



# SPPA Newsletter April 2025 – Volume 13, Issue 4

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION | 2025

liberal arts &  
professional studies | YORK 



# SPPA Presents the 7th Annual Municipalities of the Future Symposium

On **March 26, 2025**, municipal leaders, policymakers, and industry experts gathered for the **7th Annual Municipalities of the Future Symposium**.

The event featured insightful discussions on:

- **Climate Resilience**
- **Digital Transformation**
- **Workforce Development**

A powerful keynote by **Dr. Marcia Wallace** set the stage for conversations about the future of public service.



**Special thanks to Mayor Frank Scarpitti, our speakers, panelists, and IPAC Toronto Region for their support in making this event a success!**

# The 7th Annual Municipalities of the Future Symposium: Photo Gallery



# The 7th Annual Municipalities of the Future Symposium: Photo Gallery



**Technology and Talent: Finding the Right People for Today and for Tomorrow**



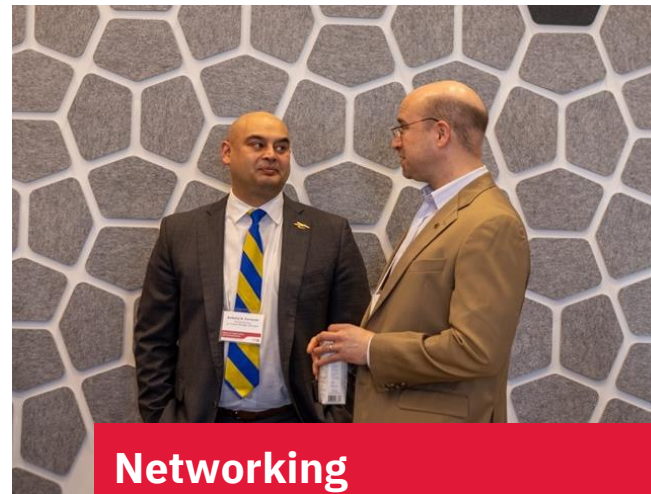
**Government Modernization to Meet the Emerging Community Needs**



**The Intersection of Planning and Economic Development**



**Certificate of Appreciation Mayor with SPPA Executive**



**Networking**



**Networking**

# The 7th Annual Municipalities of the Future Symposium: Photo Gallery



**Panel Discussion  
Q&A**



**Moderator  
Zac Spicer**



**Attendees**



**Student Volunteers**



**Attendees**



**Attendees**

# MPPAL Student Success Stories

Kurt Strachan, an Adult ESL Program Officer at the Toronto District School Board, has built an honorable career in adult education and policy. With a Master of Education from York University and extensive experience as an ELT instructor, he deeply understands the challenges faced by internationally educated professionals and frontline educators.

His journey into public policy began in 2022 when he discovered a course on Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis. The experience ignited his passion for governance and policy, leading him to pursue a [Master of Public Policy, Administration, and Law \(MPPAL\)](#). Through this program, he has honed skills in executive decision-making, public finance, administrative law, and strategic policy planning.

Now nearing the completion of his MPPAL, Kurt continues to expand his impact. Recently appointed to the Board of Directors at the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) Toronto Region, he remains dedicated to public service, advocating for effective policy solutions and supporting communities in need. His story, featured in [TESL Ontario's CONTACT Magazine](#), is an inspiring testament to the meaning of lifelong learning.

A portrait of Kurt Strachan, a Black man with a shaved head and a goatee, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a light green collared shirt. The background is a solid dark grey.

**Kurt  
Strachan**

Master of Public Policy, Administration  
and Law (MPPAL) Candidate

# PPAS 4115 Seminar – Taught by Joseph Silva

## Guest Speaker: Ricky Veerappan

Our seminar welcomed [Ricky Veerappan](#), **Special Advisor at Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)**, who shared his expertise on multiculturalism, immigration, and newcomer integration.

With **34 years at York Regional Police**, retiring as Superintendent of Community Services, Ricky brought valuable insights into policing, diversity, and peace-building through a human rights lens.

