



StFX
UNIVERSITY

BRIAN MULRONEY
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT



YEAR IN REVIEW | **2023**



IN MEMORIAM

The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government would like to recognize the passing of The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney on 29 February 2024. Mr. Mulroney was a visionary leader whose impact reached far beyond Canada's borders.

We mourn Prime Minister Mulroney's passing and share in his family's grief. During this difficult time, we remain committed to honouring his legacy. The architect of several historic domestic and foreign policy initiatives, including the passage of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Acid Rain Agreement, and the implementation of the GST, Mr. Mulroney will be remembered for changing the political landscape both at home and abroad. His efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, bring relief to those suffering from famine in Ethiopia, and his lifelong campaign to combat the scourge of antisemitism will ensure his place of honour in our country's history.

Prime Minister Mulroney was a strong advocate for nurturing future leaders. At StFX, his impact will endure for generations,

as students from all walks of life continue to benefit from the generous scholarships and bursaries he established to support those entering the Public Policy and Governance Program (PGOV). At the official opening of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government in Fall 2019, Mr. Mulroney recalled how he arrived at StFX as a 16-year-old and why he never forgot what this small liberal arts university in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, meant to him.

It was at StFX where the Prime Minister found his voice, where he made lifelong friends, and where the roots were planted for a monumental career in business and politics. His decision to raise millions of dollars to build Mulroney Hall and to establish the Mulroney Institute was simple. "If just one student walks through the doors of Mulroney Hall and feels inspired to help make Canada an even greater country, all of this hard work will have been worth it," Mr. Mulroney often told audiences at his alma mater. His efforts will no doubt redound through PGOV's graduates. Prime Minister Mulroney has left a legacy of which his family, country, and fellow Xavierians can be very proud.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

While 2023 brought a number of significant changes, the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government continued to thrive and succeed in its vision to be recognized as Canada's pre-eminent centre for undergraduate education in government and public policy and leadership with the goal of producing local, national, and global public leaders; to find creative solutions to complex national and global public policy and governance questions; and to influence and stimulate national and international discourse on political, economic, and social issues.

In June 2023, the Institute hosted the inaugural Atlantic Economic Forum (AEF) in Mulroney Hall—an event that attracted some 300 government, business, academic, and economic development professionals from across Atlantic Canada, Canada, and abroad. The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney was fully engaged in the planning of this exceptional event, and he authored several opinion pieces in advance of the Forum. The AEF attracted significant national media attention and attracted a stellar line-up of speakers, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Premier of Nova Scotia Tim Houston, as well as The Honourable Frank McKenna, The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, The Honourable Sean Fraser (Minister of Immigration and Citizenship), and The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor (Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). Highlights of the AEF included a special plenary session featuring Ken Langone, co-founder of Home Depot; a fireside chat with The Honourable Anne McLellan and The Honourable Lisa Raitt, co-chairs of the Coalition for a Better Future; and a panel discussion on Indigenous business opportunities in Atlantic Canada. An invitation-only lunch for investors co-hosted by Mr. Mulroney and Mr. McKenna was held in the Frank McKenna Centre for Leadership.

Throughout the year, the Mulroney Institute hosted several distinguished speakers and visiting fellows, including Madeleine Redfern, former mayor of Iqaluit; Elizabeth May, Member of Parliament and co-leader of the Green Party; Mary Preville, vice president of policy for the Canadian Space Agency; and internationally renowned historian and author Gwynne Dyer. The Institute continued its partnership with Environics Research and several public policy institutes across Canada in generating the 2023 *Confederation of Tomorrow Survey of Canadians*. Several new books were published as part of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government Studies in Leadership, Public Policy and Governance Series with McGill-Queen's University Press. One of the books in the series was the recipient of the prestigious \$60,000 Donner Prize: Ryan Manucha's *Booze, Cigarettes and Constitutional Dust-Ups: Canada's Quest for Interprovincial Trade*.



In 2023, two new Research Chairs were appointed to the Institute. Dr. Dave Risk, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences was appointed Brian Mulroney Research Chair in Climate Sciences, and Policy; and Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was appointed Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership. StFX students continued to benefit from an expanded number of scholarships and experiential awards available through the Mulroney Institute. Eight students completed summer research projects with support from the RBC Foundation, and ten students received Bombardier Internship Awards. Several students undertook international policy studies with the assistance of the Weston Foundation Awards, and over 20 students attended the world's pre-eminent Model UN Conference, held in New York City, in part due to the Institute's support.

Finally, the Institute's director Dr. Donald Abelson announced his departure to become academic chair at the newly created Wilson College of Leadership and Civic Engagement, McMaster University. We thank Don for his efforts in launching the Mulroney Institute, and his dedication to supporting and growing its profile and initiatives. We wish him the very best in his new role.

Richard Isnor, D.Phil
Associate Vice President, Research, Graduate and Professional Studies
Interim Director, Brian Mulroney Institute of Government

MULRONEY INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE BRIAN MULRONEY, PC, CC, LL.D made Canada a better place through his political leadership, international profile, and as the champion of numerous charitable causes. Stepping away from a successful law career and into politics, Mr. Mulroney (StFX '59) served with distinction as the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and as the nation's 18th prime minister. While in government, he championed, among many issues, free trade, environmental protections, and the end of apartheid in South Africa. The Mulroney Institute is proud to be part of this legacy.



MRS. MILA MULRONEY has spent decades working to improve the lives of Canadians and people around the globe. As the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Canada's national chair, Mrs. Mulroney has helped raise millions of dollars for medical research. Her charitable pursuits include literacy projects and arts and cultural organizations. With nearly 50 years in public life, Mrs. Mulroney has served on boards of many organizations, including Astral Media Inc., the Foundation of The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, and the McGill University School of Music.



JOHN I. BITOVE has a distinguished record of accomplishment across the corporate, sports, and community sectors. He was the founder, chair, and controlling shareholder of what is now SiriusXM Canada. Mr. Bitove was the founder of Mobilicity, one of Canada's initial wireless operators. In 1993, he launched the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club and created the Air Canada Centre. He is a passionate Canadian with a deep belief in giving back to the community. Mr. Bitove sits on numerous boards, and his S'Cool Life Fund has raised millions for public elementary schools across Canada. He holds a degree in Business (Marketing) from Indiana University and a law degree from the University of Windsor.



GARY CLEMENT is director, Government Relations, TD Bank Group (TDBG), where he is responsible for strategies and tactics in managing government relations issues. Prior to joining TDBG, Mr. Clement spent five years with the Government of Ontario with the Minister of Long-Term Care and in the offices of two premiers in various public relations roles. He also spent nearly a decade working in the federal government in a variety of positions both political and bureaucratic. Mr. Clement has served on the board of a number of organizations, including the Canadian American Business Council and the Forum for Young Canadians. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Guelph.



PAUL DESMARAIS III is the chair and CEO of Sagard. He is also chair of Diagram and sits on the Grayhawk board. Within the investment portfolio, Mr. Desmarais is the chair of Wealthsimple and Dialogue, a director of KOHO Financial, and he is a board observer of Nesto. He was in the Investment Banking Division, Investment Strategy Group, and the Special Situations Group at Goldman Sachs; in supply chain management and strategy at Imerys; and in risk management at Great West Lifeco. Mr. Desmarais holds a BA in Economics from Harvard College and an MBA from INSEAD (France).



JAMES EATON is a partner of JJR Private Capital. He serves on the boards of JC Clark Ltd. and Dream Unlimited Corp. Mr. Eaton is the president of Weatons Holdings, a Canadian private holding company; he is responsible for overseeing numerous private investments and a portfolio of listed securities at Weatons. Mr. Eaton chaired the Invictus Games Toronto 2017. He was a founding director of the True Patriot Love Foundation, and he serves as a trustee of the John David and Signy Eaton Foundation. He holds a BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2012, he was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal, which honoured significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.



