

# School of Public Policy and Administration

## NEWSLETTER

April 2020 - Volume 8, Issue 10

**This week we are pleased to present Andrew Camacho**  
**1st year Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours student**

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My name is Andrew Camacho and I am currently a first-year student in the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) program. I look back at myself at this time last year, and I remember the persistent debate I had with myself on what path I wanted to pursue with my post-secondary studies. Throughout my high school experience, I always found myself interested in the topics of law, social sciences, politics, and humanities, making me intrigued in pursuing a post-secondary route that can fulfill a good mixture of these interests I have. After visiting the BPA program session at the York University Spring Open House last year, I instantly became fascinated with the idea of pursuing a degree in this program. I was attracted to York University's Bachelor of Public Administration program as it gave me the flexibility to explore different interests such as the law and business sides of public policy rather than just one area that I would be stuck with pursuing for my four years of post-secondary studies. In the end, the BPA program checked off all the boxes for me and was the far superior choice for what I want to pursue for my future.

On the day of the School of Public Policy and Administration orientation this past August, I recall how nervous I was to begin this new chapter of my life and how I would be able to adapt to life as a university student. Professor Kimakova's presentation helped give me a feeling of relief that I would be able to transition to post-secondary life well and be successful with my education. At orientation I was also able to already form bonds with fellow first-year BPA students and Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) members. I was encouraged by PPASA's Director of Outreach, Patricia Cobarrubias and Director of Marketing and Social Media, Rean Pelayo to apply to become a Junior Ambassador. Since becoming a Junior Ambassador, I've been handed many opportunities to learn from and collaborate with fellow PPASA members through attending networking events and organizing future events and activities. I've also appreciated the great personal connections that I've been able to make with my fellow members who have welcomed me into the PPASA family with open arms!

The School of Public Policy and Administration has so far provided me with a lot of great experience and insight into what a career in public policy and administration entails. I am very satisfied with the decision I made this past spring as I cannot imagine a better program to be a part of and a wonderful group of people to be surrounded by. I look very forward to my upcoming future as a BPA student here at York!

### Update for the Fall 2020 Academic Term

Dear students and alumni,

We hope that you are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. While a great deal of uncertainty remains with respect to how the COVID-19 pandemic will unfold, you must be wondering what to expect for the Fall term.

On April 20, 2020 President Rhonda Lenton and Provost and Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps indicated that “classes for the 2020-2021 academic year will begin in September even if courses need to be delivered wholly or partially through remote instruction. While we are eager to resume *in-person* study and work, we want to assure everyone that the return to in-person operations will be guided first and foremost by the health and safety of our entire community based on the advice of public health authorities and the status of emergency orders by governments.”

You can read the full announcement at: <https://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2020/04/19/an-important-update-on-academic-planning-for-the-fall-2020-semester/>

#### In response to this communication, this is how we are planning at SPPA:

- We aim to keep **course design flexible and will be prepared to deliver courses both remotely and in-person** in a sort of blended course delivery format responsive to changing public health measures (possible easing or tightening of restrictions) throughout the academic year.
- **The default is that if we can – if health and safety considerations permit – we will return to holding in-person classes and events.**
- The course timetable for Fall/Winter is now posted and will remain in effect.
- **If a course has a significant experiential education (EE) component, we aim to deliver that (even if in alternative formats at times)** because they are a key part of our students’ learning outcomes. Public administration and public policy play a crucial role in the current public health and economic crisis, so EE is all the more relevant.
- **Alumni and friends of SPPA:** If you are able to facilitate EE opportunities for students – practicums, internships and projects for Fall/Winter – **please note that we are accepting proposals as usual for Fall 2020 intake and appreciate your leadership and dedication for providing EE opportunities for our students’ professional development.**
- There are no plans to cancel any courses.

**New student orientation – virtual/remote or in-person** – has been scheduled as usual for the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings before Labour Day, so **please mark your calendars for Tuesday, Sept 1 (BPA and MPPAL orientation) and Wednesday, Sept 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> day of MPPAL orientation), 6-9pm on both days.** At the minimum, even if it turns out to be a virtual session, faculty, staff, alumni and student association representatives will be able to introduce themselves to incoming students. We think this will be important for maintaining the sense of community that we aim to provide to students at the School.

We do hope to be able to welcome everyone back to campus in September, but we are also fully prepared to show our resilience and innovation, and turn the current challenges into a learning opportunity for all of us.