Key Takeaways:

- *Diversity is our reality*
- *Equity must be our strategy*
- *Inclusion & belonging are our intended outcomes*

His talk deeply resonated with students, with one student remarking that he puts a **"human face and heart to policing."**

**Thank you, Ricky Veerappan, for an insightful session.  
We look forward to more events like this!**



# PPAS 4130 Seminar – Taught by Ana Maria Kapralos

## Guest Speaker: Deepak Anand

**January 24, 2025, Deepak Anand, MPP for Mississauga-Malton, attended the Politics, Law and the Courts course (4130 M) at York University to provide students a presentation on his political journey, community engagement, and experience with policy making.**

Chris Papadopoulos, a student from class stated, "Deepak was very open in discussing policy questions and sharing future plans. The presentation was engaging and gave perspective on early childhood and how Deepak Anand grew up. The presentation also gave us a deeper perspective on his early childhood and how his experiences growing up shaped the person and leader he is today. Hearing about the values instilled in him from a young age and how they have influenced his career path when moving to a new country was inspiring. His way of connecting personal experiences with wider political and social issues made the discussion even more engaging for our class".

Mara Zanetti, a student from class stated, "I really enjoyed the guest speaker's presentation, he brought up some incredibly interesting points about how it's never too late to get involved in politics. His insights made me realize that no matter where you are in life, there's always an opportunity to make a difference. Hearing his experiences and advice inspired me to become more engaged in my community and explore ways I can contribute to positive change. It was a motivating and eye-opening discussion that left me feeling excited about getting more involved".

MPP Deepak Anand's story is a reminder that success is about working hard but also about the people who support and uplift us. Reaching out to his office, Deepak had a pleasure visiting York University and sharing his journey. He was truly impressed by the energy and curiosity of the students. The interest and the thoughtful questions were a reminder to him of the passion and potential in our future leaders. He wants students to 'Keep up the great work!'.

**Written by Viraa Virk, student in class.**



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 SPPA AWARDS

## Nomination Deadline Extended: Thursday, April 17, 2025

The **Undergraduate Student Award** acknowledges exceptional contributions made by one current student or recent undergraduate student to the activities and programs of the School.

The **Graduate Student Award** acknowledges exceptional contributions made by one current student or recent graduate student to the activities and programs of the School.

The **Alumni Recognition Award** acknowledges exceptional contributions made by one alumnus/alumna to the activities and programs of the School, as well as to the mentoring of its students and new professionals.

The **Foster – Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy, Administration and Law** recognizes an alumnus/alumna of the MPPAL program whose work has demonstrably and significantly advanced social justice, human rights, ethics and good governance in congruence with the MPPAL program's founding principles. The Award recipient will normally have min. 10 years of work experience in the broader public/NGO sector.

The **Emerging Leader Award** recognizes a current student or recent alumnus/alumna of the School who is an emerging leader within the broader public sector (including the non-profit sector) and represents the ideals, values and abilities of sound, responsible and engaging public policy and administration in congruence with the School's vision to promote Good Governance. The Award recipient will normally have 5-8 years of work experience in the broader public sector.

The **Practicum Honouree Award** recognizes individuals who have made exceptional efforts to provide practicum opportunities for the School's fourth-year students.

The 2024 award winners were honoured at the SPPA Awards Ceremony with the keynote address delivered by Sutha Balasingham, York MPPAL Alumna. For further details about the 2024 awards celebration, please click [here](#).

**Nominations for the above awards are invited from faculty, staff, individual students and alumni, as well as associations of students, alumni, and friends of the School. Nominations require a one-page statement of the accomplishments of the individual as well as a copy of the nominee's resume.**

**Please forward materials, or questions, to Professor Naomi Couto, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration via email to: [naomi@yorku.ca](mailto:naomi@yorku.ca)**

# MPPAL's Markham Campus Cohort Receives a New Bursary for Fall 2025!

## Introducing a new bursary for Fall 2025 for MPPAL's Markham Campus Cohort!

The new Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan Bursary has been designated to create **one yearly \$2,500 bursary** to support a graduate student enrolled in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at the Markham campus pursuing their Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law ([MPPAL – Municipal Government](#)) and who demonstrates financial need.

### Learn more about the Donor Profile:

Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan (1893–1985) was a renowned diplomat, jurist, and scholar. He served as Pakistan's first Foreign Minister, President of the UN General Assembly, and President of the International Court of Justice. A prominent figure in international law and diplomacy, he upheld justice, governance, and public service throughout his career. As a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, he championed values of service, knowledge, and human rights. He also translated the Holy Quran into English and authored a seminal work on Islam and human rights.

**Applications Open August 2025, Learn More [Here!](#)**



# Coming to MPPAL this Fall 2025.... The Ian Greene & Eilonwy Morgan Award!

## Introducing a new award for MPPAL Fall 2025!

“I was privileged to be involved in the development of the [Master of Public Policy, Administration, and Law \(MPPAL\) program](#) in the mid-2000s, along with Ian Macdonald and Tom Klassen. My wife Eilonwy Morgan is a Chartered Accountant and, along with a number of public servants, provided useful advice about the curriculum related to public finance.

