally leading centre for policy research and policy training. We will continue to rely on fact-based analysis, in our research and in our teaching. We will remain true to our roots and ensure that we are flexible, thorough and impactful.

We must also make sure our means match our ambitions. The School should therefore increase its capacity to meet the rising demand for sound and timely policy advice, as well as the need for a broader range of training programs. Without abandoning an original funding model that incentivizes innovation and fosters intellectual independence, the School must achieve a level of sustainability that facilitates long-term projects.”

**Pierre-Gerlier Forest, Ph.D., FCAHS**

Director and James S. and Barbara A. Palmer Chair in Public Policy



# How will we succeed?

## Our strategic goals\*

1. Take the steps needed to continue to be Canada's leading policy school
2. Contribute original research that drives positive policy change
3. Train the best, and most in-demand, policy analysts in Canada and around the world
4. Achieve recognition as one of the world's top policy schools
5. Retain independence by diversifying funding sources

\* Readers are invited to read the full Strategic Outlook report at <https://bit.ly/3OWL9tA>.

# Our Values

## Independence

Freedom to think boldly

## Drive

Getting things done

## Impact

Solving real-world problems

## Concern

Furthering the common good

## Respect

Holding ourselves to the highest standards





# THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

## **The School of Public Policy**

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