

### This week we are pleased to present **Pranata Chowdhury** **4th year Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Honours student**



**Pranata Chowdhury (middle row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left), her practicum supervisor Asare Kester-Akrofi (front centre) and colleagues at the City of Toronto at her farewell celebration**

My name is Pranata Chowdhury and I am in my final year of the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) program. I transferred to the program during my 3<sup>rd</sup> year. After taking the Canadian Government course, I recall the professor telling the class that the public administration field is proactive in improving lives and applies theory rather than simply discussing theory. I have always had a vested interest in initiating improvements through government programs and services, so at that moment I experienced a realization that I wanted to work in public service. From weekly newsletters keeping students and faculty informed, to networking events enabling students to build connections and gain knowledge of the public sector, the faculty, staff, and fellow peers within the BPA program provide the opportunities, guidance, and support to succeed in the program.

Having conducted a program evaluation for the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs in the Program Evaluation course offered within the BPA program, I acted as a liaison with the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister to provide program evaluation documents outlining improvements and suggestions for increased productivity for the land claims process. This experience enhanced my analytical skills as I used qualitative and quantitative data collection methods continuously. This experience propelled me to complete three data analysis certificates at York University in Interpreting and Reporting Qualitative Data, an Applied Introduction to SPSS, and an Introduction to R and Tidyverse, which equipped me with the skills of utilizing a data analysis software to organize data, then interpret their meaning and identify significant relationships in the data. I have also completed a practicum placement at the City of Toronto during which I gained experience in navigating a government environment and coordinating multiple on-going projects. I coordinated a project with a team to implement the digitization of client files at the Municipal Licensing

and Services division of the City of Toronto. I engaged in weekly meetings where I gained experience in the development of process maps in order to plan the process for implementing digitization, particularly how the client-facing end-user will input data, retrieve files, identify potential risks, and develop contingency plans to mitigate potential risks. Developing process maps provided an in-depth understanding of how the counter staff and the business operates. I took the initiative to conduct data reconciliation on retrieved client files on a database after digitization, which exposed me to different functions of Municipal Licensing and Services. I conducted data analysis on data requirements from short-term rental companies, private transportation companies, and taxicab brokerages by interpreting respective by-laws and then organizing data points on an Excel template. This task enabled me to gain experience in multi-tasking with large volumes of information including researching, assessing, recording and reporting data. As an observer for the Short-Term Rental Prototype testing, I identified overarching issues operators expressed during the registration process, inconsistencies between the data requirements from operators outlined in the Charter and data requirements in the registration process, potential risks of the registration process, and then input the observations on an Excel spreadsheet. The practicum program provided a hands-on learning experience of working in the public sector and how policy changes impact administration. The experience also provided me with insight on developing my skills in data analysis and project management.

My advice to students in the early stages of the program is to immerse yourself in the activities, events, and opportunities that the BPA program has to offer. I recommend taking experiential education courses which allow students to discover their interests and provide hands-on experience to develop their career.

## Student Virtual Town Hall on April 30 with panel of York U senior leadership

President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda L. Lenton and Vice-Provost Students Lucy Fromowitz will be hosting a [Student Virtual Town Hall](#) on Thursday, April 30 for all undergraduate and graduate students in the York community. The event is a chance for students to come together with York University's senior leaders during these challenging and anxious times to discuss the path ahead. It also serves as a great opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to ask questions about the University's evolving response to COVID-19 and hear about how it will affect their academics, fees and future student experience.

Students have been asking about the pass/fail option, course delivery methods for Summer and Fall/Winter terms, residence availability, ancillary fees, among many other things via social media, on the phone and through registrarial services online chat. The Virtual Town Hall will be a great space for students to hear what the University is planning regarding these topics, as well as a good way for them catch up on items and updates they may have missed.

The town hall will be hosted via the video conferencing platform, Zoom. Learn about the platform and [download Zoom here](#). The webinar can accommodate 3,000 viewers, so should that maximum be reached, or if students prefer an alternative, the webinar will also be livestreamed at <https://vp.students.yorku.ca/town-hall#livestream>. Students will be able to submit questions prior to the event via an online form available at <https://vp.students.yorku.ca/town-hall/questions>; during the event, students will be able to submit questions to the email [vpstudents@yorku.ca](mailto:vpstudents@yorku.ca).

Lenton, Provost & Vice-President Academic **Lisa Philipps** and Fromowitz will be joined by: University Registrar **Darran Fernandez**; **Vinitha Gengatharan**, executive director, York International; **Ian Roberge**, interim principal, Glendon Campus; and **Thomas Loebel**, dean and associate vice-president, Faculty of Graduate Studies. They will address questions from students. The Student Virtual Town Hall will be moderated by **Brendan Schulz**, executive director, student success.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been kept up to date through several channels including This Week @ York, which doubled its distribution for four weeks, emails, social media and online chats. Students have also been able to check for available self-serve tools and resources on [My Online Services](#) to get what they need, from wherever they are, at almost any time of the day. All the latest updates, resources and emails that have been sent, as well as answers to frequently asked questions, can always be found on our [COVID-19 website](#). To view the full Y-File article, [click here](#).

## Save the date: Virtual Town Hall planned for Wednesday, May 6

*The following is a message to the York University community from President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda L. Lenton:*

As our response to COVID-19 continues to evolve, we want to continue engaging with the York community. [The second all-community Virtual Town Hall](#) is an opportunity for you to have questions about your academic, research and professional work answered by the University's senior leadership team.

