



## Spring/Summer Newsletter

2015



Members of the MPP Class of 2015 pose for a group photo at June 12's Convocation Reception.

### Director's Message

Welcome to the late spring/early summer version of our newsletter and happy Canada Day! It has been an exciting and busy semester at SPPG and I'm delighted to provide you with this update on the School's activities.

Earlier this year, SPPG's Founding Director [Mark Stabile](#) announced that he would be stepping down as Director of the School after eight wonderful years. On behalf of the entire SPPG community, I would like to thank Mark for his leadership and for the incredible contributions he has made to the School as Founding Director.

In honour of his steadfast leadership, mentorship, and advocacy on behalf of the School, the [Mark Stabile Founding Director Fund](#) has been established to annually award an outstanding SPPG student for demonstrated excellence in a student leadership initiative. We humbly request that you consider [donating](#) to the Fund. It is a great opportunity to both honour Professor Stabile's contributions to the School, as well as support the SPPG community's vibrant student leadership.

By the time you read this newsletter, our first-year [Master of Public Policy](#) students will have begun their [internships](#). These positions are at all levels of government, as well as non-profit organizations, think tanks, and private companies. The internships provide a valuable complement to our students' classroom learning and allow them to further develop their professional skills. I would like to thank all of our internship partners for making available these valuable opportunities to our students and I wish our students well in their new roles.



A highlight of the first few months of being Interim Director was seeing our graduating second-year MPP students celebrate during and after their Convocation from the School of Public Policy and Governance on June 12th. We are excited for them to apply their skills to public life across Canada and internationally and we wish them well in their future endeavours. While no longer MPP students, our graduates are now members of the growing Alumni Network and we are excited to have them be a part of the SPPG community in this new capacity.

Our students are a vibrant, intelligent, and admirable group, and I am pleased to report that over the past academic year we have seen unprecedented levels of student engagement at SPPG. Students organized an incredible array of events and displayed leadership through new initiatives, many of which were supported by SPPG's Student Leadership Fund. These initiatives include new additions to the [Gender and Public Policy workshop series](#), a [Municipal Policy Action Case Competition \(MPACC\)](#), and an upcoming workshop on [Funding and Management Models for the Non-profit sector in the GTHA](#). These and other student initiatives are in addition to the School's more established co-curricular opportunities such as Beyond The Headlines, the Ford+SPPG Conference, the Public Good Initiative, the Public Policy and Governance Review, the SPPG Students' Association, and the Walter Gordon Symposium. Taken together, MPP students are engaged in a dynamic array of leadership activities at SPPG. I would like to thank all our students for their passion, leadership, and dedication to making SPPG such a vibrant place.

Along with our students, I would like to thank our faculty and staff for all the work they do to make SPPG such a wonderful place, particularly during this period of transition and change. Despite consisting of only a handful of individuals, our staff continue to do an exceptional job working with faculty, students, and alumni to administer the School's programming, professional development, Alumni engagement, MPP and undergraduate programs, MPP internship opportunities, and graduates' transition to the workforce.

As such, it was with mixed emotions that we said goodbye to Beth Elder, former Executive Assistant to the Director and Project Manager after two outstanding years. Beth, a 2012 School of Public Policy and Governance MPP graduate herself has provided invaluable executive and strategic support to the Director and she has played a key role in continuing to build and connect the various activities of the School. On behalf of the SPPG community I would like to thank Beth for her many contributions to SPPG and wish her the best of luck going forward in her new role. I also welcome MPP Class of 2015 graduate Matteo Pirri to the School as the new Executive Assistant to the Director and Project Manager.

Along with the many changes occurring at SPPG, the School is currently engaged in a self-study and review process with the goal of reflecting on the School's myriad achievements and articulating new ambitions for the School over the next five to ten years. The self-study is assessing the steps we need to take to realize those goals, determining the metrics we should use to evaluate our success, and identifying the challenges we face in building the School over this next phase. Our alumni and students have been contacted regarding how they can assist us in this process and we are looking forward to their feedback. Please feel free to send us your thoughts at [sppg.consultation@utoronto.ca](mailto:sppg.consultation@utoronto.ca).

