



StFX
UNIVERSITY

BRIAN MULRONEY
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT



YEAR IN REVIEW | **2024**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is an honour to write to you after serving as the Director of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government since July 2024. It has been a busy six months at the Mulroney Institute.

I joined the Institute shortly after the passing of The Honourable Brian Mulroney. As I entered this role, I recalled remembrances of Prime Minister Mulroney that Danny Graham, of Engage Nova Scotia, shared at a talk he presented as part of the Institute's Distinguished Speakers Series. Mr. Graham said that the most important thing you needed to know about Mr. Mulroney was that he treated people with dignity and decency. I knew that these were to be the pillars for my time with the Institute.

With these pillars in mind, we set out to develop programs and structures that reflect these values. We launched the Sober Second Thinkers Speaker Series with the amazing Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard as our inaugural speaker. Her reflections on how representation matters when legislation is being passed reminded us how important it is that dignity and decency for all Canadian citizens be embedded in our laws. We are excited that we have already confirmed four more Senators to speak in this series in 2025. They will give students, faculty, staff, and community insights into the importance of the Red Chamber in turbulent times.

In Fall 2024, Nova Scotia held municipal and provincial elections. This was an opportunity to mentor StFX's Students' Union and for the Institute to connect with the local community by hosting candidate forums. These forums were structured in a unique way such that direct debate was eschewed for questions submitted by students, campus, and the public, allowing candidates to showcase their platforms. The mayoral and MLA events also modeled political decorum, showing our students that politics isn't about enemies but opponents worthy of respect.

Students at StFX are doing amazing work in the areas of policy, governance, government, and the state. One of my first tasks as director was to co-host StFX's newest chancellor, Dr. Mila Mulroney, and her guests to a lovely few days on campus. Part of this time was spent with students from the PGOV Program and Economics Department, hearing them describe the work they are doing at StFX that will help prepare them for leadership roles after graduation. Students' stories are highlighted in the 2024 Year in Review. We hope that you will find their intelligence and commitment to the social good awe-inspiring.




The Institute's chairs and fellows have been working diligently creating and disseminating knowledge. We welcomed Dr. Asa McKercher as the new Steven K. Hudson Research Chair in Canada-US Relations this summer. He has been an important presence as we navigate unstable times with our American neighbours. His insights have provided sound historical grounding to understand where we have come from and where we may go with Canada-US relations.

At the close of 2024, we received news that Heritage Canada would be giving the Mulroney Institute \$10 million for an endowment, with a subsequent \$10 million in matching funds. This money, given in recognition of the profound contributions that The Honourable Brian Mulroney made to Canada, will provide the Institute with the opportunity to plan exciting new initiatives and to continue working toward our objectives. The Institute is grateful to the Canadian government and to those that worked behind the scenes on our behalf.

Thank you for your continued support of the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government. We look forward to the exciting developments 2025 will bring.

L. Lynda Harling Stalker, PhD
Director, Brian Mulroney Institute of Government



THE XAVERIAN LES ANNÉES D'ÉTUDE À ST. FX

“The only way out of a mill town is through a university door,” Benedict Mulroney told his son Brian. The young Mulroney’s journey out of Baie-Comeau, Quebec, began on a ferry ride to Miramichi, New Brunswick, where he would receive an English high school education, unavailable in his hometown. Graduating from St. Thomas College, Brian enrolled at St. Francis Xavier University to pursue studies in political science in the fall of 1955. Here he was introduced to party politics and formed lifelong friendships.

« La seule manière de sortir d’une ville industrielle de pâte et papier est de franchir la porte d’une université », déclara Benedict Mulroney à son fils Brian. La première étape du voyage du jeune Mulroney, parti de Baie-Comeau (Québec), fut une traversée en bateau vers Miramichi (Nouveau-Brunswick), où il devait recevoir une éducation secondaire en anglais, ce qui n’était pas disponible dans sa ville natale. Après avoir terminé ses études au Collège St. Thomas, Brian s’inscrit en sciences politiques à l’Université St. Francis Xavier, à l’automne 1955. C’est là qu’il découvrit la politique et les amitiés de toute une vie.

THE XAVERIAN

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney was a visionary leader whose impact was felt well beyond the bounds of Canada. The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government is a testament to Prime Minister Mulroney’s belief in the important role that education and opportunity play in the lives of the country’s youth and indeed, in the nurturing and encouragement of an engaged citizenry. As the first anniversary of Mr. Mulroney’s passing on 29 February 2024 approaches, the Mulroney Institute has taken to heart his wish to provide space and support for future generations of leaders and policy innovators.

Prime Minister Mulroney strove to treat all people with decency and dignity. As can be seen in the pages of this Year in Review, and in the editions that came before and that will follow, the Mulroney Institute has come to embrace these values as its pillars. They are reflected in the Institute’s programs, events, and structures. More than this, these values shine through the students themselves.

As Mr. Mulroney often mused, “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.”

Prime Minister Mulroney always enjoyed his visits to Mulroney Hall. He would stop and talk to students and faculty alike, often having to be gently cajoled into moving on to some previously scheduled event. The next several pages include some of the Mulroney Institute’s favourite memories from the time The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney spent in Mulroney Hall, including from his final visit during the Atlantic Economic Forum in June 2023.