When Eilonwy and I subdivided our mountain property in British Columbia in 2022, we decided to donate the proceeds to a scholarship for **MPPAL students**. The MPPAL program has been successful beyond expectations. We know there are current and prospective students who need support. We hope our award will help.”

~ Professor Emeritus Ian Greene

Stay Tuned for More Award Details. #MPPALproud



# Competition for the 2025 LA&PS Writing Prize is Open - Apply Now!

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) Writing Prizes are open to all kinds of writing (except creative writing) from undergraduate students enrolled in LA&PS courses, including case studies, administrative/executive reports, reviews of all kinds, non-fiction prose, and formal essays. There are five categories: first through fourth year and also Undergraduate Thesis/Major Research Project.

> **The competition closing date is June 20, 2025. Further details about the contest can be found on our [website](#).**



**To Nominate now, visit the [Online Submission Portal](#)!**

# Centre for Refugee Studies

## Summer 2025 Course on Refugee Issues

- **The 2025 Summer Course on Refugee Issues will be held from June 2 - 6, 2025 at York University.**

For over two decades, York University's Centre for Refugee Studies has run an **internationally acclaimed, non-credit professional development Summer Course** that brings together practitioners, policy makers, and researchers to learn together about the most pressing forced migration and refugee issues.

**All participants who complete the full course receive a York University Centre for Refugee Studies Summer Course Certificate.**

**To Register or Learn More, Visit the [CRS YorkU Website](#)!**

# Job Opportunities

| Position   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>Financial Analyst - Financial Accountability Office of Ontario</u></b> | The FAO is seeking a Financial Analyst to join its team. Under the direction of the Chief Financial Analyst and the Financial Accountability Officer, the Analyst will undertake financial and economic analysis of Ontario government programs and policy proposals to support the work of MPPs and legislative committees. The Analyst will estimate the financial cost of Ontario government programs and policy initiatives, analyze and prepare financial assessments of the Ontario Budget and Expenditure Estimates, and forecast the outcomes of government programs and policy proposals.   |
| <b><u>Research Assistant, Addictions – Women’s College Hospital</u></b>      | Substance Use Service Peer Program Evaluation. This is a multi-pronged evaluation of the peer support program implemented at WCH with the support of the WCH Foundation. The research team includes Dr. Wyman and Dr. Leece as well as guidance from Krasman Centre, and peers. The project includes four elements: metrics regarding peer support derived from EPIC, semi-structured interviews with clients who have had contact with peer support, surveys of clinical team members regarding the incorporation of peer support into the team, and surveys of learners regarding attitudes towards people who use drugs and to peer support.                      |
| <b><u>Policy Analyst – Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project</u></b>                | The Analyst will report to the Executive Director to conduct research, draft policy briefs, and track emerging public policy issues in Canada and other jurisdictions with a focus on digital markets. The Analyst will: manage policy projects and analysis involving issue identification, research, consultation, trend analysis, development of options and recommendations, including the drafting of policy papers, research reports and op eds;   |
| <b><u>Senior Analyst, Oil and Gas – Pembina Institute</u></b>                | The Pembina Institute is a clean energy think tank that advocates for strong, effective policies that support Canada’s clean energy transition. They are seeking a senior analyst for their Oil and Gas Program. The senior analyst will provide research, strategic advice, qualitative and quantitative analysis, government relations, and fundraising support for the program. They will work closely with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that the organization maximizes its impact in advocating for decarbonization in the oil and gas sector by monitoring emerging local and global economic and environmental trends and their implications. |