MITCH FRAZER is partner and managing partner of the Toronto office of the Mintz international law firm. He is the chancellor of Ontario Tech University. He is the founder of the National Institute on Ageing at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) and has taught in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law and at Osgoode Hall Law School. He has chaired several boards, including the North York General Foundation Board of Governors, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ontario Science Centre. He has received numerous awards, including Western University Law School's Ivan Rand Alumni Award, the Ontario Bar Association's Award of Excellence in Pension and Benefits Law, and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



MARK MULRONEY is vice chair, Corporate and Investment Banking, at Scotiabank. As vice chair, Mr. Mulroney is focused on relationship management for C-suite clients, board members, and family offices. Before joining Scotiabank, he was co-head of Equity Trading and head of Equity Capital Markets with National Bank Financial Markets. He has also held positions at Goldman Sachs and with RBC Capital Markets. Mr. Mulroney is also a director on the board of Jarislowsky Fraser. An active community volunteer, he serves on a number of not-for-profit boards, including The BlackNorth Initiative, Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, and the Sinai Health Foundation. Mr. Mulroney holds an undergraduate degree from Duke University.



THE HONOURABLE LISA RAITT, PC, is vice chair, Global Investment Banking, CIBC Capital Markets. Her current focus is on senior client coverage and business development in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors. In 2008, Ms. Raitt was elected to the House of Commons. During her time in office, she held three senior portfolios: Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Labour, and Minister of Transport. She was also the deputy leader of the Official Opposition and the Conservative Party of Canada. Ms. Raitt holds a Bachelor of Science from StFX and an MA in Chemistry from the University of Guelph. She also has a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. She was named a Woodrow Wilson Center Global Fellow of the Canada Institute in 2020.



REGAN P. WATTS is the executive director of the Mulroney Institute's Advisory Board. Mr. Watts is the founder of Fratton Park Inc., an advisory firm providing services in public affairs; environmental, social, and governance; corporate social responsibility; and market development. He has also held senior positions with IBM Canada and Lafarge Canada Inc. Mr. Watts has worked extensively in the public service, serving in leadership roles in the Government of Canada across several departments, including Finance Canada, Transport Canada, Health Canada, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. He is also a commenter on public issues. His writing has appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *CBC News*, and *Policy Options*. Mr. Watts is an active volunteer, and he serves on the board of directors of Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.



ATLANTIC ECONOMIC FORUM

The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and StFX were honoured to launch the inaugural Atlantic Economic Forum (AEF) in June 2023. The AEF took place over three days in Mulroney Hall, home of the Mulroney Institute. From 19 to 21 June over 300 delegates from the business, government, and academic sectors, along with Indigenous leaders and policy-makers, engaged in discussions focused on seizing the momentum for new opportunities in Atlantic Canada across a range of topics from economic and investment opportunities, health care and university reforms, energy to agriculture and food security.

Interim Mulroney Institute director Dr. Richard Isnor was a key organizer. He described the Forum as an Atlantic-wide, retreat-style extended conversation on economic development and issues central to the region. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was central to the AEF coming to fruition. He was involved in planning from the early stages along with Dr. Donald Abelson, Mulroney Institute director; The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and MP for Central Nova; StFX President Andy Hakin; and Dr. Douglas Brown, Mulroney Institute Distinguished Fellow, as well as a number of Mulroney Institute and StFX staff. The AEF was fortunate to receive support and funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.



The AEF was pleased to host an opening night gala that featured guests Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, The Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston, and former New Brunswick premier The Hon. Frank McKenna. Prime Minister Mulroney noted in his introduction of Mr. Trudeau that “we’re here to look at how we can unlock economic growth. This is a very consequential moment we find ourselves in. We need to meet the challenges of today with strength and opportunity.”

Prime Minister Mulroney’s opening address offered a challenge to attendees and to Atlantic Canada: “While we have to be fiscally responsible, we also have to be unrelentingly ambitious to seize every opportunity for our workers and our communities. In this



moment, it's critical we recognize that economic growth is also connected to security policy, to climate policy, and to social policy. Everything is connected."

Along with multiple panel discussions, presentations, and policy sessions, highlights of the three-day event included a fireside chat with The Hon. Lisa Raitt and The Hon. Anne McLellan, co-chairs of Coalition for a Better Future, moderated by Danny Graham, chief engagement officer, Engage Nova Scotia. Attendees were invited to a plenary session by Ken Langone, CEO, Invemed, and co-founder of Home Depot, which was moderated by Annette Verschuren, chair and CEO, NRStor Inc., and former Home Depot Canada CEO.

The AEF concluded on National Indigenous Peoples Day with a session on Indigenous business and economic development. Moderated by Jarvis Googoo, director, Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Program, the panel highlighted the perspectives of Indigenous peoples in Atlantic Canada as a highly consequential and fast-growing constituency with their own contact networks across the region, Canada, and internationally. Panelists included Kelly Lendsay, CEO, Indigenous Works; Rose Paul, CEO and president, Bayside Corporation; and Mary Beth Doucette, Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies, Cape Breton University.





FACULTY PROFILES



PETER KIKKERT, PhD

Peter Kikkert, PhD, Associate Professor in Public Policy and Governance, and Mulroney Institute Research Fellow, has written extensively on safety, security, and sovereignty issues in the polar regions. His current research program focuses on how to strengthen search and rescue and emergency management capabilities in the Canadian North. Putting his research into practice, Dr. Kikkert serves as a search and rescue team leader with Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue in Nova Scotia and sits on its board of directors.

Through his research and teaching, Dr. Kikkert has had the privilege to live and teach in the North, sail the Northwest Passage, participate in training patrols with the Canadian Rangers, and travel on the land, ice, and waters of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Alaska with community responders and Elders. He works extensively with Nunavut Emergency Management, Kativik Civil Security, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Canadian Armed Forces, and community-based response organizations.

Search and rescue (SAR) operations on the water, land, and ice of the Canadian North are challenging and complex. The region's vast size, austere and changing environment, heavy case load, limited resources, and complex governance arrangements create unique difficulties that can slow response times and increase the risk to responders and those in need of rescue. As principal investigator on the \$1.2 million Nunavut-Nunavik SAR (NNSAR) Project (funded by the Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom Research Program), Dr. Kikkert is working with community responders, government practitioners, and academics with the objective of strengthening SAR prevention, preparedness, and response in Inuit Nunangat. In 2023, the project completed two comprehensive reports on the state of SAR in Nunavik and Nunavut that are guiding community and government decision-making and policy reforms. At the request of

community responders, Nunavut Emergency Management, and the Kativik Civil Security Department, Dr. Kikkert also facilitated operational debriefs following challenging SAR operations in the region, identifying key lessons observed and areas for improvement.

The highlight of 2023 was the Trenton Arctic SAR Exchange held in November, co-organized by Dr. Kikkert and his partners in the Canadian Armed Forces. The theme of the exchange was “working better together,” and it brought Inuit community responders and their government partners together at Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Trenton to explore ways to improve coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing during complex SAR operations in the Arctic — directly addressing priority issues identified by the NNSAR Project. In both June and November, Dr. Kikkert was invited to brief the Arctic Security Working Group (a biannual inter-governmental forum co-chaired by Joint Task Force North and the territorial governments that discusses safety and security issues in the region) on critical SAR gaps in the Arctic.

In July 2023, Dr. Kikkert became the PGOV Program's interim coordinator for the 2023–24 academic year.



ADAM LAJEUNESSE, PhD

Adam Lajeunesse, PhD, is Associate Professor, Public Policy and Governance Program, and Mulroney Institute Research Fellow. He is the author of the 2016 Dafoe Prize-winning political history of the *Northwest Passage Lock, Stock, and Iceberg*; co-author of the 2017 monography *China's Arctic Ambitions and What They Mean for Canada*; and co-editor of *Canadian Arctic Operations, 1941–2015: Lessons Learned, Lost, and Relearned* (2017).