MULRONEY INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD



CHANCELLOR 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 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, Chancellor Mulroney has served on the boards of many organizations, including Astral Media Inc., the Foundation of The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, and the McGill School of Music. In December 2024, she was installed as the 11th Chancellor of St. Francis Xavier University.



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 Grayhawk. Within the investment portfolio, Mr. Desmarais is the chair of Wealthsimple and Dialogue, and a director 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, Global Banking and Markets, Scotiabank. 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 and the Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. 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.

CHAIR PROFILES



ADAM LAJEUNESSE, PhD

Adam Lajeunesse, PhD, is Associate Professor, Public Policy and Governance Program, and Mulroney Institute Chair in Arctic and Maritime Security. 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 monograph *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 2024, Dr. Lajeunesse was honoured with one of Canada's most prestigious academic fellowships, being named as a 2024–25 Fulbright Fellow. His program of work centres on Arctic information operations and malign influence. Major (co)publications from this work and the research from his 2023 Killam Visiting Fellowship include a 2024 book-length report entitled *Chinese Information Operations in the Arctic*, with the Wilson Centre, and *Arctic Narratives and Political Values*, published by the NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence in Riga.

Dr. Lajeunesse has also been active in engaging with contemporary policy debates and development, including lectures to Global Affairs Canada's Open Insights program, support for the Government of Canada policy work, and talks organized by NATO headquarters and the US State Department.

Dr. Lajeunesse launched a major Department of National Defence-funded research network at StFX in 2024. The Canadian Maritime Security Network (CSMN) will spend the next three years connecting academics and practitioners to build new approaches to Canada's maritime defence. The CSMN was developed in partnership with the University of Calgary's Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and will be hosted by the Mulroney Institute.



BAILEY GERRITS, PhD

Bailey Gerrits, PhD, inaugural Mila Mulroney Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership, and Assistant Professor in Public Policy and Governance. As a feminist scholar and teacher, her research investigates gender-based violence politics, policies, and stories, and how they contribute to ending or facilitating the violence. Dr. Gerrits is also interested in effective anti-violence policy and applied research. Her work has appeared in the *International Journal of Communication*; *Feminist Media Studies*; and *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice*.

Returning from parental leave in April 2024, Dr. Gerrits focused on restarting a dynamic research program, contributing to a rich learning environment at StFX, and expanding international collaborations. This included a new project with Professor Sveva Magaraggia of the University of Milan-Bicocca. The work compares anti-violence institutional campaigns in Canada and Italy. In partnership with the Institute for Intersectionality Studies at the University of Alberta and funded by the Canada-Italy Innovation Award (Global Affairs Canada), Dr. Gerrits hosted Professor Magaraggia in summer 2024 at the University of Alberta where they delivered a practical workshop on producing anti-violence campaigns that was attended by civil servants, students, and professors in Canada and Italy. Their work is ongoing, and they are collecting and analyzing data with the support Canadian and Italian research assistants as well as co-editing a volume for *AG Gender*. Dr. Gerrits also published a peer-reviewed book chapter in 2024 investigating whether the #MeToo movement changed accountability mechanisms for federal politicians accused of engaging in gender-based violence (GBV), finding that both before and after focused on punishing “bad apples” rather than addressing facilitating institutions and processes such as nominating processes or political culture.

The Social Science and Humanities Research Council awarded Dr. Gerrits an Insight Development Grant to study the applicability of the critique carceral feminism to Canadian

federal anti-violence politics, through a rich multi-method investigation. The critique suggests that feminist ideas and actors have successfully influenced the state to revise anti-violence policies to focus on carceral solutions to a social justice problem. The first publication from this project was published in the *Canadian Journal for Political Science* in 2024, outlining how the transformational potential of feminist anti-violence ideas were undermined in the 42nd Parliament by the Trudeau Cabinet’s focus on carceral and neoliberalized feminist ideas. Through this project, Dr. Gerrits also co-authored a paper with Katherine Starr, a 2024 PGOV Honours graduate. Dr. Gerrits delivered a lecture in October 2024 from this project about the role of the Satanic Panic on 1990s’ anti-violence federal policy in a collaboration between StFX’s HIVE for Feminist Research and the Mulroney Institute.

Dr. Gerrits’ other current projects include explaining why Canadian news often frames domestic violence as an isolated problem that needs harsher enforcement, comparing intersectional backlash on social media against racialized women in leadership positions in Canada and the United States (with Dr. Anna Calasanti, University of Notre Dame), and examining a feminist model of care as an antidote to the isolating emotional labour of teaching about GBV (with Dr. Lori Chambers, Lakehead University; and Dr. Nadia Verrelli, Laurentian University).

REBECCA WALLACE, PhD

Rebecca Wallace, PhD, Mila Mulroney Chair in Women and Politics, and Assistant Professor in Political Science and Public Policy and Governance. Her research areas include Canadian social policy, political behaviour, and political communication as seen through the lens of women, gender, and diversity. Her work has been published in journals including *Politics and Gender*; *Political Studies*; and the *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*.