Happy reading, and I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer.

Linda White

*Interim Director, School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto*

## SPPG EVENTS

### Cadario Visiting Faculty Lecture: Atif R. Mian

This year's [Cadario Visiting Faculty Lecture](#) was delivered by [Atif R. Mian](#), co-author of [House of Debt](#), and was followed by a conversation with CBC's [Amanda Lang](#).

His lecture, titled "Does the Global Financial System Work For Us?" focused on addressing the question of whether growth in finance has indeed been good for the economy at large, and, if not, what can be done to make finance more useful. If you happened to miss Professor Mian's lecture, you can watch the entirety of the evening's event right now by [clicking here](#).

We would like to thank Professor Mian for sharing an evening with us. This event was made possible by the generosity of [Paul Cadario](#).



### Big City, Big Ideas

Big City, Big Ideas (BCBI) is a lecture series that features global leaders in urban and regional planning, policy, and finance and is presented in partnership by SPPG, the Martin Prosperity Institute, the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, the Global Cities Institute, Innovation Policy Lab, and the Department of Geography & Planning.

This semester, SPPG and our partners held four BCBI events:



[Michael Storper](#), Professor of Regional and International Development and Director of Global Affairs at UCLA's [Luskin School of Public Affairs](#), drew on economics, sociology, political science, and geography to shed new light on the deep causes of economic development, posing a challenge to conventional notions about development in general and in urban regions around the world. You may watch Professor Storper's lecture by [clicking here](#).

[Gail Lord](#) and [Ngairé Blankenberg](#) of [Lord Cultural Resources](#), discussed how and why museums and cities can work together to activate their soft power - influence through attraction, persuasion and agenda setting.

[Mark Kleinman](#), Visiting Scholar at the [Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance](#), Munk School of Global Affairs, and Director of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London (UK) examined how both Toronto and London, two cities with strong 'knowledge economy' characteristics that are in rapid growth, are addressing the tension found in supporting broad economic growth while at the same time feeling pressure to respond more quickly and individually in order to meet the needs of citizens. You may view Mr. Kleinman's presentation by [clicking here](#).

His Worship [Mayor Don Iveson](#) of Edmonton appeared in conversation with [Professor Richard Florida](#) on a number of topics and issues related to the role of big cities in Canada. You may watch the evening's event by [clicking here](#).

## **Social Policy for the Next Generations: Designing Resilient Pension Policy for a Changing Social and Economic Landscape**

This past January the [annual SPPG Policy Institute](#) brought pension experts from Canada and abroad to share their insights on pension reform proposals in Canada.

Event topics included: Trends in Canadian Household Debt, Savings and Pension Coverage, designing resilient frameworks and trends and lessons, challenges to pension sustainability, and emerging issues and design questions for the Canadian context.

The event's opening remarks were provided by [The Honourable Mitzi Hunter](#), Associate Minister of Finance in the Ontario Government with a Keynote Address by [David Dodge](#), Senior Advisor at Bennett Jones LLP and former Governor of the Bank of Canada.

The event was made possible by the support of TD Bank Group and the David Peterson Program in Public Sector Leadership.

## **Canada 2020's 5 Big Ideas for Canada**

In February, [SPPG was proud to sponsor an event](#) which brought Col. Chris Hadfield, Dr. Jacline Nyman (President and CEO, United Way Canada), Tom Rand (Author and Senior Advisor, MaRS), Morris Rosenberg (President and CEO Trudeau Foundation), and Jennifer Keesmat (Chief Planner, City of Toronto) to the Canada 2020 stage.

The event featured five of Canada's boldest visionaries in fast-paced, dynamic keynote addresses about the big ideas that will propel Canada into the future.

## POLICY ACTORS

### Tiff Macklem: Lessons in Public Policy from the Financial Crisis

[Tiff Macklem](#), Dean of the [Rotman School of Management](#), University of Toronto, shared the lessons he learned as the senior deputy governor of the Bank of Canada during the financial crisis. The event was moderated by [Professor Mel Cappe](#).