In 2023, Russia's war against Ukraine entered its second year and great power increasingly dominated international relations. Dr. Lajeunesse's research on global security addresses these rapidly evolving challenges with a focus on malign information operations. During a four-month Killam Visiting Fellowship at the University of Calgary, Dr. Lajeunesse co-authored a major report on Chinese information operations across the Circumpolar Arctic, examining Beijing's narratives and influence operations across the region. This work built on other 2023 publications with the NORAD journal *The Watch* and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. Dr. Lajeunesse's work on Russian disinformation was also published in US defence publications, including a policy-makers' playbook for generating friction in the Sino-Russian Arctic relationship in an article published in the US National Defense University's *Joint Forces Quarterly*. Two major reports on the subject were also written for the Canadian Department of National Defence, and one will appear through the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence (Riga) in 2024.

Dr. Lajeunesse also continued a long-standing program of work on Arctic and maritime security, with an edited volume on the 1969 voyage of SS *Manhattan* through the Northwest Passage. He also co-authored chapters in *Shipping in Inuit Nunangat: Governance Challenges and Approaches in Canadian*

Arctic Waters and Security. Cooperation. Governance: The Canada–United States Open Border Paradox. With the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (University of Calgary), he also organized and ran a major maritime security workshop to generate ideas for a refreshed Canadian vision for the seas.

Bringing academic analysis to government partners, Dr. Lajeunesse took part in events organized by the Norwegian Embassy (Canada), the US Department of Defense, the Government of Canada, and US Northern Command, among others. He has also been contracted and funded to co-author a history of Canadian Arctic foreign policy for the John W. Holmes Book Series in Canadian Foreign Policy (University of Calgary Press).



BAILEY GERRITS, PhD

Bailey Gerrits, PhD, Mila Mulroney Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership, and Assistant Professor in Public Policy and Governance, is an expert in gender-based violence discourse and policies. Her work has appeared in the *International Journal of Communication*; *Feminist Media Studies*; and *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice*.



Dr. Gerrits joined the Mulroney Institute as the inaugural Mila Mulroney Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership in July 2021. Her research examines stories told about gender-based violence and considers how they contribute to ending or facilitating the violence. The Social Science and Humanities Research Council awarded Dr. Gerrits an Insight Development Grant in 2022 to study the applicability of carceral feminism to Canadian federal anti-violence politics. Her other current projects include examining domestic violence news patterns in Canada, documenting how Canadian police frame gender-based violence on social media, and comparing gendered social media attacks against women in leadership positions in Canada and the United States.

Dr. Gerrits is on leave until March 2024.





MULRONEY INSTITUTE NAMES NEW RESEARCH CHAIRS

In November, the Mulroney Institute named two new research chairs: Dr. Rebecca Wallace, the Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership; and Dr. Dave Risk, the Brian Mulroney Institute Research Chair in Climate Science and Policy.

Dr. Richard Isnor, the Institute's interim director, spoke at the announcement event: "On behalf of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, I would like to welcome Dr. Dave Risk as our first Brian Mulroney Institute Research Chair in Climate Science and Policy, and Dr. Rebecca Wallace as our second appointee (in addition to Dr. Bailey Gerrits) as the Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership."

"These two new research chair appointments will strengthen and diversify the internal research efforts of the Institute. The research work of both Dr. Risk and Dr. Wallace has profound implications for policy impact," Dr. Isnor continued. "Their appointment as Institute research chairs reinforces the work of the Institute on environmental policy and policy related to women's leadership in governance and public service. We are excited to have both these exceptional scholars involved in Brian Mulroney Institute activities and look forward to communicating the impacts of their work via the Institute." Dr. Isnor also shared personal remarks

and congratulations to Drs. Wallace and Risk from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Dr. Wallace expressed her sincere gratitude for the opportunity to continue advancing her research agenda on issues related to gender equality in the Mulroney Institute. "It is a terrific honour to be named as a Mila Mulroney Research Chair, and I will work heartily to honour the Mulroney family in the years to come. StFX continues to offer high-quality research supports and a collegial environment for collaborative work with some of the best and brightest in public policy. I am immensely grateful to my colleagues in the Office of Research Services and the Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Governance for their continued support and mentorship here at X. It is a privilege and a joy to work at StFX and in the Antigonish community."

These sentiments were echoed by Dr. Risk. During his remarks, he shared background on his work as well as the Flux Lab, which he leads. The lab numbers almost 30 students and professional researchers. His team works with government, industry, and non-governmental organizations. From his early university days, Dr. Risk says he was always grounded in the belief that science is for society. He said he is very much looking forward to working within the Mulroney Institute on issues related to climate science and policy, and to collaborating with colleagues.



REBECCA WALLACE, PhD

Rebecca Wallace, PhD, is a Mila Mulrone Research Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership in the Brian Mulrone Institute of Government, and an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department and the Public Policy and Governance Program at StFX. She received her PhD from Queen's University for her research on the news framing of and attitudes toward social assistance recipients in Canada. Her primary research interests include Canadian social policy, political behaviour, and political communication, with a focus on women, gender, and diversity. Prior to joining StFX, Dr. Wallace was the John A. Sproul Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and held post-doctoral research fellowships at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University. She was previously a doctoral fellow at the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations and held a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Fellowship from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (2016–19). Her work has been published in journals including, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*; *Political Studies*; *Politics and Gender*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; and the *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*.

Dr. Wallace is currently the Primary Investigator on a project exploring women's exits from political officeholding, entitled "A Leaky Pipeline? Examining Women's Retention in and Exits from Political Officeholding in Canada." The project, co-investigated with Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, is funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant. In 2024, she will be launching the GAPLab at StFX, a new research network which conducts advanced collaborative research on gender and politics.



DAVE RISK, PhD

Dave Risk, PhD, is the Brian Mulrone Institute for Government Research Chair in Climate Science and Policy. He is a specialist in gas emissions measurement and data processing techniques to quantify emissions in natural and industrial settings. Dr. Risk is a prominent figure in the field of environmental science, research, regulation, and policy. His research focuses on developing innovative sensing technologies to monitor greenhouse gases, track environmental changes, and to understand the impact of industrial activities. Dr. Risk is also involved in developing data analysis techniques and mathematical models to interpret the large datasets generated by his sensor networks and to provide meaningful insights into environmental patterns and trends. He has been involved in numerous collaborative research projects, both nationally and internationally. He has collaborated with government agencies and organizations to address pressing environmental issues and to advance the field of environmental monitoring. His research group has been involved in ecological gas measurement projects from pole to pole. His current work has focused on quantifying methane emissions from Canadian industry. In recent years, the Flux Lab team has made gas emission measurements at over 15,000 oil and gas facilities across North America, both onshore and offshore, and over 120 landfills from coast to coast.

Dr. Risk also promotes environmental science education and outreach. He has been involved in public engagement initiatives and has worked to communicate scientific concepts to the general public and students. He has advised governments, regulators, and industry associations. He has contributed to a significant number of research papers, conference presentations, and publications in peer-reviewed journals. His work has contributed to the advancement of environmental monitoring techniques and mitigation of methane in industry.

ACADEMIC INQUIRY WITH REAL-WORLD IMPACT



The faculty and fellows of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government continued to publish their findings in top-tier journals and to create strategic partnerships for ongoing academic inquiry.

The Institute's partnership with McGill-Queen's University Press (MQUP) on the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government Studies in Leadership, Public Policy, and Governance series had another fruitful year in 2023. The series focuses on critical issues facing Canada, at home and abroad, and the efforts that policy-makers have made to address complex policy concerns. The series compels readers to think critically about policy choices made by elected officials and how they can better navigate an increasingly crowded marketplace of ideas.