Rebecca Wallace, PhD, is the Mila Mulroney Chair in Women and Politics in the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, and an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department and the Public Policy and Governance Program. 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 in 2021, 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. The project has been able to employ a large team of undergraduate research assistants who have been collecting data on women legislators' departures from federal, provincial, and municipal politics in Canada.

In March 2024, Dr. Wallace launched the Gender and Politics Research Lab (GAPLab) at StFX, which is dedicated to research that explores critical questions related to gender and political representation, media, and policy in Canada. She has gathered a tight-knit research team of students and scholars interested in addressing issues of gender equality in the political realm. The GAPLab also offers training and professional development opportunities to students, which included a social media workshop in Fall 2024.



MULRONEY INSTITUTE NAMES NEW RESEARCH CHAIR

In July, the Mulroney Institute named Dr. Asa McKercher as the new Steven K. Hudson Research Chair in Canada-US Relations. The timing of Dr. McKercher's appointment was fortuitous, and he has been sought-after by media outlets to share his expertise on Canada-US relations during and following the American presidential election.

Asa McKercher, PhD, is the Steven K. Hudson Research Chair in Canada-US Relations at the Mulroney Institute of Government and an Associate Professor in the Public Policy and Governance Program at StFX. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge and has taught at Queen's University, McMaster University, and the Royal Military College of Canada. Dr. McKercher serves as editor-in-chief of *International Journal*, Canada's journal of global policy analysis, published by the Canadian International Council. He is a Senior Fellow at the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History and a Fellow at Queen's University's Centre for International and Defence Policy.

A specialist in Canada-US relations, Canadian foreign policy, US foreign policy, and North American political and cultural history, he has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He has edited the collections *North of America: Canadians and the American Century, 1945-61* (UBC Press, 2023), *Undiplomatic History: Rethinking Canada in the World* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019), and *Mike's World: Lester B. Pearson and Canadian External Affairs* (UBC Press, 2017). His books include *Canada and the World since 1867* (Bloomsbury, 2019) and *Camelot and Canada: Canadian-American Relations in the Kennedy Era* (Oxford, 2016), and, most recently, he co-authored two works: *Canada First, Not Canada Alone: A History of Canadian Foreign Policy* (Oxford, 2024) and *Building a Special Relationship: Canada-US Relations in the Eisenhower Era, 1953-1961* (UBC Press, 2024).

As the Steven K. Hudson Research Chair in Canada-US Relations, Dr. McKercher is focused on examining the past, present, and future of the Canadian-American relationship, particularly inter-government ties, economic and security affairs, and the importance of the connection between presidents and prime ministers. Given Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's great successes with the United States, the Mulroney Institute is a perfect setting for study of Canadian-American relations. Dr. McKercher looks forward to building the Institute's reputation as a leading venue for the study of the bilateral relationship.

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 creating strategic partnerships for ongoing academic inquiry.

Mulroney Chair in Arctic and Maritime Security Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, as director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network (CMSN), produced a number of publications through the CSMN, including a commentary piece, “The Arctic Submarine Narrative: The Value of Using Arctic Sovereignty and Security in Strategic Messaging” and “The USCG Arctic Presence: Leveraging Canada’s AOPV Design,” part of the CSMN’s iDEAS Series.

The Institute’s chairs were busy sharing their research in 2024. Dr. Asa McKercher co-authored two books, *Canada First But Not Canada Alone: Case Studies in Canadian Foreign Policy History* (with Adam Chapnick) and *Building a Special Relationship: Canada-US Relations in the Eisenhower Era, 1953–1961* (with

Michael D. Stephenson). Dr. Rebecca Wallace co-authored a journal article with PGOV student and research assistant Kaytland Smith, “Who Cares? Women Entrepreneurs and the Transition to the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in Nova Scotia”; and Dr. Bailey Gerrits published on her work on governments and gender-based violence, “When a ‘Feminist’ Government Tackles Gender-Based Violence: A WPR Approach to Speeches of Canadian Cabinet Ministers (2015–2019).”

Dr. Lajeunesse co-authored an issue in The Mulroney Papers in Public Policy and Governance series with P. Whitney Lackenbauer in June 2024, *Beyond “Use It or Lose It”: Arctic Sovereignty, Security, and Canada’s Northern Strategy Under Prime Minister Stephen Harper*. The paper examines the evolution of official understandings of Arctic defence and security, and, in turn how the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces framed government messaging in strategic policy directives.

The Mulroneys Papers in Public Policy and Governance Review Essays released its third issue in December 2024. *Foreign Policy and Canadian Elections* was authored by Dr. Adam Chapnick, Deputy Director, Education, Canadian Forces College, and Professor, Defence Studies, Royal Military College of Canada. The essay presents a literature review that examines the discrepancy in scholarly approaches to explaining foreign policy's place or lack thereof in Canadian elections.

In 2024, the Mulroneys Institute marked its sixth 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 2024, four reports were released: *Affordable House: Approval of Federal, Provincial, and Local Governments*; *Trusting Federal and Provincial Government Decision-Making on Key Issues*; *Reconciliation and Relations With Indigenous Peoples*; and *Attachment and Identity in the Canadian Federation*.

