

School of Public Policy and Administration

Weekly Newsletter

March 2013 – Volume 1, Issue 2

Important Reminders

Summer Course Enrolment Period

Please check your course enrolment slots for the 2013 Summer session as students can begin to enroll between March 5-March 22. For more information on course enrolment, visit <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/guide/>

Online & In-Class Course Evaluations

Online course evaluations are available to students from March 19-April 9. In-class course evaluations will be completed during this time period as per the discretion of the course instructor. Please check with your course director for more details on the format of their course evaluations.

Winter Exam Period

Winter term course end Monday, April 8, 2013. The final exam period begins Wednesday, April 10 and ends Friday, April 26.

Seminars/Workshops

See next week's announcements...

SPPA Events

School of Public Policy & Administration Open House

The Open House is for all undergraduate students interested in majoring or minoring in Public Administration. Come meet the faculty, alumni and

learn more about the School, its programs and all that it has to offer.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2013

Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Location: McLaughlin 140 (SCR)

Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

Education for Good Governance

Our mission is to educate for good governance. Integrating extensive educational and research resources we prepare current and future policy makers, policy analysts, managers and other professionals in the public, private and para-public sectors for effective, efficient, and accountable democratic governance in a complex and multicultural world.

Other Events

Statistics Day at York

We are pleased to invite you to attend a one-day event, "Statistics Day at York University", to be held on Friday April 5th, 2013 in the Senate Chambers (Ross N940).

The year of 2013 has been declared as the International Year of Statistics. The founding organizations of Statistics2013 are the [American Statistical Association](#), [Institute of Mathematical Statistics](#), [International Biometric Society](#), [International Statistical Institute](#), and [Royal Statistical Society](#). The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Statistical Consulting Service of York University are official participants of this international movement.

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Faculty members from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Health and Institute for Social Research are organizing this event. We will have excellent speakers from different research units to talk about statistics and its applications. The talks will be accessible to the general public. This could also be a wonderful opportunity for future collaborative work!

The registration will be open to all faculty members, staff members and students at York University. Lunch will be provided for registered participants free of charge. However, the number of participants will be limited due to budgetary constraints. Please register at <http://statsnetwork.info.yorku.ca/>.

We would like to thank the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Faculty of Health, the Institute of Social Research and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their generous financial contributions to the event.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the event.

Osgoode Distinguished Lecture Series

The next event at Osgoode is a lecture by Bob Rae, interim federal Liberal leader. He will be speaking at Osgoode Hall on Thursday April 4 at 10:30am.

Could you kindly share the following information with students and faculty. We would be delighted to continue to have members of the wider YorkU community share in this event with us.

What: Bob Rae speaks at Osgoode Hall on Government, Partisanship and the Rule of Law

When: Thursday April 4, 2013 at 10:30am.

Where: Osgoode Hall Law School, Moot Court

Who: Bob Rae is Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and the Liberal Member of Parliament in the federal riding of Toronto Centre. Bob Rae served as Ontario's 21st Premier, and has been elected eleven times to federal and provincial parliaments. Mr Rae studied History, Politics and Law at the University of Toronto and Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He has been a practicing lawyer since 1980 and from

1996 to 2006 was a Partner at Goodmans LLP in Toronto.

As part of our popular lunch talk series brain food
McLaughlin College Proudly Presents:

“Acknowledging and Advancing Refugee Rights in Canada – April 4th, Refugee Rights Day in Canada”

Presented by - A Panel of Speakers

Panelists:

- University Professor Ian Greene - Master, McLaughlin College, York University
- Geraldine MacDonald - Barrister and Solicitor, President of the Refugee Lawyers Association of Ontario (RLAO)
- Professor James C. Simeon - Acting Director, Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS)

On April 4, 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) released one of its first decisions under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms under Section 7, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice." The SCC ruled that the word "everyone" refers to all persons who are on the territory of Canada and not just Canadian citizens or permanent residents. It further ruled that because the refugee status determination system, at that time, did not have an oral hearing it did not conform to "the principles of fundamental justice."

Justice Bertha Wilson, the first female Justice of the SCC who wrote the majority opinion, stated that, "The principles of natural justice and procedural fairness which have long been espoused by our courts, and the constitutional entrenchment of the principles of fundamental justice in s. 7, implicitly recognizes that the balance of administrative convenience does not override the need to adhere to these principles." The SCC's Singh decision led to dramatic changes to Canada's refugee status determination system. The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) was established to allow all refugee applicants to have an oral hearing in their application for refugee protection.