## POLICY SCHOLARS

### Disturbing Developments in Digital Government

[Professor David Brown](#), of the [School of Policy Studies](#), University of Ottawa, spoke about concerns in digital information management in Canada. You may view his presentation [here](#). The event was moderated by [Professor Ian Clark](#).



### Leaders in the Shadows: The Leadership Qualities of Successful Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

In March, [Professor David Siegel](#) of Brock University visited SPPG to speak about his latest book [Leaders in the Shadows](#). The event was moderated by [Professor Gabriel Eidelman](#).



## SPPG FACULTY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Mel Cappe [published a research study](#) for the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario that explored "what a public policy on public policy schools might look like for Ontario.

Mel Cappe identified ways to lessen the impact of carbon pricing on low-income families in [this blog post](#) for Canada's Ecofiscal Commission.

Ian Clark gave the [Keynote Address](#) to the 45th Annual Conference of the Higher Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education.

Jonathan Hall discussed testing High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes during the Pan-Am Games in [an interview](#) with Newstalk 1010.

Joseph Heath won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing for his book [Enlightenment 2.0: Restoring Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and Our Lives](#).

Joseph Heath was shortlisted for the Donner Prize for his book [Enlightenment 2.0: Restoring Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and Our Lives](#).

Janet Mason and SPPG Chair Ed Clark were appointed by Toronto Mayor John Tory to sit on an independent Toronto Housing Task Force to examine how Toronto Community Housing serves the city and how it is governed.

Ito Peng co-authored a [new health care report](#) for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute showing how Canada could learn from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan as it seeks to reform its health-care system.

Mark Stabile and Post-Doctoral Fellow Lauren Jones described their research findings that the middle class is shrinking in the United States, but not in Canada in this [Globe and Mail Op-Ed](#).

Mark Stabile and Post-Doctoral Fellow Lauren Jones [published a report](#) for the Martin Prosperity Institute on how programs designed for transferring income to low-income families are successful in their policy goals.

Phil Triadafilopoulos was [in conversation](#) with Matt Galloway on CBC Radio's Metro Morning about Greece's economic woes.

## IMFG Graduate Student Fellows in Municipal Finance and Governance

This year, two SPPG students were [IMFG Graduate Student Fellows](#) in Municipal Finance and Governance. They presented their research through their Fellow Talks.

## Policing Costs in Ontario: How to Back Away From a Breaking Point

Robert Scherf (MPP, Class of 2015) surveyed the fiscal impacts of rising police salaries for Ontario's municipalities and presented research identifying best practices for controlling costs. You may view Mr. Scherf's presentation by [clicking here](#).

## MISSING LINKS: Infrastructure Financing and Smart Growth Outcomes

Dave Marshall (JD/MPP Candidate, 2016) examined the key findings from academic literature and early statistics following the implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, discussing key challenges facing infrastructure policy development and implementation. You may view Mr. Marshall's presentation by [clicking here](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Selena Zhang** (MPP, Class of 2015) for receiving of the SPPG's Director's Award. The Director's Award is presented annually to a graduating MPP student who has achieved an excellent level of academic merit, with the highest CGPA upon completing five semesters at the School of Public Policy and Governance. The 2nd annual award was presented to Ms. Zhang at the MPP Class of 2015 Convocation Reception on June 12.

MPP students Julia Tharratt (MPP, Class of 2015), Jason Apostolopoulos (MPP, Class of 2015), Guy Miscampbell (MPP Candidate, 2016), and Dave Marshall (JD/MPP Candidate, 2016) and their coaching staff [Janet Mason](#) and [Peter Wallace](#) for finishing Second Place at the [2015 National Public Administration Case Competition](#), held at the School of Public Administration at Dalhousie University.

## SPPG STUDENT-LED LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

### Beyond the Headlines

Beyond the Headlines (BTH) is a student-run one hour current affairs radio show airing every Monday at 11AM on [CIUT 89.5FM](#).

This past March, BTH held its first ever annual "Map Room Session" where donations were raised to support CIUT, the University of Toronto's campus and community radio station. At this event BTH opened its studio doors to a live audience where [Tony Dean](#), [Chaviva Hosek](#), [Janet Mason](#) and [Greg Sorbara](#) provided insight into their past careers. This year, BTH is happy to announce that \$450 was raised to support Canada's largest community radio station.