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 20th volume in 2024.



SELECTED 2024 PUBLICATIONS OF MULRONEY INSTITUTE FACULTY AND FELLOWS

Laura Megan Funk, Janna Klostermann, Holly Symonds-Brown, **Katie Aubrecht**, and Lauriane Giguère.

“Producing the Public Caregiver: The Discursive Politicization of Family Caregiving by Canadian Caregiver Organizations.” *International Journal of Care and Caring* (September 2024).

Sutapa Chattopadhyay.

“Making Sense of Narmada Valley Movements Using Adivasi Narratives.” In *Handbook on Qualitative Methods in Social Movements*, ed. Laurence Cox, Anna Szolucha, Alberto Arribas Lozano, and Sutapa Chattopadhyay, 197–213. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2024.

Youngwon Cho.

“Yoon Suk Yeol Underestimated South Korea’s Commitment to Democracy.” *Globe and Mail*, December 10, 2024.

Bailey Gerrits.

“When a ‘Feminist’ Government Tackles Gender-Based Violence: A WPR Approach to Speeches of Canadian Cabinet Ministers (2015–2019).” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 57 (2024): 119–138.

Yvon Grenier.

“New Identities in Cuba: Transnational Collaboration, Digital Communities, and the Emerging Social Movement.” Introduction to special dossier. *Cuban Studies/Estudios Cubanos* 54 (2024).

Louis Groarke.

Uttering the Unutterable: Aristotle, Religion, and Literature. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024.

Peter Kikkert, Calvin Pedersen, P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Ian Belton, John Quigley, and Ronald Pelot. *The State of Search and Rescue in Nunavut*. Nunavutsar.ca and North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. June 2024.

Adam Lajeunesse and P. Whitney Lackenbauer. *Selling the ‘Near-Arctic’ State: China’s Information and Influence Operations in the Arctic*. Wilson Center and Canada Institute, August 2024.

Jaakko Heiskanen, Joseph MacKay, Iver Neumann, Einar Wigen, Ingrid Eskild, Martin Hall, Alice Engelhard, Hannah Owens, **Jamie Levin**, and Franca Kappes. “Nomads and International Relations: Post-Sedentarist Dialogues.” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* (November 2024).

Asa McKercher and Michael D. Stevenson.

Building a Special Relationship: Canada-US Relations in the Eisenhower Era, 1953–61. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2024.

Ahmad Abu-Alkheil, Ghadeer M. Khartabiel, Walayet A. Khan, and **Bhavik Parikh**.

“Efficiency Performance and the Insolvency Risk for Takaful Insurance Firms: Evidence From the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries.” *Afro-Asian Journal of Finance and Accounting* 14, no. 5 (2024): 645–667.

Martin Lavoie, **David Risk**, and Daniel Rainham.

“Sociodemographic and Population Exposure to Upstream Oil and Gas Operations in Canada.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 21, no. 12 (2024): 1692.

Lavinia Stan and Diane Vancea, eds.

Post-Communist Progress and Stagnation at 35: The Case of Romania. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

Rebecca Wallace and Kaytland Smith.

“Who Cares? Women Entrepreneurs and the Transition to the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in Nova Scotia.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 107 (2024): 102992.



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 Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies and Development Studies 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 Full 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 Full 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 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 Full 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON NORTHERN RESEARCH



**PETER KIKKERT, PhD
RESEARCH FELLOW**

Dr. Peter Kikkert is a Mulroney Institute Research Fellow and Associate Professor in the PGOV Program at StFX. In 2024, Dr. Kikkert continued to conduct field work in Nunavut and Nunavik, working closely with community responders and their government partners to strengthen search and rescue (SAR) prevention and response in the Arctic. Together, their work is bolstering SAR collaboration in the Arctic and improving the effectiveness of SAR operations. In the fall, Dr. Kikkert and his team were successful in securing a Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund program grant from Public Safety Canada. The \$1,361,900 project, entitled, Closing the Gaps: Addressing Critical Challenges in Arctic Ground Search and Rescue, will improve SAR governance in the region, while developing tools to assist responders with training, search planning, and emergency communications.



**MICHAEL FOLLERT, PhD
RESEARCH FELLOW**

Dr. Michael Follert is a Mulroney Institute Research Fellow and professor in the Department of Sociology at StFX. In 2024, Dr. Follert began work reconstructing the radio soundscape of early postwar Canada. His project, *Making Terra Silentium*, funded through a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, looks at CBC Radio's programming about the North during a time when it was the site of Canada's increasing geopolitical, resource-sector, and administrative interest. Rebuilding this acoustic space has meant close listening to old radio broadcasts long-lying dormant in Ottawa's public archives, reviewing back issues of the radio program guide the *CBC Times*, and scrutinizing the original and annotated radio drama scripts held at Concordia University. What emerges from those records is not the actual North but an imagined frontier for settlers in the south whose listening experiences were filled with adventure, mystery, and a degree of dread. Dr. Follert will be presenting his early findings at the upcoming 50th anniversary conference for the British Association of Canadian Studies in April 2025.