Titles released in 2023 include Jacob Deem's *Rethinking Decentralization: Mapping the Meaning of Subsidiary in Federal*

Political Culture; Natural Allies: Environment, Energy, and the History of US-Canada Relations by Daniel MacFarlane; and Carolina Matos's *Gender, Communications, and Reproductive Health in International Development*.

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, Research Fellow with the Institute and PGOV faculty member, is the editor of an e-book series, *Arctic Operational Histories*, published by the Mulroney Institute. Generated from firsthand accounts and official government narratives, each volume offers a unique window into the evolution of Canada's northern deployments and capabilities. The e-books further explore the challenges faced by the Canadian Armed Forces during its multi-generational effort to develop and maintain operational capabilities in the Arctic. Two issues appeared in 2023: *Operation Kigliqavik Ranger: The Canadian Rangers' Expedition to the Magnetic North Pole, 2002* and *Through the Northwest Passage and Back: Captain Paul Fournier's Report of the CCGS John A. Macdonald's Voyage With SS Manhattan, September–November 1969*.

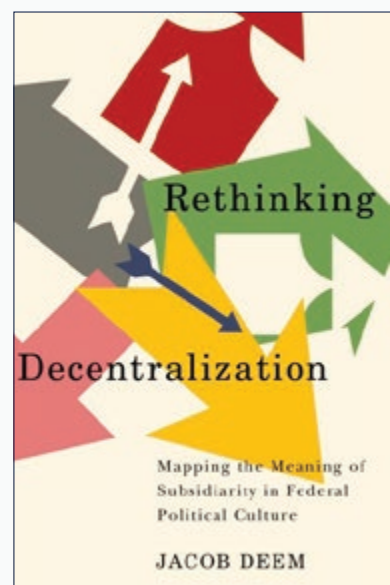
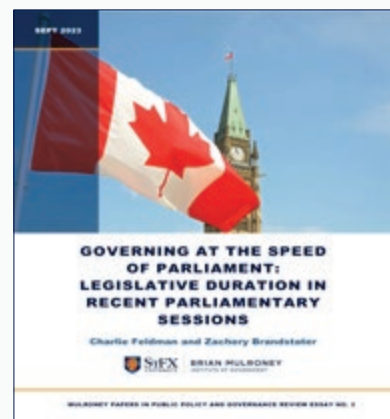
The Mulroneys Papers in Public Policy and Governance released a special issue in June 2023 as a synopsis of the Atlantic Economic Forum. Written by the AEF's rapporteur, Charles McMillan, scholar and former senior policy advisor to Prime Minister Mulroney from 1984 to 1987. The paper presents a summary of the AEF and details the panel discussions that took place over the course of the three-day event held in Mulroney Hall.

The Mulroneys Papers in Public Policy and Governance Review Essays released its second issue in September 2023. The review essays provide a forum for scholars to take stock of the literature on various policy-related issues and to introduce readers to new and innovative approaches to thinking about how these topics relate to broader ideas about the nature of policy-making. The second issue, *Governing at the Speed of Parliament: Legislative Duration in Recent Parliamentary Sessions*, was authored by Charlie Feldman, president of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group, and Zachery Brandstater, an Australian engineer with an interest in Canadian parliamentary data. The essay explores recent trends in legislative duration (the amount of time it takes a bill to complete its legislative journey) by examining government bills given Royal Assent in parliaments between January 1994 and August 2021.

In 2023, the Mulroneys Institute marked its fifth year of partnership with Centre of Excellence on the Canadian Federation, the Canada-West Foundation, the First Nations Financial Management Board, and the Centre D'Analyse Politique – Constitution et Fédéralisme in the publication of the Confederation of Tomorrow Survey of Canadians, which was conducted by the Environics Institute for Survey Research.

This survey, which provides meaningful representation from the nation's geography and population (including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada), assesses the evolution of Canadian attitudes toward, and satisfaction with, the nation's overall direction. Over 2023, five reports were released: *Spotlight on Alberta*, *Confidence in Leaders*, *Reconciliation and Relations With Indigenous Peoples*, *Views on Government*, and *Spotlight on Atlantic Canada*.

The Canadian Naval Review, published by the Mulroneys Institute and edited by Dr. Lajeunesse, is a hybrid academic/professional journal examining a wide range of maritime security issues. The journal examines strategic concepts and policies, oceans policy, and marine affairs. It brings together members of the Canada defence and academic communities to promote strategic thinking and good security policy. The CNR released its 19th volume in 2023.







SELECTED 2023 PUBLICATIONS OF MULRONEY INSTITUTE FACULTY AND FELLOWS

Ana Koncul, Christine Kelly, **Katie Aubrecht**,
and Ruth Bartlett.

“Care Homes for Older People: Carceral Spaces in Times
of Crisis or Perpetually?” *Space & Culture* 26, no. 3
(2023): 309–22.

Stephanie Mason and **Katie Aubrecht**.

“Losing Ground During COVID-19: Dementia Caregivers’
Shifting Perceptions of Place.” *Journal of Canadian
Studies* 57, no. 1 (2023): 20–39.

Sutapa Chattopadhyay et al.

“A Map to Ecosocialism.” *Emancipations: A Journal
of Critical Social Analysis* 2, no. 1 (2023).

James F. Cosgrave and **Patricia Cormack**.

“Making Markets Out of Vice: Gambling, Cannabis,
Processes of State Legitimation and Formation in Canada.”
Journal of Canadian Studies 57, no. 2 (2023): 280–98.

Bailey Gerrits, Nadia Verrelli, and
Lori Chambers.

“From Pride to Lies: English Language Print Media
Coverage of Supreme Court of Canada Decisions on
Women’s Defensive Violence.” *Journal of Canadian
Studies* 57, no. 2 (2023): 155–80.

Yvon Grenier.

“Culture, Identity and the State in Cuba.” *Latin American
Research Review* 58, no. 1 (2023): 203–14.

Yvon Grenier.

“Opportunities to Promote Human Rights and Democracy
Abroad: The Case of Canadian Foreign Policy Toward
Cuba.” *American Review of Canadian Studies* 53, no. 2
(2023): 204–17.

Wilfrid Greaves and **Peter Kikkert**.

“Climate Disasters and Human Insecurity: British
Columbia, 2021.” In *Evolving Human Security:
Frameworks and Considerations for Canada’s Military*,
eds. Shannon Lewis-Simpson and Sara Jane Meharg,
140–142. Kingston: Canadian Defence Academy, 2023.

Peter Kikkert, Calvin Pedersen,
and P. Whitney Lackenbauer.

“Mitigating the Tyranny of Time and Distance:
Community-based Organizations and Marine Mass
Rescue Operations in Inuit Nunangat.” In *Arctic Shipping
at a Time of Change: Governance Challenges and
Approaches in the Canadian North*, ed. Kristin Bartenstein
and Aldo Chircop, 182–210. Leiden: Brill, 2023.

Peter Kikkert and P. Whitney Lackenbauer.

“‘That Others May Live’: Search and Rescue.” In *Evolving
Human Security Frameworks and Considerations for
Canada’s Military*,
ed. Shannon Lewis-Simpson and Sarah Jane Meharg,
143–47. Kingston: Canadian Defence Academy
Press, 2023.

P. Whitney Lackenbauer and

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THE BRIAN MULRONEY INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Mulroney Institute's Fellows Program, established in 2019, is a network of scholars at StFX whose research has implications for the conduct and implementation of public policy and/or issues relating to governance. During their three-year appointment, each Fellow presents a public lecture and contributes to the Institute's occasional paper series, the Mulroney Papers in Public

Policy and Governance. The Fellows and Distinguished Fellows are recognized for their expertise across a range of disciplines (including political science, philosophy, sociology, health equity and social justice, conflict resolution, finance, and education) and play a major role in enhancing the Institute's research capacity.

