

# CANADIAN GOVERNANCE POLICY

**POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR A REMARKABLE BUT  
CHALLENGING COUNTRY TO GOVERN**

“Canada is one of the most complex countries in the world to govern given the powers that are spread across our federal, provincial and territorial governments. The School of Public Policy can provide the policy options to make it work more effectively.”

— DR. ANTHONY SAYERS

**C**anada's diverse regions, cultures, geography and economy are both its strength and a policy challenge. In this area of focus we bring rigorous evidence, shared knowledge and new ideas to address critical questions about how we govern ourselves in a rapidly changing world.

Federal bargaining defines public policy in Canada and a complex mix of public and private actors with potential vetoes are always at the table. The stresses now confronting institutions that have underpinned our stability and prosperity for decades most probably add to the challenge of ensuring political and economic resilience and strengthening Canada's role in the world.

The School excels in bringing Canadians together to manage this complex bargain, convening academics, governments, business and civil society leaders to co-develop policy options that shape our country's future. We provide deep analysis and critical insight into the reforms needed to drive the effective delivery of government goods and services, expand the private economy and strengthen civil society.

Canadian governance policy intersects with other areas of focus at the School and typifies the need for transdisciplinary solutions in areas including federal-provincial relations, interprovincial relations and regulations, municipal governance, market economics, environment policy, Indigenous reconciliation, immigration, social equality, and security and defence.

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**DR. ANTHONY SAYERS**  
Director, Canadian Governance  
Policy

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Dr. Sayers is a Professor in the Department of Political Science. He contributes to many peer-reviewed academic journals and books and is coauthor of the forthcoming *The Dawn of Competitive Party Politics in Alberta: An End to Solitude*. He is the director of the Canadian Elections Database, which has all federal, provincial, and territorial general election results since 1867.



# OUR CORE FOCUS

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## FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

Our research addresses questions about the diverse economic and social policy elements of the Canadian federation. Collaborating with the other areas of focus in the School, we conduct research to address policy issues including provincial politics and policymaking, interprovincial trade barriers, municipal governance, supply management, immigration and health care.

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## CLIMATE POLICY

*Lead researcher: Dr. Jennifer Winter*

The Canadian Climate Policy Partnership (C2P2) provides information on climate policies and strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change and help Canada meet its emissions targets. It is a national network of leading researchers and policymakers creating an accessible public database and digital platform on the climate commitments, targets, policies and investments by the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

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## CANADIAN ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

For a decade, the School has led Canada in research on economic corridors. We identified opportunities for interregional and international co-operation, trade, enhanced service delivery to northern communities and a co-ordinated approach to large-scale infrastructure projects. With governments now adopting these ideas, we can bring key parties together to turn these insights into practical policy solutions to improve social, economic and national security outcomes.

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## DATABASE ON PUBLIC POLICY

Good, timely information is critical to informing research that leads to better analysis and policy options on issues common to all governments. No other organization is doing this work, and the School is positioned to be a one-stop shop for critical political and policy data on federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments and large language models that analyze public policies.

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## INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

Our work aims to improve Canada's capacity to develop meaningful and effective policies that address the aspirations and concerns of Indigenous peoples and contribute to reconciliation. Our focus is on the socioeconomic implications of energy policy, knowledge co-production in energy and environmental policy and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in infrastructure development.

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## DEFENCE POLICY

The School leverages its connections with the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary to deepen policy development on defence in response to increased global uncertainty and renewed federal engagement.



**ABOUT THE  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY**

Under Director Martha Hall Findlay, the James S. and Barbara A. Palmer Chair in Public Policy, the School leverages the responsiveness of a respected think-tank and the academic rigour of one of Canada's

leading research universities. Our focus is in five areas – Economic and Fiscal Policy, Energy and Natural Resources Policy, International Policy, Health and Social Policy and Canadian Governance Policy.