SOBER SECOND THINKERS SPEAKERS SERIES

As part of its mandate to initiate conversations around key policy concerns, the Mulroney Institute announced the launch of the Sober Second Thinkers Speakers Series (SST) in Fall 2024.

In this series, the Institute invites sitting and retired Senators to share reflections on their time in the Senate and to talk about the importance of sober second thought in an era of increased partisanship and division. Over the course of one-to-two days with the Institute, visiting Senators present a public lecture and, time permitting, engage with students during class time.


The inaugural SST visit was on 14 November 2024, by The Honourable Wanda Thomas Bernard. Senator Bernard enjoyed a luncheon with StFX students and faculty. Senator Bernard asked if community outreach could be arranged while she was in Antigonish. The Institute connected with faculty at a local school, and Senator Bernard was able to visit Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School to speak with several classes.

Senator Bernard's public lecture, titled "Representation Matters: Reflections on the Power of Sober Second Thought," drew students, faculty, and community members. During her talk, Senator Bernard reflected on her work in the Senate over the eight years since her appointment. She highlighted key moments when representation was critical to her role in the Upper Chamber in providing sober second thought on legislation. Senator Bernard also explored ways in which representation is taken up in her work in the Senate and in the community.

Dr. Harling Stalker noted that Senator Bernard's "lifelong work to address racism and promote diversity makes her an excellent role model for our students and community to emulate. In a time where the elected chambers of our government are becoming more partisan and polarized, the Senate's mandate to be the 'sober second thought' is more critical than ever."

The Sober Second Thinkers series will welcome three Senators in Winter 2025.





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

The Mulroney Institute's commitment to engaging communities in debate and dialogue about the impact of public policy and governance includes providing accessible knowledge and expertise. Many of the Institute's chairs and fellows regularly contributor to local, national, and international media, including print, radio, television, and podcasts.

In 2024, the Institute's chairs and fellows were called upon to share their knowledge and expertise, reaching millions across multiple platforms.

Dr. Asa McKercher, the Steven K. Hudson Chair in Canada-US Relations, was in high demand in Fall 2024 for his insights during the US presidential election campaign. Dr. McKercher appeared across multiple outlets, including Acadia Broadcasting, whose radio stations span Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Northern Ontario; CTV Atlantic; Global TV Halifax; CBC Radio; CBC News Network; and New Brunswick's *Telegraph-Journal*.

Media outlets reached out to Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Chair in Women and Politics, for her thoughts on Nova Scotia's municipal and provincial elections. Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, Mulroney Chair in Arctic and Maritime Security, has appeared frequently on television, radio, and podcasts weighing in on Arctic policy, security, and sovereignty for outlets such as *The Hill Times*, CBC, and *The Walrus*.

Dr. Yvon Grenier is a regular guest on English and French Canadian media (*Radio-Canada*, RDI, and CPAC), sharing his expertise on Canadian politics and Latin American governments. Dr. Jamie Levin, an Israeli-Palestinian relations expert, spoke on the conflict in the region throughout the year. Dr. Lavinia Stan appears often on European media platforms, speaking about transitional justice in post-Communist countries. She also interviews fellow academics for her podcast on the New Books Network.

The Mulroney Institute's studio was also in demand for media hits for chairs, fellows, and friends, including CBC's *Power and Politics* commentator (and StFX graduate) Greg MacEachern.



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 2024, the Institute supported student-originated initiatives through faculty, staff, and funding assistance.

The Mulroney Institute's student publication, *Policy+*, is an undergraduate, peer-reviewed journal. It provides a venue for undergraduate research covering a wide range of interdisciplinary topics grounded in public policy and governance. The editorial board includes Public Policy and Governance students, as well as students from other faculties and departments, such as Political Science, interested in public policy and governance. Under the guidance of, and with assistance from, Dr. Anna Zuschlag, the Mulroney Institute's Program/Research Manager, the *Policy+* editorial board sharpen their copy-editing skills and gain knowledge in editing and publishing while preparing the journal for publication.

In 2024, the *Policy+* board was excited to see the journal's inaugural issue released in print and posted to the Mulroney Institute's website. The first issue featured op-eds and articles from StFX and University of Toronto students. Throughout 2024, the new members of the editorial board have worked through the copy-editing and proofreading stages to strengthen and build their skills for the next issue. The editorial board is excited to share their hard work – and new student research from universities across Canada – with readers in the Spring 2025 edition.

The 2024 *Policy+* editorial board members are Rory Jakubec, Amy Maynard, Madison Oakey, Robyn Soro, Aude-Gabrielle Bich, Fiona MacLeod, Kate Byrne, Claire Morrison, Sophie Godin, Erin MacLellan, Christina Bailey, and Liam Smith.



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.

In Spring 2024, the results of the PGOV/Mulroney Institute 2023–24 Case Competition were announced. Initiated in Fall 2023 under the guidance of Distinguished Fellow Dr. Peter Clancy, the competition concluded in February with public presentations from the teams on their Memorandums to Cabinet on solutions to the challenges of housing in Canada. Certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the first and second-place teams. In November, the Institute sponsored two teams from StFX, with assistance from PGOV Coordinator Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, at the inaugural

Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition (AUPCC) at Mount Allison University. Organized by undergraduate students in collaboration with the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, the AUPCC asked students to develop and defend innovative policy ideas around climate resilience. One of the StFX teams brought home second place.

