

School of Public Policy and Administration

NEWSLETTER

August 2020 – Volume 8, Issue 15

This week we are pleased to present Naser Akbar
4th year Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Spec. Honours (Management Stream)



My name is Naser Akbar, I'm a 4th year student in the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours program. I transferred my credits from Afghanistan, and initially planned to continue my previous program in economics and finance. At the end of the first semester I met with the Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) to talk about my interest in governance and policy making and that convinced me that this is the right program for me. What makes this program one of the best at York U is its extensive combination of governance, policy, law, business and economics.

In my 4th year AP/PPAS 4200 6.0 Applied Public Policy Analysis course, I drafted with my teammates a policy proposal for the City of Vaughan Emergency Program based on the need for more municipal emergency issuing powers through legislative means. As a student in our Program Evaluation courses AP/PPAS 4310 and 4320 3.0, I had the opportunity alongside a team of students to evaluate City of Vaughan's Emergency Program on where citizens go for emergency related information and provided policy recommendations. The report was submitted and presented to the City of Vaughan's Emergency Program Manager and is currently utilized to improve emergency communication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the BPA program equipped me with practical policy-making skills and prepared me for real-world challenges. The School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) is different from others in that students can genuinely meet professors and other student leaders at networking events, faculty members are caring and always encouraging students to get involved through the student association and other leadership programs and jobs. The professors are not only your guide in class, but they also help, and support students to find the right jobs and opportunities and embrace new challenges. Before applying to the Ontario Public Service (OPS), I asked for guidance on application strategies to get selected for public service jobs. The advice and reference letters helped me secure the position of Program and Policy Assistant with the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) during this Summer 2020. My duties include e.g. drafting policies and procedures and working with the Archives of Ontario on creating/updating records retention schedules for EQAO. Most public servants start their career with summer student positions, and I am hoping that this opens new doors and opportunities to me as well.

Besides that, I am an executive at the York Debating Society, providing debate training sessions and organizing in-house high school debate tournaments for high school students. Debating has expanded my worldview and pushed me to often argue issues that I do not support which makes you more understanding of different perspectives and why people have certain opposing opinions and beliefs.

The BPA is not just a program at York U, but a family of caring and hardworking people who look out for one another. They do not just provide classes and faculty, but further your knowledge of the industry where future public servants and leaders are trained. It has not only increased my knowledge of the field, but also deepened my interest in governance and policy making. I could not be any happier to have joined this program. - **Naser Akbar**

MPPAL Updates



Stg. Matthew Wood
(MPPAL Class of 2020)

Pens article for

[Blue Line](#)

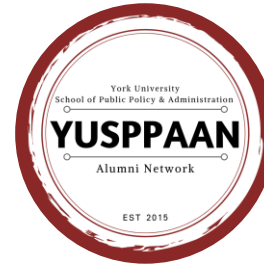
on

The Strategic Constable

Developing resilient police constables in Ontario

“Forging strategic corporals requires lifelong professional development during which values such as integrity, initiative, decisiveness, mental agility and personal accountability are reinforced.”

To read the full article: <https://www.blueline.ca/the-strategic-constable/>



York University School of Public Policy and Administration Alumni Network (YUSPPAAN) Survey

Your participation in the survey will help us assess and engage alumni satisfaction to build a stronger, enthusiastic, and more responsive community. Your participation will give us a more complete picture of how you are making an impact and shaping public policy.

The survey will take 5 minutes to complete and will remain open until **Wednesday, August 26, 2020.**

[Click here to provide your feedback!](#)



Living and working during the summer with strangers in my home

by Professor Thomas Klassen

A recurring dream during the past months while #WFH (working from home) finds me sharing a house with strangers. In the surreal environment of the dream I'm forced to lock myself in the bathroom for privacy.