With best wishes for a healthy, sunny and hopefully less socially restricted summer,

Alena Kimakova

Director, School of Public Policy and Administration

**SPPA Professor Tom Klassen co-authors article titled:  
“Politicians must strike a delicate balance responding to pandemic”**



**Policy-makers face both dramatic opportunities and risks in successfully responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The opportunities are to demonstrate that government can guarantee the safety and health of its citizens and show politicians have the tools to do so while managing key economic levers. The pandemic also allows government to be relevant when many people are more devoted to Apple, Facebook and Disney than health agencies.

**However, there are also great risks for policy-makers during the pandemic.**

Read the full article co-authored with Alexis Buettgen at the Hamilton Spectator [here](#).

## **Executive Director - GreenPAC**

GreenPAC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization working to elect and support environmental leaders of all major parties running for office. They work to build leadership in major political parties, and have run successful endorsement campaigns in the Federal (2015, 2019), Manitoba (2016), B.C. (2017) and Ontario (2018) elections. In fall 2018 they launched Canada's first Parliamentary Internship Program for the Environment and in 2019 they worked with community groups across the country to host over 100 non-partisan all candidates debates on the environment. Reporting to and working closely with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director (ED) is responsible for implementing the strategic plan and operational management of the organization. The ED has three direct staff reports and oversees other part-time and internship staff as well as volunteers.

## **Policy Advisor - Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines**

The Renewable Facilitation and Analysis Unit in the Renewables Integration and Distributed Energy Resources branch is seeking a Policy Advisor to provide quantitative and qualitative analysis to support policy development and issues management related to Ontario's evolving energy sector. Working with a team of dedicated professionals, you will conduct research and synthesize data to support policy development related to the integration of renewable and distributed energy resources into Ontario's electricity system.

## **Director, Digital Economy - Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

Working within the Canadian Chamber's Policy Department, the Director, Digital Economy will be responsible for working with members to develop national policy positions and advance them with government stakeholders on a range of federal files, including data and privacy, artificial intelligence, broadband networks, automation, e-commerce, cybersecurity, intellectual property and internet-based technologies. Success will require a clear understanding of public policy processes and issues facing Canadian businesses. Outstanding writing and communication skills, critical thinking, an entrepreneurial mindset and a membership-focused approach are vital for this position. Working within a small team that covers nearly every area of federal policy, the successful candidate will also need to be adaptable to changing circumstances in a fast-paced environment.

## **Senior Counsel, Regulatory Affairs (Canada) - Mastercard**

Mastercard's Global Regulatory team is responsible for liaising with key regulators and law enforcement officials to ensure compliance with Mastercard's regulatory requirements. The Senior Counsel, Regulatory Affairs – Canada position, will be based in Toronto, Ontario and will have dual-reporting to Vice President, Legal, Canada and Senior Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, Europe. This individual will be part of the Global Regulatory team from a functional perspective and the North America Markets team from a regional perspective.

## **Government Relations and External Relations Manager - Desire2Learn (D2L)**

As a member of Government Relations team, you will drive various initiatives that support D2L's government relations and public affairs strategy with a focus on researching and monitoring relevant legislative developments and policy trends and providing your analysis and recommendations. This role will also play a key role in building and maintaining relationships with key government stakeholders, representing D2L at events and working cross functionally to support the creation of content for executive briefings, RFPs, speeches, presentations etc.

## [Make a difference in your community by volunteering to help support seniors and the most vulnerable during COVID-19](#)

### **Your community needs your help!**

On March 30, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health recommended that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate and, where possible, seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help from friends and family with essential errands. During this difficult time, it is more important than ever to come together and help those in need, ensuring all Ontarians have access to food, medicine and basic necessities.

### **How can I help?**

If you are an individual interested in volunteering or an organization in need of volunteers, visit SPARK Ontario at [www.sparkontario.ca](http://www.sparkontario.ca) to get connected and start helping those impacted by COVID-19.

### **Spread the word about volunteering and let's give back to the community.**

### **What is SPARK Ontario?**

[SPARK Ontario](#) is an online platform that connects not-for-profit organizations with potential volunteers.

[SPARK Ontario](#) supports volunteer recruitment and retention by gathering volunteer opportunities from across the province, as well as other resources into a single, accessible website that encourages Ontarians to volunteer and support their communities.



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