*Pictured (from left to right): Greg Sorbara, Janet Mason, Tony Dean, and Chaviva Hosek at BTH's "Map Room Session."*

BTH continues to make exciting shows and we invite you to visit them online to listen to all their episodes. If you are an alumni member of SPPG and are interested in being a guest show host or producer for the summer, please email them at [bth.beyondtheheadlines@gmail.com](mailto:bth.beyondtheheadlines@gmail.com) to get more information. You may also reach them via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### Ford+SPPG Conference



The Ford+SPPG Conference celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> year with a successful conference hosted at the [Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan](#). This year's conference theme was Resilient Cities. Stephen Satterfield (MPP Candidate, 2016) will Co-Chair the 2016 Ford+SPPG Conference.

The Ford+SPPG Conference is a student-led policy conference that brings together the best and brightest future policymakers from both sides of the Canada-US border. Co-hosted annually between students from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and from the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto, the conference provides a unique opportunity for joint exploration, discussion and analysis.

More information on how to get involved in next year's Ford+SPPG Conference will be made available in the fall.

### Public Good Initiative

Over the spring semester, teams put the finishing touches on their projects before presenting their final deliverables to clients. Year after year, the [Public Good Initiative](#) (PGI) continues to support the





admirable work of the not-for-profit community in and around Toronto, and this year's term was no exception.

Following a competitive selection process, the new Directors for the 2015-16 academic year were chosen. Cayla Baarda, Celine Maiolino, Jordann Thirgood, and Tracy Wang are excited to continue the phenomenal work of the outgoing directors.

## Public Policy and Governance Review (PPGR)

In its sixth year of production, the Public Policy and Governance Review released two volumes of quality peer-reviewed articles on issues ranging from sexual assault to interprovincial inequality. In 2014-2015, the 102 articles and interviews published on the PPGR's online blog attracted over 24,000 readers from more than 70 different countries, effectively establishing the PPGR as a leading voice in the policy debate, both in Canada and across the world.



In addition to showcasing excellent policy writing from current SPPG students, the [PPGR blog](#) also featured contributions from noted Canadian leaders such as former Senator Hugh Segal, and heard from international correspondents, featuring our SPPG students on their semesters abroad. In addition to building the PPGR's online presence thanks in part to a remarkable web redesign, this year witnessed record levels of awareness and participation in the PPGR.

Zach Lewsen and Jenny Mutton will serve as the Editors for 2015-2016. They are soliciting blog entries to post throughout the summer, so please pass along any interest, questions, or 500-1000 word articles to [editors@ppgreview.ca](mailto:editors@ppgreview.ca).

## School of Public Policy and Governance Students' Association (SPPGSA)

Spring 2015 was a busy semester for the SPPG Students' Association. In partnership with the SPPG Alumni Network, they launched a brand-new program to connect second-year students with alumni mentors - a program aimed at improving employment outcomes for recent grads. They also established a fund for minor capital improvements to student space at SPPG, making life more comfortable for our expanding cohort.



This Spring was also election season for the SPPGSA and the newly elected executive consists of: Andrew Blackburn (Program Advisor), Gagan Batra (Academic Functions Coordinator), Simon Gooding-Townsend (Finance Director), Emma Helfand-Green (Social Director), and Tracy Wang (President). As they transition from one executive to another they are excited to build upon the great work of the outgoing team as they develop their strategic direction for enhancing the SPPG community.

They look forward to welcoming the Class of 2017! Please feel free to email them at [sppgsa@gmail.com](mailto:sppgsa@gmail.com).

## Walter Gordon Symposium



The Walter Gordon Symposium is a public policy conference organized every year by SPPG students in conjunction with graduate students from Massey College. It took place on March 25 and 26, 2015 at Massey College.

This year's theme, "Confronting Complexity: Better Ways of Addressing Our Toughest Policy Problems," explored the different faces of complexity in Canadian society and how we Canadians can collectively tackle it through our institutions. Panels were held on the role of the media, not-for-profits and the private sector, governance, and international institutions. The Symposium was headlined by a keynote event, which examined the role of science and evidence-based policy-making in confronting complexity. It featured Hugh Segal (Master of Massey College) in conversation with Julie Payette (former astronaut, CEO of the Montreal Science Centre) and David Naylor (former U of T President).