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS



DOUGLAS M. BROWN, PhD

Dr. Douglas M. Brown is recently retired from StFX's Department of Political Science. His research areas include intergovernmental relations in Canada, fiscal federalism in Canada, and Canadian regional politics with a focus on the Atlantic Provinces.



PETER CLANCY, PhD

Dr. Peter Clancy is a Senior Research Professor in the Department of Political Science at StFX. His work centres on the interplay of economic and political interests in settings such as business politics and natural resource industries.

FELLOWS



KATIE AUBRECHT, PhD

Dr. Katie Aubrecht is Canada Research Chair in Health Equity and Social Justice and Associate Professor in Sociology at StFX. She leads an interdisciplinary research program mapping health services, social policies, and community resources related to marginality, mental health, and resilience.



JAMES BICKERTON, PhD

Dr. James Bickerton is Professor of Political Science at StFX. His research interests are in the areas of federalism, regionalism, and electoral politics in Canada.



SUTAPA CHATTOPADHYAY, PhD

Dr. Sutapa Chattopadhyay is Assistant Professor in Women's and Gender Studies and Development at StFX. Her areas of interest are gender justice, migrations, development politics, social movements, political ecology, and Indigeneity.



YOUNGWON CHO, PhD

Dr. Youngwon Cho is Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at StFX. His primary research areas revolve around the international political economy of money and finance, focusing on emerging market economies in general and East Asian countries, in particular.



PATRICIA CORMACK, PhD

Dr. Patricia Cormack is Professor in the Department of Sociology at StFX. She researches the place of the Canadian state in everyday life and the state's role in cultivating nationalism.

FELLOWS



YVON GRENIER, PhD

Dr. Yvon Grenier is Professor of Political Science at StFX. His current work examines Canadian foreign policy toward Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela, with a focus on human rights and the promotion of democratic values.



LOUIS GROARKE, PhD

Dr. Louis Groarke is Professor in the Philosophy Department at StFX. His research focuses on political theory, moral philosophy, aesthetics, logic, Aristotle, and the history of philosophy.



JAMIE LEVIN, PhD

Dr. Jamie Levin is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at StFX. His work focuses on the role of weapons in the resolution of civil wars.



BHAVIK PARIKH, PhD

Dr. Bhavik Parikh is Associate Professor of Finance at the Schwartz School of Business at StFX. His research focuses on international finance, tax evasion, and Islamic finance.

FELLOWS



LAVINIA STAN, PhD

Dr. Lavinia Stan is Professor of Political Science at StFX. She is a comparative politics specialist widely recognized as an expert on Romania and the post-communist world.



WILLIAM SWEET, PhD

Dr. William Sweet is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at StFX. His current research interests include ethics in governance, human rights and freedom of conscience in contemporary democracies, and health care policy and ethics.



GREG TKACZ, PhD

Dr. Greg Tkacz is Professor of Economics and Jules Léger Research Chair in the Humanities and Social Sciences at StFX. He specializes in monetary policy and economic forecasting. He also spent 14 years as a researcher and manager at the Bank of Canada in Ottawa.



DAVID YOUNG, PhD

Dr. David Young is Professor in the Faculty of Education at StFX. Broadly, his research focuses on educational administration and policy; his current work deals with issues pertaining to law and education.



VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAM


As part of its mandate to initiate conversations around key policy concerns, the Mulroney Institute of Government launched its Visiting Fellows Program in the fall of 2022 to bring former and current policy-makers, journalists, academics, and other experts in public policy to StFX to share their insights and expertise with students and faculty on a wide range of domestic and foreign policy issues. Visiting Fellows spend two days with the Institute, sitting in on PGOV classes, including large first-year courses and smaller upper-year seminars, with invitations extended to Political Science students and, on occasion, the campus community at large. Luncheons are hosted for each Visiting Fellow, allowing students and faculty to engage with them on a more personal level.

The Visiting Fellows Program was honoured to welcomed Madeleine Redfern on 27–28 February. Ms. Redfern is an Indigenous woman involved in high tech and innovation. A graduate of the Akitsiraq Law School and the University of Victoria, she was the first Inuk to be given a Supreme Court of Canada clerkship. She has extensive governance and volunteer experience with Indigenous and Inuit organizations, including the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation, and she is one of the founding members of the Wabano Aboriginal Health Centre. Ms. Redfern visited multiple PGOV classes during her time with the Institute. Facilitated by PGOV professor Dr. Peter Kikkert, Ms. Redfern engaged with PGOV and Political Science students discussing a number of topics, including her tenure as the mayor

of Iqaluit, Nunavut; the challenges of developing advanced tech infrastructure in Northern communities; rethinking search-and-rescue systems; and her time as the executive director of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, a commission that reviewed the “effects of federal government policies on Eastern Arctic Inuit” between the 1950s and 1980s.

Elizabeth May, OC, MP (Saanich–Gulf Islands), one of Canada’s best-known parliamentarians, joined the Institute on 14–15 March. Ms. May was the Green Party of Canada’s first elected Member of Parliament (MP). She served as the Green Party leader from 2006 to 2019 and has been leader again since 2022. Ms. May sat in on several classes in Political Science and PGOV, including an upper-year PGOV seminar in which a small group of fourth-year students had the opportunity to converse with her on a more personal level. She spoke on a wide range of subjects, including on her climate activism, her experiences as a long-serving MP and party leader, and her thoughts on the current state of political affairs in Canada and the United States. As part of the Institute’s goal to invite other departments to engage with its events and activities, Ms. May was able to join the “Understanding Climate Change” course in the Climate and Environment Program as well as with a Department of Human Nutrition seminar. To conclude her visit to the Mulroney Institute, Ms. May presented a community lecture as part of the Institute’s Distinguished Speakers Series.





An important component of the Mulroney Institute's commitment to engaging communities in debate and dialogue about the impact of public policy and governance is providing accessible knowledge and expertise on these subjects.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

An important component of the Mulroney Institute's commitment to engaging communities in debate and dialogue about the impact of public policy and governance is providing accessible knowledge and expertise on these subjects. As such, many of the Institute's faculty and fellows are regular contributors to local, national, and international media platforms, including print, radio, television, and podcasts. In 2023, the Institute's faculty and fellows continued to be called upon to share their knowledge and expertise, reaching millions across multiple platforms.

The Institute's director, Dr. Donald E. Abelson, is a sought-after media contributor. He has appeared on CTV News Channel and in *US News & World Report* and *The Toronto Star*, among many others. Dr. Abelson is a frequent guest expert on talk radio. In 2023, Dr. Abelson made dozens of media appearances discussing Canada-US relations and the tumultuous state of American politics during the third year of the Biden administration.

Dr. Peter Kikkert, PGOV interim coordinator and Institute Research Fellow, has contributed opinion pieces for outlets such as Radio-Canada and the *Nunavut News* on Northern issues. Dr. Kikkert has been especially sought after for his expertise on emergency response in the face of climate disasters across Canada.

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, PGOV faculty member and an Institute Research Fellow, has appeared frequently on television and radio weighing in on American Arctic policy, Arctic sovereignty, and Canada's naval capabilities in the Arctic for outlets such as *The Hill Times*, *Toronto Star*, and *The National Post*.

The Institute's fellows are also in demand. Dr. Katie Aubrecht speaks frequently on her research and work with government agencies. In May 2023, she spoke to several outlets on her involvement in an independent review of Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act. Drs. Yvon Grenier and James Bickerton are regular guests on English and French Canadian media platforms as experts on Canadian politics. Both are sought after during election cycles. Dr. Grenier is also a regular commentator for Radio-Canada, the CBC, and SaltWire Media, where he frequently shares his expertise on Latin American governments. Dr. Jamie Levin, an expert on Israel-Palestinian relations, spoke with numerous CBC outlets on the history of conflict in the region in October 2023. Dr. Lavinia Stan appears regularly on European media platforms, speaking about transitional justice in post-Communist countries. She has a podcast with the New Books Network, interviewing fellow academics on their scholarship. Dr. Stan interviewed Dr. Lajeunesse for the series in January 2023.