Dr. Peter Kikkert worked with four PGOV undergraduate research and engagement associates in 2024. Paxton Yoder and Hannah Fraser provided organizational and logistical support to the Hudson Bay Consortium's meeting on Emergency Response and Marine Safety in February. In April, Liam Smith assisted in organizing, facilitating, and supporting the Nunavik Search and Rescue Roundtable in Montreal. Liam travelled to Iqaluit in November to help with the Nunavut Search and Rescue Roundtable. Liam was joined by Rory Jakubec in July, visiting 10 of the 14 communities in Nunavik with Dr. Kikkert to collect search-and-rescue case histories and to engage with community responders.



In April 2024, 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.

Under an Insight Development Grant, Mila Mulroney Chair in Women, Policy, and Governance Leadership Dr. Bailey Gerrits engaged three undergraduate research assistants in 2024. Through their research, the RAs learned about anti-violence policy analysis; and their work will contribute to future publications. Also in 2024, Dr. Gerrits co-authored a paper with recent PGOV Hons. graduate Katherine Starr, who presented the paper at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association's (APPSA) annual conference in September.

PGOV student Ashley Anderson also presented at APPSA with Mila Mulroney Chair in Women and Politics Dr. Rebecca Wallace on research around how women premiers are covered in the Canadian news media.

In 2024, Dr. Wallace launched the GAPLab, a new research network that conducts advanced collaborative research on gender and politics. GAPLab also provides research and professional skill-building opportunities for students interest in gender and politics. In March, GAPlab hosted former Ontario premier

KathleenWynne for a research round table, during which she discussed her experiences as a woman in politics. Dr. Wallace welcomed Ms.Wynne to her third-year PGOV Gender and Public Policy class where Ms. Wynne shared her journey into politics with the students.

In June, Dr. Anna Zuschlag and Katherine Starr were invited to be on a panel showcasing student research at the StFX President's Gala. Dr. Zuschlag spoke of the Institute's importance as a place for student research opportunities that often fall outside traditional approaches to undergraduate student research, such as the Institute's digital policy collection. Katherine shared what drew her to the PGOV Program and how her interest in public policy developed.

The Institute's digital policy collection was launched in August 2024 as a research aid for academics, students, and the general public. Research assistants Katherine Starr and Taylor Gorman, under the guidance of Dr. Anna Zuschlag, curated policy documents related to areas such as Federal-Provincial relations, Indigenous relations, and Northern policy. The collection has become a popular section of the Institute's website.







SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

HANNAH FRASER

During my third year of study as a PGOV Honours student, I attended the Hudson Bay Consortium Roundtable as a student research associate in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dr. Peter Kikkert extended the opportunity to myself and Paxton Yoder. Together, we helped attendees check-in and took notes throughout three days of roundtable discussion. The roundtable presented an opportunity for open dialogue between Inuit and Cree community members and government representatives.

During the three days, the roundtable spoke about critical issues around emergency response and marine safety in the Hudson and James Bay region. My experience at the Consortium was extremely valuable and has shaped the way I think about policy as a multi-faceted mechanism for change that requires collaboration and the inclusion of all voices of those impacted by it.



PAXTON YODER

As a student research associate, I have had the privilege of working with esteemed professors, assisting them with their research studies. In February 2024, I attended The Hudson Bay Consortium Roundtable in Winnipeg, Manitoba, alongside Dr. Peter Kikkert and fellow student research associate Hannah Fraser. This event brought together Inuit and Cree community members, Indigenous organizations, academics, and government representatives to address critical issues concerning emergency response and marine safety in the James Bay and Hudson Bay regions.

During the conference, my responsibilities included managing the check-in process for attendees, ensuring they had the necessary resources for the multi-day event, and taking meticulous notes. These notes were later used to compile the Hudson Bay Consortium Roundtable 2024 Report. Networking with Indigenous community members and leaders provided me with a deeper understanding of their experiences and perspectives, shaping my understanding of Arctic policy. My participation in the Roundtable deepened my interest in Arctic governance and the unique challenges faced by rural communities. I gained valuable insights into the significant implications of emergency management strategies and their profound impact on community well-being.



THE WESTON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Weston Family Scholarship for International Exchange provides funding for student international exchanges. Awards support one semester at an international partner university program offering courses equivalent to those at StFX, which gives student participants course credits toward their degree. Students may re-apply to receive the award in multiple years.

RORY JAKUBEC

I decided to go on exchange because I wanted to experience a different culture, as well as learn different perspectives on world issues. I studied at Nord University in Bodø, Norway. This meant that I lived above the Arctic Circle for five months! Studying abroad was an absolutely incredible experience, and I loved every second of it. A few of my favourite things were dogsledding, seeing the Northern Lights, and even participating in a conference.

Throughout my exchange, the daylight hours went from less than four a day to the sun never setting, which in itself was an experience that I will never forget. I travelled to many different parts of Norway, including the Lofoten Islands. I would definitely encourage other students to apply for an exchange opportunity because I made lifelong friends and had so many wonderful experiences.