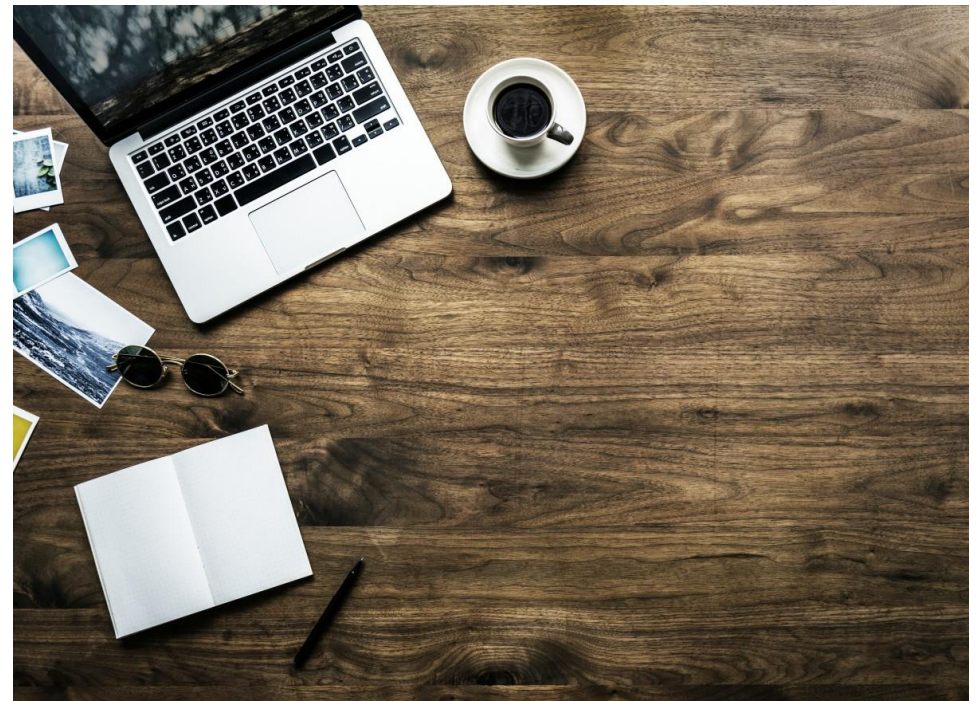
Today I understood the meaning of the dream: it reflects my reality. My sad realization is that after staying at home for weeks with my family I don't know any of them.

The sub-culture of my 14-year grade eight old daughter Claire is impenetrable. As far as I can determine it involves 12 hours a day of online manga, TikTok video sharing and countless selfies while lying in bed in pyjamas. I am too ashamed to report the average number of hours she spends on her screen a day, other than to note it has two digits. She most definitely needs to be with others of her age and gender, in a place other than our house.

Her twin brother, Alexander, has an excess of energy. His use of the house as a running track has displaced floorboards and created cracks in walls. The pounding of his feet is a constant soundtrack throughout the house. Notwithstanding enticements and threats from his parents, he inexplicably refuses to run in the backyard, the park across our home, or on the sidewalk.

Like other professors I've worked from home in the past for short periods of time. As such, when #WFH began in March for my wife I thought my family was well prepared. How wrong! Adding my wife working from home to my working from home has utterly changed the dynamics. When I was the only person working from home, I was the boss with no ifs, ands or buts. Now with both of us working from home there are simultaneously two bosses and no boss at all. As any management expert will attest that situation is dysfunctional.

Before we both starting working from home, Sue and I had an established routine that involved leaving office work at the office, or if it was brought home, consigning it to specific hours and locations in the house. Now office work is everywhere from the bathroom to the backyard. Sue's deadlines, Zoom meetings and projects collide with need to record lectures for my summer course resulting in chaotic work environment that is far from harmonious and healthy.



The chain of command at home is further muddled as the twins feel an obligation to decide family matters usually with “I’m not doing it!” and “You can’t make me!” In the classroom and at work there are rules and procedures to deal with such disagreements but at home there are slammed doors and angry stares.

Adding home schooling to my working *at home* job description of #WFH has not been a success. When my children started learning from home, I again thought I was well prepared. After all, I’m a professor! But I had no answer last night when Alexander asked: “Why is one person dying of malaria every minute?” My first reply was that surely a death almost every minute or 1,000 deaths a day from a preventable and treatable disease is not accurate. However, the numbers are correct with the majority of those killed being African children under the age of five.

My attempts to explain the extraordinary global response to prevent COVID-19 deaths, while at the same time accepting more than 400,000 deaths annually from malaria, faltered. In the end to get us off the topic, I mollified Alexander’s indignation that malaria killed so many children with a vague account of how surely governments around the world must be doing their best. I also made a mental note to keep home schooling firmly focused on subjects like mathematics where solutions to problems are black-and-white.



Each day I wake up with ambitious plans to get my own teaching and research accomplished, help Claire and Alexander with their assignments and projects, and ensure that Sue is productive in her work. Some days I even wake up with more ambitious goals, such fixing the hinge on the kitchen cupboard door that has squeaked since we bought our house 10 years ago.

