

# School of Public Policy and Administration

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 2016 – Volume 4, Issue 13

## SPPA Student Profile

We are pleased to present our next SPPA student profile:

**Lisa Koivula**, Professional Certificate in Public Administration and Law



My name is Lisa Koivula and I have been at York for quite some time now and have very much enjoyed my entire experience. Like many high school students entering university I was unsure which program I wanted to pursue. I entered university as an undeclared major to get a feel for university and to better understand what my specific interests were before committing to a major. I have always had an interest in the law and after many of my first year courses around the subject were extremely interesting, I decided to declare my major as Law and Society. After taking many Women's Studies courses in my second year, I then decided to also minor in the subject because the issues that surround gender within the law were of particular interest to me.

After completing my B.A. I was still surprisingly not ready to leave York! I wanted to expand my knowledge with something that was new but also complementary to my undergraduate degree. I researched many certificate programs and the Public Administration and Law certificate within the School of Public Policy and Administration, obviously stood out to me. Having touched on public policy and administration throughout my undergraduate career I believed this would be a great fit for me. I was right! I thoroughly enjoyed the certificate program and it provided me with a whole new aspect of knowledge on public administration and policy that I had not received in my

undergraduate career. All of the courses were informative and have given me new valuable insight into how the law and public administration interact with one another. The certificate helped expand the broader picture of how these institutions work with one another and how on minor and major scales individuals within the public sector can work to improve Canadian society as a whole. Having been taught about many of the negative aspects within the law, it was very interesting to see how public administration and policy can be used to help remedy these issues.

Unfortunately I was never very involved in any on-campus student activities. I like many students had to work throughout my university career and didn't think at the time it was a major priority. If I could go back, I would most definitely make some time even if it was only once a month to get involved! Those experiences are valuable for a number of reasons and are always something you can add to your resume.

If you are looking to get a foot in the door career-wise with Ontario Public Service, there is the Summer Student Experience program which students can apply to and work full time for the summer within various ministries. This is how I got into my first OPS job and have since then been brought back on several different contracts. Like everyone, I hope to get a full time job but am also considering eventually pursuing a Master's possibly in Public Policy, Administration and Law as I feel there is always so much more to learn and experience!

- Lisa Koivula



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## 2016-17 Public Policy Administration Student Association Executive Nominees

The nominations for PPASA Executive positions for 2016-2017 have now been closed. Please note the following important election information:

**Campaigning Period:** March 21st - March 27th

**Election Period:** March 28th - April 1st at 11:59 P.M.

The PPASA conducts its elections in a democratic manner by having the general membership vote for candidates interested in filling the positions. Your name associated with an email on our email list is the PPASA record of membership, so you must be on the list to be able to vote.

The election will be facilitated by Chief Returning Officer **Anusha Bhadra**. All ballots will be received electronically at [ppasacro@gmail.com](mailto:ppasacro@gmail.com). All ballots will be kept strictly confidential by the CRO and deleted after the election is finalized. The results will be made available to PPASA members. If you have any further questions, please email [ppasa@yorku.ca](mailto:ppasa@yorku.ca). Please note that several executive positions have been already acclaimed given the fact that there was only one nominee for these positions:

**PRESIDENT - MUNISHA BASIRAM - POSITION ACCLAIMED**

**VICE-PRESIDENT - LESTER CORATCHIA - POSITION ACCLAIMED**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS - NILUFAR BAHMAN - POSITION ACCLAIMED**

**DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT - JUSTIN TAN - POSITION ACCLAIMED**

**TREASURER - JASON ROBINSON - POSITION ACCLAIMED**

Voting will take place for the remaining two positions below. For more information on the nominees please visit:

<https://yorku.collegiatelink.net/organization/publicpolicyadministrationstudentassociation/news/details/8333?fromCampus=False>

### **NOMINEES FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY:**

**AVNEET CHAHAL** - Third year of a Political Science major with a minor in Public Policy and Administration

**GHAZAL HAIDARY** - Fourth year student with a Sociology major and Public Administration minor

**EUNICE PATRICK** - Second year student in the Public Administration program specializing in Policy Analysis

### **NOMINEES FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF AFFAIRS:**

**HANIA BAJWA** - Third year BPA major

**SAMER KHURSHID** – BPA major

*Membership in the **Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA)** is open to any student affiliated with the [School of Public Policy and Administration](#).*

*Interested students should contact PPASA at 168 Founders College or [ppasa@yorku.ca](mailto:ppasa@yorku.ca)*

*<https://ppasayorku.wordpress.com/>*

*<https://yorku.collegiatelink.net/organization/publicpolicyadministrationstudentassociation>*



## Experiential Education Policy Symposium on March 15, 2016

The Experiential Education Policy symposium, an annual event taking place in the framework of the **Applied Public Policy Analysis (PPAS4200)** seminar, was hosted at the School on March 15. In presence of their external partners, faculty members, as well as several guests, including William Gage, Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning, and Diane Woody, LA&PS Associate Dean Teaching and Learning, the students presented innovative solutions to challenging policy issues. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success!



Michael Fazzari (left) and Narendra Persaud-Doobay (right)



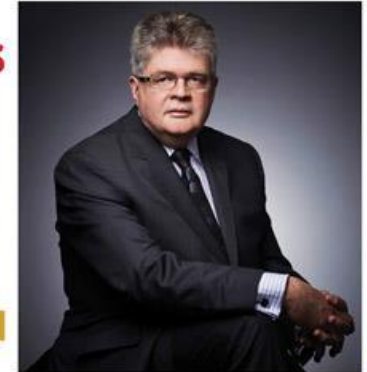
Course Director Caroline Dufour



SPPA Director, Professor James C. Simeon

## SPPA Annual Public Policy & Administration Lecture

### Leading Canada's Largest Tribunal: Opportunities & Challenges



**Mario Dion**, the Chairperson of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) since 2015, will explain how he approached the new challenge after his appointment by the Government. Mr. Dion will describe the steps he went through in determining the key strategic challenges faced by the Board, the strategies to address them and how he approached partnerships both within the Public Sector and with external stakeholders. Mr. Dion will also draw on his experience at the helm of several other federal organizations during the course of his career since 1980.

Mario Dion holds a Law degree from the University of Ottawa. He joined the federal Department of Justice upon being called to the Bar in 1980 and has assumed a number of management positions both within that Department as well as several other departments and agencies.

After leaving the practice of law in the late 1980's, Mr. Dion was Assistant Deputy Minister at the Correctional Service of Canada and Associate Deputy Minister of Justice. He also worked in deputy minister's level positions at the Privy Council Office and the Office responsible for Indian residential Schools resolution.

He was appointed Chairperson of the National Parole Board in 2006 and Public Sector Integrity Commissioner in 2010 until his appointment to his current position at the IRB.

**Thursday, March 31st, 2016, 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m.**

**1014 Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Keele Campus**

**A reception will immediately follow the lecture.**

**ALL WELCOME**

The School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) and the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL)

For further information, please contact Jasmattie Jewan at 416-736-2100 x77528 or jewan@yorku.ca