JOSHUA KROKER

My exchange experience at Sciences Po Lille was incredible! It would be an understatement to say my study abroad was life changing. I learned about public policy from multiple distinguished professors and visiting fellows. One of my highlights was attending a course from Elise Keppler, Executive Director of Global Justice Center, who taught us about the importance of international and transnational justice.

Outside of the classroom, the peers you meet become friends forever. Students who choose to go on an exchange find likeminded individuals who help each other grow in confidence, independence, and adventure. For me, this could not be truer. I will always be grateful to the Weston Family for their scholarship, which allowed me to study abroad and personally and professionally develop.

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 applications are selected through a competitive process. Four interns share their Summer 2024 experiences.



HALLE MARTIN

As a recipient of a Bombardier Internship Award, I was afforded the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). I worked in a group called the Marine Conservation Research Group, conducting science research that helps with the design, monitoring, management, and policy of Marine Protected Areas in the Scotian Shelf-Bay of the Fundy bioregion. During my time with the team, I conducted a literature review and created summaries, helped write code, attended and presented at various meetings with my team and other DFO branches/regions, assisted in the lab, and participated in field work. This internship has continued to shape my final year in Aquatic Resources and Math at StFX as I continue to work closely with my DFO colleagues and leverage my experience in my senior capstone project.

SAM MCBAIN

My involvement in the StFX PGOV internship program and as a recipient of the Bombardier Scholarship have provided me with an incredible experience that will be invaluable to my advancement in both the job market and in graduate studies. With the help of the Bombardier Scholarship, I was able to spend the summer in Ottawa working in Parliament as an intern with the Conservative Party of Canada. Through this, I gained firsthand knowledge of how the intricacies of policy implementation that we learn about in the program are applied in real life at the highest level in Canada. As someone who has only ever worked blue-collar jobs, this allowed me to finally get a foot in the door and start to understand the culture and expectations a career in public policy will come with.

MADELEINE MCCARRON

I did my internship with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish. As someone who grew up in Antigonish County, I found it a very rewarding experience to work within my local government and to contribute to the hard work that goes into running a municipality. I had the opportunity to touch on a number of different topics. Some of what I did included working on municipal communications strategies, writing memos and letters on behalf of the municipality, attending meetings on municipal emergency management preparedness, and working to update old municipal policies. I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to take the skills I learned in the classroom and test them out in a real-world context.

ISLAM TARIQ

As a recipient of the Bombardier Intern Scholarship and as the Vice President External Affairs of StFX's Students' Union, I have had the incredible opportunity to bridge the gap between students and policy-makers. From leading provincial advocacy efforts with Students Nova Scotia to meeting federal leaders through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, I've been privileged to be a student voice on key issues like affordability and accessibility in the Canadian post-secondary education sector. One of the most impactful moments was visiting Parliament Hill, where I met with MPs and senators to advocate for student priorities on a national scale. From problem identification to background research, to presenting policy recommendations to different stakeholders, these experiences have been nothing less than astonishing. This role has sharpened my policy-writing skills, deepened my understanding of governance, and reinforced my passion for public service. Representing thousands of students has been both a challenge and an honour, and this experience has solidified my ambition to shape policies that create lasting impact.

LUIS URRIETA

For my internship, I had the great honour of working in the Texas State Capitol under House Representative Mary E. Gonzalez, District 75 (El Paso, TX). In my role as a policy analyst, I conducted research and bill analyses, legislation formulation, and gathered district constituents' concerns, all in preparation for the 2025 Texas legislative session. This summer internship was a great educational experience that granted me firsthand exposure to a real-world policy-writing setting, allowing me to grow as a student, professional, and individual. Further, it opened doors to many opportunities that have allowed me to continue working in the Texas legislature as a fellow of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, conducting meaningful work in an effort to help improve my Texas community.



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. Below are experiences from several of the 2024 internship recipients.

FRANCISCO CHANG

During my RBC Summer Internship, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Diana Alessandrini and Dr. Jonathan Rosborough from the StFX Economics Department on my Honours thesis in Education Economics. My research focuses on understanding the key determinants of post-secondary enrolment in Maritime universities, using econometric modeling to analyze how factors like tuition, financial aid, and market conditions influence student decisions. The support from this award allowed me to dedicate more time to refining my study, incorporating forecasting techniques from my Time Series Directed Study, and expanding my knowledge of Choice Theory. This experience strengthened my analytical skills and positioned me as a competitive candidate for graduate studies, where I will continue exploring economic research.

RORY JAKUBEC

The research I conducted this summer with PGOV's Dr. Peter Kikkert focused on federal assistance during disaster response in the Northwest Territories over the period of 2021 to now. The period of 2021 to now covers disaster responses to COVID-19, flooding, and wildfires. I was drawn to this research topic because last summer while living in Yellowknife, I experienced my first evacuation due to a wildfire. Being in Yellowknife and living through the evacuation in real-time sparked my passion for conducting further research into disaster response. Throughout my research this past summer, I had the chance to interview federal officials involved in emergency management. These interviews allowed me to gain more knowledge and understanding than is available from reading reports. The award allowed me to spend my summer researching a topic I am passionate about and to take a close look at a topic that is becoming increasingly important as disasters increase in frequency and severity.