Invariably, as each day progresses my family members transform into strangers. Why does Claire only talk through closed doors? Why does Alexander put on a new pair of socks each time he goes outside for even a minute? Why has Sue been saying for the past two hours that she’ll be done her work in five minutes?

As for me, why am I writing this while locked in the bathroom?

Thomas Klassen is a professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration.

CAREER CENTRE
PARTNERS IN STUDENT SUCCESS

August 2020

Career Centre's Monthly Newsletter

All Career Centre operations, programs and services continue to be conducted remotely until further notice. Learn more at careers.yorku.ca

Need Help With Your Job Search? Attend a Webinar Below!

- August 5:** Resumé & Cover Letter Writing
- August 6:** Interview Preparation
- August 11:** Job Search & Networking Strategies
- August 12:** How to Effectively Use LinkedIn
- August 20:** Resumé & Cover Letter Writing
- August 25:** Ways to Make Money While Studying

Explore Your Career Options with One of These Webinars:

- August 13:** What Can I Do With My Degree?
- August 18:** Personality and Career Choice
- August 26:** What Can I Do With My Degree?

Get updates about events and activities!



@YorkUCareerCtr @YorkUCareer @YorkUCareerCtr

Register for upcoming virtual events, group activities and workshops at:

Career Corner: Ask the Pros

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 1:00PM - 2:30PM/
Wed: 11:00AM - 12:30PM

Join the zoom meeting with our career professionals providing expert advice on specialized topics each day at <https://careers.yorku.ca/careercorner>

- Mon:** Career Chats with York International Students
- Tues:** Professional Etiquette & Networking
- Wed:** Thinking about Further Education?
- Thurs:** What are my career options?
- Fri:** My Career Plan & COVID-19

Virtual Career Lounge

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9:00AM - 12:00PM
Wed: 9:00AM - 11:00AM
Fri: 11:00AM - 1:00PM

Our Career peers can help with Resumé & Cover Letters, Job Searching, Interview Skills & Preparation, LinkedIn or navigating the Career Centre website and resources. Meet a peer at: careers.yorku.ca/dropby

careers.yorku.ca/calendar

Constitutional Spaces for Cities Conference

Massey College in Toronto, Ontario
April 7th - 8th, 2021

Call for Papers

The diagnosis that Cities (particularly those in Canada) suffer from their “low” constitutional status is not new. The traditional axiom that “municipalities are creatures of the province” has been at the core of legal and constitutional understanding for several decades. In recent years, whether after forced amalgamations or imposed governance changes, there have been calls for change, calls for constitutional amendment, and calls for “City Charters”. These demands are ultimately asking, “what are Cities for, how do we measure their success, and whether international models can serve as inspiration”? The answers to these questions aim to reimagine the legal and administrative design of the Canadian constitutional order.

We invite proposals for papers, to be presented at the 2021 Constitutional Space for Cities Conference, and for contributions to an edited book collection or legal journal special volume.

For full details:

<https://sppa.laps.yorku.ca/files/2020/07/MCS2021-Call-for-Papers-final.pdf>

[Director, Senior Services – York Region](#)

The Regional Municipality of York is a place where 1.2 million residents and 52,000 businesses are proud to call home. York Region's diversity is evident in its nine local municipalities, geography, economic development and population. The Region stretches north from Toronto to Lake Simcoe and includes many hectares of protected Greenbelt. York Region works to provide residents and businesses access to a broad selection of services and resources. York Region delivers services to promote the health, well-being, safety and independence of individuals requiring care. The Director, Seniors Services will provide strategic and operational oversight to two long term care homes; five community -based seniors programs and the planning and implementation of York Region's Seniors Strategy.

[Research and Policy Analyst - York Region](#)

Reporting to Program Manager, Policy and Planning, and under the guidance and direction of senior staff, the Research and Policy Analyst is responsible for researching and providing policy support and advice on emerging legislation, regulations and Regional policies and practices in accordance with the Community and Health Services Department and Branch initiatives; conducting research, program and policy development and data management activities; developing written and electronic communication materials; and monitoring developments, opportunities, trends in legislation, human services policies and procedures, community development and the broader political environment.