April 4th has been designated as "Refugee Rights Day in Canada" in recognition of the SCC's famous Singh decision.

Co-sponsored by McLaughlin, Master's Office, Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), Refugee Lawyers Association of Ontario (RLAO) and The Ontario Metropolis Centre (CERIS)

THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2013 SENIOR COMMON ROOM 12PM – 2PM 140 McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE

Everyone Welcome
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Call for Papers

See next week's announcements...

Contests

See next week's announcements...

Employment Opportunities

Ontario Government Summer Jobs

Once again the Ontario government will be offering employment to several thousand students this summer. While wages are not great, the experience of working in government is.

Visit the following URL for more details about the jobs on offer.

Please see link below to summer student job postings in the Ontario Public Service:

<http://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/Search.aspx?Language=English>

Please remember 1.) Only apply for jobs in cities and regions of the province that you are seriously interested in working in

2.) Under job category, make sure you scroll down to the bottom of the list to find the student summer experience jobs.

If you have any questions, please contact the School of Public Policy and Administration for more information at 416.736.5384.

Volunteer Opportunities

See next week's announcements...

Internship Opportunities

Attention Spring 2013 Graduates ISRAEL GOVERNMENT FELLOWS

Endorsed by the Office of the Prime Minister, the IGF Program offers its Fellows a unique opportunity for professional and personal development with a 10 month placement within the Israeli government or a leading Israeli think tank. Fellows will be assigned a mentor and benefit from an intensive Hebrew course and educational program exploring the complex issues of Israeli society today.

Please visit <http://www.igf.org.il/> for more information and/or contact SPPA Director, Daniel Cohn.

Other

Canadian Government Executive Blog Post Losing my religion

Please find John Wilkins' March column below, titled, *Losing my religion: Mastering public-private partnerships*.

The Asian Development Bank estimates that the global demand for infrastructure funding is \$3 trillion annually, with 11% sourced via public-private partnerships. According to the World Bank, PPP projects are "... for services traditionally provided by the public sector; combine investment and service provision; see significant risks being borne by the private sector; and also see a major role for the public sector in either purchasing

services or bearing substantial risks under the project.”

In the aftermath of the global credit crisis, governments everywhere are looking to pump prime their economies and to reduce budget deficits with PPPs. However, many developing and transition countries may not be ready and attractive candidates for private sector investment because they lack the enabling environment, robust framework, and public service capacity for PPP preparation.

Ideology plays a big role in making the case. Professor Ian Macdonald of York University is philosophical, asking: “Are PPPs ‘old wine in new bottles’? How public, how private, and how much partnership? How and why are public and private sector management models converging? How entrepreneurial should government become? What are the prerequisites for effective PPP projects? Who is accountable?”

A recent survey by the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships reports that:

- 70% of Canadians are open to PPPs to deliver public infrastructure and services;
- National support grew from 60% in 2004;
- Support in Ontario jumped from 64% in 2010 to 77% in 2011; and
- Transit (73%), water and sewage treatment (67%), and schools (66%) had the greatest increase in year-over-year support.

The Inter-American Development Bank PPP Americas Conference in Cartagena, Colombia in February profiled PPPs as a tool for economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. PPPs are gaining traction for new private investment in health, education, and green projects and in poorer countries and sub-national governments. Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru lead in creating PPP laws, units, and platforms to connect SMEs to project opportunities.

But the development community is grappling with fundamental policy issues – role of government,

legal framework, case-by-case review, capacity building, evidence of impact, replication. The challenge is to position PPPs as one option among many and to answer where, when, and why to use them. Countries that jump to PPPs without understanding the problems risk costly governance and management choices.

Ideological variations make it difficult to evaluate PPP effectiveness. The theory aims for the best of both worlds – the public good and efficient service delivery. But the practice embraces market dogma that may simply substitute private for public monopolies. As in Mark 8:36, public leaders are left wondering: *What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul?*

The column can also be viewed at:

<http://www.canadiangovernmentexecutive.ca/category/item/1188-losing-my-religion-mastering-public-private-partnerships.html>

John Wilkins was a Commonwealth diplomat and a career public servant in Canada. He is Executive in Residence: Public Management with the Schulich School of Business at York University jwilkins@schulich.yorku.ca.