Our House Too



Policy+ Editorial Board

STUDENT INITIATIVES

With its aim to prepare the world's future leaders and policy-makers, the Mulroney Institute pursues opportunities to engage students inside and outside the classroom. In 2023, the Institute supported student-originated initiatives through faculty, staff, and funding assistance.

The Our House Too Society experienced another year of growth and influence at both the Mulroney Institute and within the community of Antigonish. Led by fourth-year PGOV students Taylor Gorman and Katherine Starr, and supported by the Mulroney Institute and liaison Dr. Anna Zuschlag, Our House organized events for StFX students dedicated to enhancing diversity in public policy, politics, law, and advocacy. On 8 March 2023, the Our House Too Society organized a trivia night to recognize and celebrate International Women's Day. Open to the campus community, the event raised funds for the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. The year concluded with the Our House Too executive team visiting Halifax in October, where they were generously invited to hear former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama speak at an event organized by the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council. Mrs. Obama addressed the audience of youth from the Atlantic region about their roles in valuing the co-operative movement and the impact of advocacy.

The Mulroney Institute's student journal, *Policy+*, launched in 2022. *Policy+* is an undergraduate, peer-reviewed journal. It provides a venue for undergraduate publications covering a wide range of interdisciplinary topics grounded in public policy and governance. The editorial board includes PGOV students at different points in their undergraduate degree experience. Under guidance and assistance from Dr. Anna Zuschlag, in 2023, the board continued to progress toward publishing the journal's first issue, accepting the submission of articles and op-eds, and undertaking the peer-review, copy-editing, and proofreading stages, as well as creating the cover graphics and internal-pages template. The premiere issue will be released in 2024. The editorial board looks forward to sharing and highlighting the academic excellence of PGOV, Political Science, and other undergraduate students.

The 2023 *Policy+* editorial board members are Kaytland Smith, Jack Harding, Oscar Dewing, Grace Fillmore, Rory Jakubec, and Nicholas Bremner, with additional assistance from Gabriel Maiorino.



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student engagement is the cornerstone of the Mulroney Institute's teaching philosophy.

Our chairs and faculty seek out and offer opportunities for students to gain skills and experiences that prepare them for real-world challenges. While other universities might rely on graduate students to conduct research, the unique emphasis that StFX and the Institute place on the undergraduate experience creates space for students to engage in important and progressive work.

Dr. Peter Kikkert continued to engage PGOV students in his research endeavours. He brought four students on board to help in various research projects over the course of the year. Of special note is PGOV student Sean Lizzola's assistance with the organization and facilitation of the Trenton Arctic SAR Exchange.

In April 2023, the Mulroney Institute was proud to provide funding support to the Model UN Society, which sent a delegation of PGOV and Political Science students to compete in New York City.

With assistance from the Mulroney Institute, PGOV student Kaytland Smith attended the Canadian Political Science Association's annual conference in Toronto. Presenting alongside her research supervisor, PGOV/Political Science professor and Mila Mulroney Chair Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Kaytland had the opportunity to share their paper on the impact of the Canada-wide federal childcare agreement in Nova Scotia.

The Institute's digital policy collection moved closer to completion. Research assistants Katherine Starr and Taylor Gorman, under the guidance of Dr. Anna Zuschlag, continued to gather policy documents related to areas such as federal-provincial relations, Indigenous relations, and Northern policy. The collection's digital infrastructure took shape as well. The collection will be launched in spring 2024.



Israel–Palestine Field School*

In April 2023, the Mulroney Institute was one of several sponsors of a new Political Science study abroad course, Fault Lines in Israel–Palestine, that had 10 students, including those from PGOV and Political Science, spending 10 days visiting Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Under the guidance of Mulroney Institute Fellow and Political Science faculty member Dr. Jamie Levin, students learned about the intricacies of Israeli–Palestinian relations through visiting sites of importance and engaging with experts and locals to develop an understanding about one of the modern world’s most enduring and complex conflicts.

The course, which included extensive reading and assignments before the trip abroad, is the first of its kind in Canada. Dr. Levin, a scholar of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, conceived of the class, in part, as a way to give students a humanizing experience: “These become real places to them, real people, that they approach the conflict with nuanced understanding...[The students] developed a political literacy and an ability to see humanity that they can bring with them to whatever is important to them.”

The group arrived in time to witness events around the 75th anniversary of Israel’s independence and during the 14th week of nationwide protests against a policy meant to overhaul the country’s judicial system. The peaceful protests drew thousands upon thousands of people into the streets. Levin believes this was a critical experience during the trip: “We’re coming from a society that is politically jaded and apathetic, particularly in the student age cohort, to a country where there is zero apathy and

100 percent engagement. People are on the streets, every week, with their parents and grandparents. That was a transformative experience for the students.”

Students learned about the Israeli–Palestinian conflict through a wide range of organized activities that included tours with Jewish and Palestinian guides and guest speakers, such as a Palestinian author and entrepreneur. Events included visiting Rabin’s Square in Tel Aviv, exploring the Supreme Court of Israel in Jerusalem, and visiting the West Bank where students toured Bethlehem and Ramallah.

Fourth-year PGOV honours student Katherine Starr felt grateful for the experience: “Having the opportunity and privilege to visit this country and explore the depths of this conflict on the ground is something so unique that many people may never get the chance to do it.” She was thankful for the financial assistance from sponsors, which meant that the opportunity to join the course was available to students no matter their financial status.

Dr. Levin observed that students came away with a new perspective on the conflict and the region. “[I]t awakened something in our students. To go there and see there are layers of complexity and nuance, and to be able to relate that back to your own experience, to me, this is profound.” Levin continued, “Students start asking these questions, and the hope is they never stop.”

*The Israel–Palestine Field School took place five months before the events of 7 October 2023.





PGOV INTERNSHIPS

Bombardier Intern Scholarships in Public Policy and Governance

Created by the generous financial support of the Beaudoin family, the Bombardier Scholarships are intended to provide financial support for students in the PGOV Program to gain practical work and research experience in areas related to public policy, public service, and governance. Awarded through the Mulroney Institute, student applicants are selected through a competitive process. Six interns share their Summer 2023 experiences.



MARCEL DESMOND

My Bombardier internship was with the Policy and Information Management division of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. As a policy analyst, I supported the policy cycle by conducting research, jurisdictional scans, and external consultation to assist in preparing a series of requests for legislation. I also supported the deputy minister's senior advisor by drafting speaking remarks, coordinating Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiatives, and by planning a departmental employment system review to fulfill a recommendation from the Auditor General. This experience allowed me to explore the different stages of the policy cycle in action while paying specific attention to the strategic implementation of policies across departments.

OSCAR DEWING

In Summer 2023, I worked at Resource Works Society, a non-profit public advocacy organization based in Vancouver, British Columbia. They advocate for policy solutions to expedite the development of Canadian natural resources and major infrastructure projects. I had the opportunity to engage in a range of tasks, including written work, interviews, and content creation. I wrote a variety of internal reports. I was also involved in contributing to articles published on the Resource Works website, along with personally authoring two op-eds. The Bombardier Scholarship also afforded me the opportunity to attend several conferences, including the LNG2023 World Conference in Vancouver, BC; and the Pacific North-West Economic Region Summit in Boise, Idaho.