[Senior Policy Analyst - York Region](#)

Reporting to the Program Manager, Local Immigration Partnership, the Senior Policy Analyst is responsible for providing program support, including stakeholder management, coordination, administration, financial and statistical analysis for the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) program; assisting in the recruitment and selection of the Partnership Council that is representative of a wide variety of sector; providing policy support and strategic advice to the Department; interpreting federal and provincial legislation and regulations, monitoring and assessing impact on Regional policies and practices, including planning initiatives and providing advice on performance measurement; researching, developing and analyzing innovative and strategic policies and programs to respond to human services, agencies and community needs; preparing environmental scans; and developing cross-functional linkages to ensure that policies and programs align with Department, Provincial and Federal goals; preparing briefing notes and committee reports

[Senior Policy Advisor – Aggregates – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Peterborough, ON.](#)

Are you inspiring project leader who can keep organized with multiple concurrent projects? Can you champion the Ministry's objectives while building effective relationships? Are you interested in influencing how government manages aggregate resources and regulates aggregate operations (pits and quarries) in Ontario? Are you able to conduct detailed analysis and provide policy advice? Then consider this exciting opportunity to play an important role in the Policy Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

[Economic Analyst – Ontario Ministry of Finance. Toronto, ON.](#)

Would you like to tackle the most complex public policy problems in a generation? The Ministry of Finance is looking for a highly-engaged individual who would like to mobilize their research and analytical skills to provide expert quantitative advice on fiscal policy and help shape the evolution of Ontario's tax system. The Personal Tax Policy & Design Branch provides advice and assistance to the Minister of Finance and to the Government of Ontario in formulating tax and benefits policy. The branch undertakes robust quantitative analysis using advanced modelling tools. It also ensures that tax legislation and regulations effectively express the province's tax and benefit policies.

[Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer - Office of the Mayor of Mississauga](#)

The Mayor's Office is seeking a Senior Advisor to work with the community and key stakeholders on exciting City-related projects. Responsibilities include building and strengthening partnership and relationships with community groups and maintain regular contact with key stakeholder groups by sharing key Mayor office communications; working with Senior Communications Advisor to craft communications to keep stakeholders informed of relevant developments in the City of Mississauga and the agenda of the Office of the Mayor; and proactively identifying community investment and public policy opportunities and priorities, as well as strategic partnerships for the Mayor and the City of Mississauga.

[Economic Analyst - Ontario Ministry of Finance](#)

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[Director, Government Engagement - Visa](#)

Visa's Government Engagement team works to advance Visa's public policy and commercial objectives while mitigating legislative and regulatory risk that could adversely affect the business. They work with many teams across the company to advance policies that expand the Visa network, promote the growth of electronic payments, and drive successful regulatory and legislative outcomes that affect our business. The Director, Government Engagement performs a central coordinating role for a complex portfolio of federal, provincial and stakeholder issues in support of Visa's overall business objectives.

[Policy Advisor and Junior Policy Analyst - Children's Mental Health Ontario](#)

CMHO is recruiting for two positions. Working with the Director, Public Policy, as part of CMHO's public policy team, and alongside CMHO staff, the Policy Advisor and Junior Policy Analyst will play a key role in performing policy research and complex analysis; developing policy documents and projects; and supporting member, partner, and stakeholder consultation and engagement efforts. The ideal candidate is a critical thinker with policy experience working with government and/or with non-profit organizations, and a demonstrated ability to work in partnership during the policy development process. The candidate is knowledgeable about Ontario's health care and CYMH sectors, and enjoys working with a small, dynamic team in a fast-paced, collaborative environment.

[National Government Relations Assistant - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation](#)

JDRF are currently seeking an enthusiastic National Government Relations Assistant to support their Government Relations and Advocacy program. As the National Government Relations Assistant, you would be responsible for: supporting advocacy at JDRF virtual events (town halls, lobby days, etc.) occurring throughout the Fall, fostering community engagement online through the development of online Advocacy actions, preparing updates for the Advocacy e-newsletter "the T1D Voice" and social media (English & French), developing JDRF's social media capabilities that support Government Relations campaigns and activities, managing and maintaining database of Members of Parliament, Senators and JDRF volunteer advocates, and other duties as required to support Government Relations and Advocacy programs.

[Practice Advisor and Policy Lead - College of Kinesiologists of Ontario](#)

As the Policy Lead, you will be responsible for leading the College's project to modernize the practice standards and guidelines and for developing performance indicators which increase our transparency and build confidence in the work of the College to protect the public and advance professionalism of kinesiologists in Ontario. As the College's Practice Advisor, you will be the first point of contact for R.Kins and stakeholders who have questions about the practice of kinesiology and/or who need practice advice. You will keep abreast of developments within the practice of kinesiology and health profession regulation to support R.Kins, stakeholders and College staff.