JOSHUA KROKER

During the RBC Summer Internship, I worked under the guidance of Dr. Peter Kikkert to research Northern economic development and analyze the history of the Grays Bay Port and Road Project. Initially focused on the Junior Canadian Rangers, I was advised to shift my research to explore how this critical infrastructure project could enhance economic opportunities and access to Northern communities, focusing on its potential impact on the development of Arctic resources and costs for residents. This internship deepened my understanding of the complexities of policy-making, infrastructure development, and stakeholder engagement in the Canadian Arctic while personally elevating my research, time management, and writing skills. It has been a pivotal experience in my academic journey, which I am developing into my honours thesis project.



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 spoke 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 2025–26 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



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's Distinguished Speakers Series had the pleasure of hosting Danny Graham, Chief Engagement Officer, Engage Nova Scotia, in March 2024. He drew on his decades of leadership in Nova Scotia on issues of disabilities rights, poverty law, restorative justice, politics, Mi'kmaq reconciliation, and economic development – and well-being and happiness policy – to frame an approach to a successful society that leaves fewer people behind. Mr. Graham met with students in Dr. Rebecca Wallace's Gender and Public Policy course as well as with students in PGOV's fourth-year seminar and Public Administration course. He also graciously met with students and faculty at an Institute-hosted lunch.

In March, the Mulroney Institute was pleased to welcome special guest The Hon. Mike Lake (MP, Edmonton–Wetaskiwin). Mr. Lake spoke with several PGOV classes, including Intro to Public Policy and Governance, and Public Management. Students and faculty were able to enjoy lunch and discussion with Mr. Lake about his experiences in Parliament. Canada's Ambassador to Mexico, Graeme C. Clark, joined the Mulroney Institute in April. He and his team toured Mulroney Hall, sat down with StFX faculty and administration, and shared his thoughts on Canada–Mexico relations during a student/faculty lunch.

As part of the Mulroney Institute Fellows Lecture series, in February, Dr. Youngwon Cho, Political Science professor and Institute Fellow, shared his current subject of research, the United Nations Command, examining its evolving role and the implications of its seeming revitalization.

The Lunch & Learn series, which highlights faculty and student research, continued into 2024. In January, Dr. Rebecca Wallace shared her research on media coverage of social assistance in Canada. Dr. Anna Zuschlag presented on her work on representations of draft resistance in film in February. In October, the Mulroney Institute and HIVE for Feminist Research co-hosted Dr. Bailey Gerrits' discussion of her research around elements of the Satanic Panic in the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women (1991–1993).

The Institute had a packed calendar of fall events. In September, the Institute and Deveau Centre for Indigenous Governance and Social Justice co-hosted *The Marshall Decision @ 25: Honouring the Future of Peace and Friendship Treaties*, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Marshall*. The event was multi-day and multi-venue including a StFX Gallery exhibition opening, a day of Learning Lodges, and a Distinguished Speakers panel discussion. The Mulroney Institute also hosted a Lunch & Learn with scholar Ken Coates to coincide with the *Marshall* events.

Highlights of the fall schedule included two election-based events that were co-hosted with the StFX Students' Union. Organized by Dr. Anna Zuschlag and moderated by Dr. Rebecca Wallace, the Town of Antigonish Mayoral Debate in October and the Nova Scotia Elections 2024: Candidates Forum in November welcomed the candidates running for town and provincial office. Facilitated to generate discussion of the candidates' platforms and to encourage and model civil discourse, the events were very well-attended, with great community turnout.

To fulfil the need for conversation around the 2024 US presidential election, the Institute welcomed the campus and community to "Fighting for the Soul of a Nation (Again)," a discussion on the contest between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, featuring Dr. Asa McKercher and Dr. Anna Zuschlag among its panelists.

The Mulroney Institute co-sponsored several other events in 2024, including Dr. Asa McKercher's talk, "Canada-US Relations During the Early Part of the Cold War," with the Diefenbunker's Cold War Speakers Series, and the Dr. Agnes Calliste African Heritage Lecture by Dr. Kevin Hewitt, "Social Justice, Injustice, and STEM." Along with Dr. Rebecca Wallace's GAPLab and the Political Science Department, the Institute co-hosted Dr. Amanda Bittner's talk, "Who Cares Who Brings Home the Bacon?: Women's Work, Marriage Inequality, and Political Attitudes."

In March, Mulroney Hall hosted StFX Student Research Day, which gives students the opportunity to showcase their research for their colleagues and the community. On 30 September, Mulroney Hall's Joyce Atrium was again the site for the Truth and Reconciliation commemoration. The solemn event included prayer, speeches, and songs, concluding with a ribbon-tying ceremony.

PROGRAM/RESEARCH MANAGER



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, the Review Essay series, and biannual Newsletter. She organizes the Institute's special events, Distinguished Speakers Series, Sober Second Thinkers Series, and Fellows program. She 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 *Policy+* student journal. Dr. Zuschlag holds a PhD in History from Western University.

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24+



Cover photo by Dr. Anna Zuschlag



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