GRACE FILLMORE

Receiving the Bombardier Intern Scholarship in Summer 2023 allowed me to work as a student researcher under the mentorship of Mulroney Institute Distinguished Fellow Dr. Peter Clancy. Over the summer, I researched and wrote on Canadian environmental governance, specifically the multi-jurisdictional governance structures and pollution abatement efforts surrounding Lake Winnipeg. My goal was to examine an environmental crisis while filling gaps in the existing academic literature on the subject. My unique internship structure allowed me to immerse myself in a complex Canadian governance issue, culminating in an extensive monograph composed of numerous policy issue papers. My Bombardier internship allowed me to play a role in designing my experience, to produce a comprehensive document, and to gain invaluable research skills, which will help me as I continue my academic career.

TAYLOR GORMAN

With the support of the Bombardier Internship Scholarship, I completed my internship at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia in Summer 2023. During my internship, I worked with formerly incarcerated women and gender-diverse individuals working to gain meaningful skills in employment, self-sufficiency, and the legal system. It was an incredible experience that not only deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by these individuals but also reinforced my commitment to advocating for their rights. This internship solidified my passion for social justice and inspired me to continue working towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

JACK HARDING

My Bombardier internship was with the StFX Students' Union. I served as Vice-President of Academic Affairs, an elected position, for 2023–24. I managed a diverse set of responsibilities, from overseeing policy development and student advocacy to leading initiatives across various sectors, including sexual violence prevention, environmental sustainability, and academic integrity. The Bombardier Intern program profoundly impacted my ability to apply theoretical knowledge from the classroom to real-world scenarios, alongside invaluable support from the PGOV Program. The skills and insights I gained through the Internship program empowered me to push change forward within the community, providing an unparalleled opportunity to represent a diverse student body, manage multifaceted operations, and contribute meaningfully to student welfare and institutional policy.

KATHERINE STARR

As recipient of the Bombardier Intern Scholarship, I had the privilege of working for The Honourable Caroline Mulroney in the Minister's Office at the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario. Under Minister Mulroney's leadership, I worked alongside an incredible team who taught me the ins and outs of public policy and governance in motion. From witnessing action in the Ontario Legislature to observing committee hearings, conducting transportation research, and drafting policy memorandums, I gained invaluable skills. Not only did I get to see public policy and governance in action, but I was able to put much of what I have learned in the PGOV Program to use, building skills in a fast-paced, high-stakes and, at times, stressful environment.



RBC FOUNDATION INTERNSHIPS

RBC Foundation Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Award Program

The RBC Foundation Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Award Program gives StFX students enrolled in bachelor programs the opportunity to be involved in the creation of new knowledge and to build on the knowledge that they have developed in their degrees through original research supervised by a faculty supervisor/mentor.

The summer research internships are supported by the Mulroney Institute through funding awarded by the RBC Foundation. The awards go toward student research projects that explore public policy and governance issues related to women's studies and leadership, economics, trade and finance, Canada-US relations, global affairs, environmental issues and policy, Indigenous affairs and governance, underserved communities, social policy and government, and multiculturalism and linguistic diversity. Eight internships are awarded annually. Below are experiences from several of the 2023 internship recipients.

NICHOLAS BREMNER

Fourth-year Honours Political Science student Nicholas Bremner conducted research on the effects of sanctions on human rights in targeted countries that are authoritarian regimes. Supervised by Mulroney Institute Fellow Dr. Jamie Levin, Nick says the internship allowed him to spend more time on his research, researching and compiling the relevant literature and data sets. “This experience broadened my abilities to use certain software and develop problem-solving skills.” Nick noted that one of the best experiences during the summer was being able to research in a proper office: “I was able to have a dedicated spot for work throughout the summer.”

GRACE FILLMORE

Grace Fillmore, a fourth-year Honours PGOV student, supervised by Mulroney Institute Distinguished Fellow Dr. Peter Clancy, studied the governance structures of Lake Winnipeg, Canada’s sixth largest lake and the location of severe aquatic pollution. “Throughout my research, I have studied various aspects of Lake Winnipeg governance, including the science sector; federal, provincial, and cross-border coordination; First Nations involvement; conflict surrounding Manitoba’s hog industry and agricultural sector; and necessary future policy steps for remediation.” The summer internship allowed Grace to focus fully on her research, while also completing an internship with her faculty supervisor. “It has resulted in a 100-page monograph, which I hope to be able to present to policy-makers and/or publish in an academic journal.”

GURKANWARPARTAP GREWAL

Fourth-year Earth and Environmental Sciences student Gurkanwarpartap Singh Grewal spent his summer internship at the StFX Flux Lab under the supervision of Mulroney Institute Research Chair in Climate Science and Policy Dr. Dave Risk. Testing the performance of methane sensors under different operating conditions, Gurkanwarpartap assisted in gathering accurate methane measurements, the accuracy of which is important to developing effective policy recommendations. “I did laboratory testing of laser-based spectroscopic sensors for noise, drift, and temperature sensitivity. I found out that the performance of these sensors depends on temperature stability.” The internship meant a lot to Gurkanwarpartap: “I got to do hands-on work and expand my knowledge in my field... Due to being part of the Flux Lab, I got the opportunity to go on field trips and experience some beautiful places in Canada.”

KAYTLAND SMITH

Kaytland Smith, a fourth-year Honours PGOV student and mature student with young children, used her RBC Foundation internship to invite former women municipal councillors from across Nova Scotia to participate in a research study about their experience as councillors and to investigate the reasons behind female politicians not seeking re-election. Supervised by Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership, Kaytland was grateful to have the financial security to complete her research and, by extension, the ability to fully commit to the project. Kaytland quickly realized that there was a lack of centralized or reliable data on municipal councils in general and that the information on women in municipal government was non-existent. “This highlights to me not only the importance of what I’m doing but also the vital impact this research will have... [on] our ability to properly address women’s ability to achieve electoral success in municipal government.”



SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES FOR FUTURE LEADERS

When Prime Minister Mulroney began his efforts to raise funds for Mulroney Hall and the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, he was determined that there be ample support for not just bricks and mortar but also scholarships and bursaries. The Prime Minister has spoken candidly about his family's modest roots—and about the work ethic imbued in him by his father, Benedict—and pledged to give students from similar backgrounds the opportunity of a university education.

With your support, the Institute's PGOV Program is able to leverage robust financial support to attract the finest students from across Canada and around the world. In the 2024–25 academic year, these are the available scholarships (awarded based on academic merit) and bursaries (awarded based on financial need):

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

PER STUDENT PER YEAR

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarships (2/year)	\$15,000
Sobeys Entrance Scholarships (2/year)	\$10,000
Irving Family Scholarships (3/year)	\$5,000
Mila Mulroney Scholarship for African Nova Scotian Students (4/year)	\$5,000
The Weston Family Scholarship for International Exchange (6–8/year)	\$6,000
Joyce Family Bursaries (25/year)	\$3,000
Samuel Wakim, QC Academic Scholarship (1/year)	\$5,000
J. Armand Bombardier Student Internships (6/year)	\$6,000
Dahdaleh Scholarship for Indigenous Students (4/year)	\$5,000
Bloomfield Family – UN Service-Learning Subsidy (awarded directly to the Model UN Society)	\$4,000/year
Michael Mulroney Scholarship (1/year)	\$1,750
Sister Peggy Butts Bursary (1/year)	\$1,750
Thomas O'Shea Scholarship (1/year)	\$1,750
Bogdanka Pivnički Scholarship (1/year)	\$1,750
David and Hildegard Mahoney Scholarship for a US student (1 per 4 years)	\$10,000
Guy R. Savard Bursary (1 per 4 years)	\$12,500
Scotiabank Entrance Scholarship (1/year)	\$4,000

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Isabella Regenvanu and Katherine Starr are recipients of The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship. First-year PGOV student Isabella shares her journey from high school to the PGOV Program, and fourth-year PGOV student Katherine reflects on her time at StFX.