[Senior Analyst, Transportation and Urban Solutions/Clean Economy - Pembina Institute](#)

The Pembina Institute is seeking a highly motivated individual to join its Transportation and Urban Solutions and Clean Economy team as Senior Analyst to lead research and analysis and to develop and advocate for policy solutions that address the key transportation, energy and climate issues that Canadian cities are facing. They are seeking a driven and resourceful person with strong policy and technical analysis skills, a solid work ethic and the tenacity needed to solve Canada's most prominent energy and transportation challenges. The candidate should have proven experience in the areas identified below and the ability to thrive with limited supervision. They are looking for a candidate who can work with governments, industry, communities, and the non-government sector to successfully find solutions in these interesting and dynamic times. This position is a one-year contract (September 2020 to September 2021).

[Manager, Regional Homelessness and Housing Initiatives - United Way Greater Toronto](#)

Reporting to the Vice President, Community Investment and Development the Manager, Regional Homelessness & Housing Initiatives is responsible for enhancing UWGT's role in system solutions addressing homelessness and housing at a regional level by bringing together investments, research, public policy and convening opportunities that will leverage UWGT's partnerships and contributions.

[Project Officer - International Federation on Ageing](#)

Project Officer responsibilities include undertaking research on policy issues and responses across the sector by developing and maintaining effective networks and relationships with internal and external stakeholders, to promote successful policy development and implementation. Stakeholders include the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (New York, Geneva and Vienna). They also include carrying out specific roles and tasks to support specific projects, including; IFA Conferences; advocacy projects; regional meetings and other new initiatives in the area of public health, including adult vaccinations, vision health, reablement and healthy ageing.

[Team Lead - Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines](#)

The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines is seeking an experienced Team Lead to join its Analytics & Finance team. This interdisciplinary team consists of quantitative experts who deliver in-house consulting services and specialized analyses to internal government clients.

[Public Policy Manager, Canada - Uber](#)

As Manager of Public Policy, you'll assume ownership in a lead role working with policymakers to make the positive case for change. You'll cultivate positive relationships with key partners to help unlock the full potential of Uber's technology. You'll also work to determine the best local regulatory frameworks and develop campaigns to achieve positive reform.



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with SPPA*

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MPPAL LinkedIn Group:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3908927>

<https://sppa.laps.yorku.ca/>

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Socioeconomic Reporting Specialist – Baffinland

Reporting to the Manager, Government Relations and Public Affairs, the Socio-Economic Reporting Specialist will play a key role in the delivery of specific reporting requirements outlined in the Mary River Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, Inuit Certainty Agreement, and Project Certificate. The Socio-Economic Reporting Specialist will also be involved in stakeholder engagement, communications and public affairs activities in the Sustainable Development Department. As the Project continues to develop, this role will be involved in the ongoing management and implementation of various other commitments and obligations contained in the Mary River Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, Inuit Certainty Agreement, and Project Certificate.

Public Affairs Intern - Crestview Strategy

Crestview works with large companies, not-for-profits and industry associations on a wide variety of interesting and complicated issues. They are looking for a talented, motivated individual seeking a new experience. Internships start in September and they are looking for candidates across Canada.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Non-profit board opportunity:

The Community Legal Clinic York Region (CLCYR) is looking for individuals committed to access to justice in our community to serve on our Board of Directors. CLCYR is a not for profit organization which serves low-income residents in York Region. The Clinic is staffed by lawyers, paralegals and support staff and offers free legal help to those who meet our financial eligibility criteria. It has made an influential and ongoing contribution to the community legal clinic movement in Ontario.

We help low income community members avoid, prepare for and overcome poverty-related legal problems through a combination of free legal advice and representation, community development and action, law reform projects, and community legal education.

Our Board oversees the administrative and financial management of the Clinic via monthly Board meetings. The Board also deals with funder relations, helping to ensure that funds received from Legal Aid Ontario or other sources are spent according to proper governance principles, thereby enabling us to successfully achieve our commitments to our clients and the goals of our Strategic Plan.

For more information about the Clinic see: <https://clcyr.on.ca/>

For further information on board opportunities contact the Board Nomination Committee at: boardmember@clcyr.on.ca