**We invite all students, staff, and faculty to attend:**

**Date: Wednesday, May 6**

**Time: 3:30 to 4:30pm**

**Link to Zoom Webinar:** <https://yorku.zoom.us/j/92976951583?pwd=Z0pLYmxhOUY2bUJER29qcDhoeWJqQT09>

**Zoom Webinar Password:** 066120

**Link to Livestream:** <https://conversations.info.yorku.ca/>

I will once again be joined by Vice-President Academic & Provost **Lisa Philipps**, Vice-President Research & Innovation **Amir Asif**, Vice-President Equity, People & Culture **Sheila Cote-Meek**, Vice-President Finance & Administration **Carol McAulay** and Vice-President Advancement **Jeff O'Hagan**.

Please submit your questions in advance using [this form](#). During the event, please use the email [conversations@yorku.ca](mailto:conversations@yorku.ca). If you have any accessibility needs, notes or comments, [please let us know](#).

We will be hosting this town hall via the video conferencing platform, Zoom Webinar. You can learn about downloading and using Zoom [here](#). The webinar will also be livestreamed on the Town Hall website.

As always, the latest updates, resources, and answers to frequently asked questions can always be found on [our COVID-19 website](#).

Take care, and I look forward to connecting with you on May 6.

Sincerely,

**Rhonda L. Lenton, PhD**  
President & Vice-Chancellor

## [Manager, Public Affairs - Woodgreen](#)

The Manager of Public Affairs will provide government relations advocacy and stakeholder relations in support of WoodGreen Community Service's mandate and to build trust within their network. This position will analyze government legislation and regulations to mine opportunities that support the advancement of WoodGreen's strategic imperatives, in alignment with client and government interests. Reporting to the Vice President of Policy and Strategy, this position will provide leadership and guidance on the responsibilities outlined below and operate as an integrated part of the overall organization.

## [Senior Policy and Research Analyst - Metis Nation of Ontario](#)

Under the direction of the Director of Housing and Infrastructure, the Senior Policy Analyst provides policy support and advice on Housing and Homelessness initiatives for Metis communities in Ontario. The Senior Policy Analyst works both collaboratively and autonomously, in the data gathering process, preparing public policy position papers and reports and proposal. This assists with monitoring the Metis Nation of Ontario Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan and reports on progress.

## [Director, Government and Stakeholder Relations - Dying with Dignity Canada](#)

Dying With Dignity Canada (DWDC) is seeking a highly strategic Director, Government & Stakeholder Relations who is passionate about human rights to lead their government relations and advocacy activities. Working from their national office in Toronto or from a home office in Ottawa, the Director will advocate for, educate about, and support choice in end-of-life care and dying for people across Canada. An integral member of the senior leadership team, the Director is an experienced government relations and advocacy professional who ideally has the ability to communicate both verbally and in writing in both official languages. Working in collaboration with the CEO, the Director is responsible for the overarching government relations and advocacy strategy targeting key stakeholders to advocate for, educate about, and support choice in end-of-life care and dying for people across Canada.

## [Senior Advisor, Policy, Litigation and Law Reform - Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation](#)

CERA are seeking a motivated lawyer and senior policy professional. You will be part of a small but mighty CERA team with an ambitious goal of advancing the right to housing. In this role, your ability to juggle multiple responsibilities under tight timelines is essential. If you are a self-starter with demonstrated experience in policy development, human rights advocacy, government relations, and strategic litigation, this could be the role for you. CERA is also hiring for a Project Manager and a Senior Advisory for Communications and Public Affairs.

## [Manager, Health Policy and Government Relations - College of Family Physicians of Canada](#)

This position addresses responsibilities related to management of the development, maintenance and communication of health policy. The Manager assists the Director in the development, evaluation and communication of policy statements, documents and papers and in external relations with national and provincial organizations.

## [Government Relations Analyst - Big Viking Games](#)

Big Viking Games is looking for a part-time Government Relations Analyst to join them in Toronto. The role is focused on government grants and funding. Does the idea of working for a gaming company doing what you love everyday sound exciting? Great, we'd love to hear from you!



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## [Director, Government Affairs - ByteDance](#)

ByteDance [the company that owns TikTok] are seeking experienced professionals for their public policy and advocacy team in Canada. Being creative, having meaningful experience working on tech/internet policy issues, and the government policy process will be key to success in this role. Engaging with elected officials and other stakeholders in Canadian politics and government, you will be responsible for understanding TikTok's policies and business priorities, and for being able to communicate those to policymakers and stakeholders. Additionally, you will collaborate with colleagues across the business and engage with third-party groups. Candidates must have a passion for tech/internet policy, established relationships, and experience working with the Canadian government.

## [Vice-President, Provincial and Municipal Government Relations - Rogers](#)

Reporting to the Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer, the Vice President, Provincial and Municipal Government Relations will have significant experience both working in and with various levels of government, trade associations, campaigns and regulatory agencies. An ability to quickly study and understand new technical and policy issues is highly important. The ideal candidate is super-smart, takes initiative and demonstrates excellent judgment. Dealing with ambiguity, adapting to change and balancing competing priorities are crucial to success. They are looking for an entrepreneurial, creative thinking and experienced government relations executive with a proven track record of effective strategy development working closely with multiple internal and external stakeholders, the public, regulators and governments across the country. This position can be located in most major Canadian centres, with extensive national travel.

## [Senior Program Analyst, One Vision One Voice - Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#)

Reporting to the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Senior Program Analyst – One Vision One Voice (OVOV) is responsible for the strategic implementation of One Vision One Voice 11 Race Equity Practices, as well as other initiatives as required from the One Vision One Voice provincial project. This position provides expert advice, knowledge and guidance to facilitate the planning and decision making for the implementation of equity and anti-black racism strategies within the child welfare sector. The position also consults and engages with members, partners and stakeholders where required, leads project teams, writes and presents a broad range of materials and reports, and leads the management of project contracts.