“The PGOV Program really appealed to me as it seemed like such an interesting and unique program that is truly one of a kind in Canada ... policy and governance has always been something I have been interested in, and I was wanting to be in an environment where I could learn more.”

Isabella Regenvanu



ISABELLA REGENVANU

First-year PGOV student and 2023 recipient of The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship Isabella Regenvanu knew that she wanted to be in the business of making people's lives better. Her aspirations pulled her to policy and governance issues. She sees successful policy and governance as, in many ways, creating more effective decision-making structures, which, in turn, can improve everyone's lives. Her interests drew her to the PGOV Program and to StFX.

Originally from Vanuatu, an island in the Pacific, Isabella attended Citadel High School in Halifax. There, she co-founded and ran the Model UN Club. The Model UN was a great experience for her and a space to contemplate politics and world events. It provided creative and meaningful opportunities to find ways to engage her colleagues in current affairs and to introduce them to governance concerns. It was at Citadel High that Isabella realized that she wanted to pursue further education in a field connected to politics, and policy and governance.

“I am very appreciative of this scholarship,” Isabella says, on receiving The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship. “Being a recipient of this scholarship has opened new doors for me and has put me on a great path to start my journey to work in policy and governance. I am truly grateful that I am able to attend such a wonderful school through the generosity of this scholarship.”

Many reasons drew Isabella to StFX and to PGOV. “The community at StFX is what really drew me to the school. The fact that everyone is so kind and that the school campus is such a positive environment appealed to me.”

“Meeting new people and starting university has truly been such a great experience,” Isabella observes. She has flourished in her first year in PGOV. “My first year has been a great and such a positive experience! PGOV has been absolutely amazing, with great professors and such a good and encouraging learning environment.”



“Being awarded The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship has filled me with great pride. Being the recipient of this scholarship named after one of the most respected and distinguished leaders of our time is truly a privilege that I have never taken for granted.”

Katherine Starr

KATHERINE STARR

Fourth-year PGOV student and 2020 recipient of The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship Katherine Starr looked back on her time in the PGOV Program as she prepared to graduate.

My experience in the PGOV Program has been nothing short of exceptional. From the incredible professors and staff who take such an interest in the students to the wide array of public policy-related material we were taught in the classroom, the calibre of this program is undeniable. The evidence of this can be seen in the PGOV students who have already achieved amazing heights during their time at StFX. I have been lucky enough to work with the Mulroney Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Anna Zuschlag, creating the forthcoming Digital Policy Collection. The internship program was another aspect of the program that gives students the ability to intern in a public policy-related field. I had the privilege of interning at The Honourable Caroline Mulroney’s office at the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. All in all, my experience in the PGOV Program exceeded my expectations.

I would absolutely recommend the PGOV Program because this program brings so many disciplines together. My advice for a first-year PGOV student would simply be to make a point

of introducing yourself and getting to know the PGOV and Mulroney Institute professors and staff. Show a keen interest, that you are here to take everything you can out of your time here. If nothing else, you will absolutely adore our professors who make class exciting and engaging.

As a first-generation university student, The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship has been invaluable to me. I have always looked at a university degree as being such a privilege, and it is something that I have never taken lightly. To be able to attend university and be afforded the opportunity to focus on my academics without the distraction of the financial burden that goes along with it has allowed me to excel during my time at StFX. If not for this scholarship, I would not be where I am today nor would I be graduating from StFX having been able to take every opportunity and making the most of my experience.

In the future, I hope to obtain my law degree and to pursue a career in international diplomacy and legal/policy affairs. But, ultimately, my goal is to be able to work in a field that is both fulfilling and where I can advocate for those who cannot do so themselves.



EVENTS

The Mulroney Institute aims to offer interesting and thought-provoking events as part of its mission to provide students and faculty with opportunities to engage with complex policy problems and issues of leadership in governance. The Institute continues to stream the majority of its speaker events online to facilitate its goal of connecting the StFX community and the world at large.



The Institute's Distinguished Speakers Series had the pleasure of hosting several accomplished speakers over the course of the year. In January 2023, renowned journalist Gwynne Dyer joined the Institute for a timely discussion on the state of the ongoing war in Ukraine. In March, the Institute had the pleasure of hosting Green Party co-leader Elizabeth May as a Visiting Fellow and as a Distinguished Speaker. Ms. May spoke on the climate crisis and how federalism often impedes Canada's response to climate change. Also in March, Mary Preville, vice-president, space program policy, Canadian Space Agency (CSA), detailed where Canada fits in the rapidly expanding space economy. Ms. Preville also graciously met with PGOV students at an Institute-hosted lunch.

In October, the Distinguished Speakers Series was honoured to welcome Ryan Manucha, who discussed his Donner Prize-winning book, *Booze, Cigarettes, and Constitutional Dust-Ups*, and its take on interprovincial trade. In November, The Hon. Michelle Thompson, Nova Scotia's Minister of Health and Wellness, and MLA for Antigonish, spoke about the province's Action for Health Plan, which addresses long-standing issues in the sector.

As part of the Mulroney Institute Fellows Lecture series, in January, Dr. Louis Groarke, Philosophy Department professor and Institute Fellow, spoke about Baroque artist Michelangelo Caravaggio's painting *The Calling of St. Matthew* and its relationship to the politics of the time. In February, Distinguished Fellow Dr. Peter Clancy spoke about the case for a Marine Council in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Two Fellows

lectures took place in March: Political Science professor Dr. Jamie Levin presented his research on peacekeeping and democracy; and Development Studies professor Dr. Sutapa Chattopadhyay presented on a dam-building project in India and the Indigenous populations displaced by it. The lecture series concluded for the year in April with Institute Fellow and Political Science professor Dr. Lavinia Stan, who spoke on the war in Ukraine as an issue with specific challenges and possibilities for achieving transnational justice.

In September, the PGOV Program's interim coordinator, Dr. Kikkert, launched the Lunch & Learn series, which highlights faculty and student research. Dr. Kikkert shared his current projects on emergency management. Later in the fall term, PGOV student Kaytland Smith discussed her experiences of, and the benefits in, attending academic conferences as an undergraduate.

On 20 March, Mulroney Hall hosted StFX Student Research Day, which celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The event gives students the opportunity to showcase their research for their colleagues and the community. On 29 September, Mulroney Hall's Joyce Atrium was again the site for the Truth and Reconciliation commemoration. The solemn event included prayer, speeches, songs, and a drum circle, concluding with a ribbon-tying ceremony. In June, Mulroney Hall was the site of the Atlantic Economic Forum, welcoming some 300 government, business, academic, and economic professionals to share in discussions on regional renewal in Atlantic Canada.





STAFF



CINDY MACKENZIE

Cindy MacKenzie is the spokesperson and Manager of Media Relations for StFX, overseeing external and internal media and stakeholder messaging. Previously the communications advisor to The Honourable Peter MacKay during his time as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Defence, Ms. MacKenzie has provided communications advice and support across Canada for funding announcements and for federal and provincial meetings. She has also participated in high-level foreign affairs and defence meetings with the US and Pakistani governments.

ANNA ZUSCHLAG, PhD

Anna Zuschlag, PhD, is the Mulroney Institute's Program/Research Manager. She is the managing editor of the Mulroney Institute's publications, including the Mulroney Papers on Public Policy and Governance and the Review Essay series. She organizes the Institute's special events, Distinguished Speakers Series, and the Fellows and Visiting Fellows programs. She is overseeing the ongoing development of the Institute's digital policy collection and is the Institute's liaison with student groups, such as the PGOV Student Society and Our House Too. Dr. Zuschlag also works closely with the editorial board of the newly launched *Policy+* student journal. Future projects for Dr. Zuschlag include cataloging and digitizing the Institute's collection of papers from Prime Minister Mulroney. Dr. Zuschlag holds a PhD in History from Western University.



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Cover photo by Dr. Anna Zuschlag



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