This year, the Symposium committee initiated a partnership with the *Globe and Mail*. Committee members and selected experts wrote a series of op-eds on the subject of complexity and institutions, which were published in the *Globe and Mail*. Read the op-eds [here](#).



*The Walter Gordon Symposium Organizing Committee, pictured from left to right: Michael Valpy, Marc Desormeaux, Megan Kallin (MPP, Class of 2015), Professor Ian Clark, Ainslee Beer (MPP, Class of 2015), Emily Macrae, and Maripier Isabelle.*

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP FUND**

In addition to the Initiatives outlined above, our MPP students arrange a wide array of events and other activities, many of which were supported by SPPG's Student Leadership Fund. Please [visit our website](#) for more information about these exciting initiatives.

## Student Leadership Fund

### SPPG ALUMNI NETWORK

The SPPGAN has continued to plan and host a variety of events and initiatives over the 2015 Winter and Spring. In addition to a Spring pub night held in April, this year's mentorship initiative was successfully launched in February and paired many members of the MPP 2015 cohort with an alumni mentor. Mentors and mentees celebrated the end of the year following the SPPGAN's AGM, held on June 11.



Remember the Alumni Network often post jobs suitable for MPP alumni on their [website](#) and through social media.

### MOWAT UPDATE

The [Mowat Centre](#) is our independent, non-partisan public policy think tank here at the School of Public Policy and Governance.

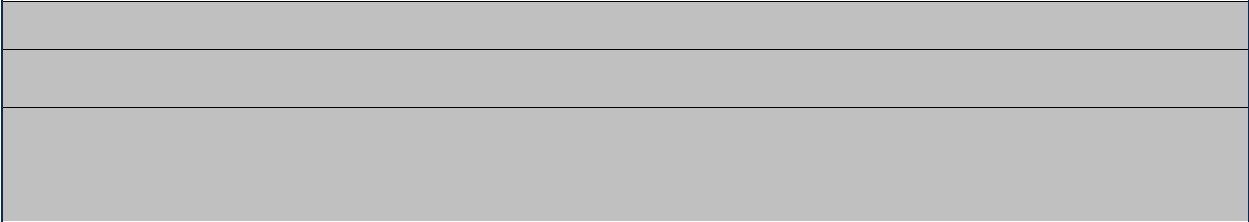


Since December, the Centre has released five Reports, and several new [TLDRs](#), five [Mowat Opinion](#) posts and one [Mowat Note](#). Building on our core strengths, we continued to be Ontario's leading evidence-based voice on intergovernmental social and economic policy. Our research influenced the public conversation on revitalizing Ontario's economy as discussed in [Emerging Stronger 2015](#) and [A Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario 2015](#), and ways to facilitate government transformation through [Modernizing Policy-making Approaches](#). Our reports and TLDR (Too Long; Didn't Read) posts have received a lot of media attention from outlets such as the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe & Mail*, CBC News, and CBC Radio.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Centre launched the [Renewing Canada's Social Architecture](#) website. The purpose of this project is to support a conversation among policymakers and the public about the best ways to update and strengthen Canada's social architecture. So far, we've released papers on [Access to Affordable Housing](#), [Employment Skills Training](#), [The Drug Coverage Gap in Canada's Health Care System](#), [Child Benefits in Canada: Politics Versus Policy](#), [Disability Supports](#), [Modernizing Medicare](#) and [Policies in Support of Caregivers](#). Each of these contributions provides an overview of a particular policy issue and presents some potential short-term and long-term options for consideration.

[MowatNFP](#), the Centre's research hub for the not-for-profit sector, examined the opportunity for [open data](#) for the NFP sector and provided [expert testimony](#) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. [MowatEnergy](#), the Centre's dedicated energy research hub, conducted an [analysis of the](#)

[economic impacts of Energy East on Ontario](#) as part of the Ontario Energy Board's detailed review of the proposed Energy East pipeline project.



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