# Job Opportunities

| Position   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#"><u>Policy Advisor – Technical Standards &amp; Safety Authority</u></a>   | Reporting to the Director, Regulatory Policy, our Policy Advisor supports our organization in its journey to becoming an OBR. As a Policy Advisor, you will bring a ‘can do’ attitude to the team and play a critical role in developing policy advice that is informed by evidence, considers balanced stakeholder perspectives, and includes modern regulatory principles. Additionally, you will support the development and delivery of policy initiatives that require collaboration and partnership for multi-faceted initiatives.   |
| <a href="#"><u>Director, Government Stakeholder Relations and Public Affairs – Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies</u></a> | Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Government Stakeholder Relations and Public Affairs will lead the development and execution of the strategic, tactical and operational aspects of communications, government, and stakeholder engagement plans, programs, projects and initiatives to advance the OACAS’ mission and enhance the OACAS and Child Welfare reputation. The Director will enhance communication effectiveness and relationship management with all key stakeholders to ensure that all interactions build confidence and trust among stakeholders, influencers, and the public. |
| <a href="#"><u>Government Relations &amp; External Affairs, Specialist – Interac Corp</u></a>  | The Government Relations & External Affairs Specialist will support the company's efforts in engaging with government entities, managing legislative and regulatory affairs, and fostering relationships with external stakeholders. This role requires a proactive individual with strong communication skills and a keen interest in public policy and government relations. The Specialist will contribute to advancing public sector objectives and protecting the company's reputation with key government and stakeholder audiences.   |
| <a href="#"><u>Policy Officer – Wellesley Institute</u></a>  | The Wellesley Institute is seeking a Policy Officer committed to impacting progress on the social determinants of health. This position will help Wellesley advance its strategic goals of ensuring policymakers are engaged and informed on health and health equity. The Policy Officer will report to the Director of Policy. The Policy Officer will assist in the creation of policy briefs, blogs, reports and other products, with the opportunity to lead projects as appropriate.   |

# Job Opportunities

| Position   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>Government Relations Specialist (Golden Horseshoe Region) – Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA)</u></b> | The Government Relations Specialist will be a valued member of OREA’s Government Relations team, reporting directly to the Head of Government Relations. Focusing first at the municipal level and then branching into provincial jurisdiction, the overarching objective of the regional GR Specialist is to support the legislative, policy, and political priorities of the local real estate Boards in Ontario’s Golden Horseshoe Region, and those of the Ontario Real Estate Association. This is a hybrid role with frequent travel between Board offices in the Golden Horseshoe Region, and occasional travel to OREA’s offices in Toronto. |
| <b><u>Manager, Public Affairs – Mortgage Professionals Canada</u></b>  | The Manager, Public Affairs, reporting to the Director, Public Affairs, will work closely with Mortgage Professionals Canada’s public affairs and communications teams to build and strengthen positive working relationships with the provincial governments (including the relevant regulatory agencies), helping to author and communicate compelling public policy recommendations in support of the mortgage industry. This role will also serve as the association’s regional ambassador for its growing membership base.  |
| <b><u>Intern – Municipal Finance Officers’ Association (MFOA)</u></b>  | Assisting the Manager of Policy, Policy Team Lead, and Policy Advisor, the successful candidate will support MFOA’s policy research and development and advocacy efforts. The internship will require research, analysis, developing policy briefs and briefing notes, project planning, and presenting to MFOA members. The Policy Intern will work with the Manager of Policy to identify research topics related to municipal finance and develop resources that will be published on MFOA’s website.   |
| <b><u>Vendor Compliance Specialist – Toronto Community Housing</u></b>   | The Vendor Compliance Specialist is responsible to work diligently and with confidence to manage the Vendor Compliance Office (VCO) relationship with internal business units and external vendors (service providers and suppliers). They will use their superior writing and analysis skills to help interpret, discuss, and hold vendors accountable to contracts, which will contribute to Toronto Community Housing better serving our tenants.   |

# Job Opportunities

| Position   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>Research Analyst – The Institute for Mental Health Policy Research</u></b>                 | Through its core values of Courage, Respect and Excellence, CAMH is implementing its Strategic Plan: Connected CAMH, to transform lives, ignite innovation and discovery, revolutionize education and drive social change. CAMH is more than a hospital, it is a cause. CAMH is on a mission to change the way society thinks about and responds to mental illness. They aim to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and shape a world where mental illness is central to our healthcare system – a world where Mental Health is Health.   |
| <b><u>Research Project Assistant – Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children (Hybrid)</u></b> | Dedicated exclusively to children and their families, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is one of the largest and most respected paediatric healthcare centres in the world. As innovators in child health, we lead and partner to improve the health of children through the integration of healthcare, leading-edge research and education. Our reputation would not have been built – nor could it be maintained – without the skills, knowledge and experience of the extraordinary people who come to work here every day. SickKids is committed to ongoing learning and development, and features a caring and supportive work environment that combines exceptionally high standards of practice. |
| <b><u>Research Analyst 1 (GIS Analyst) – City of Toronto</u></b>                                 | Reporting to the Mapping Unit within Transportation Services Division's Operations & Maintenance Section, the Research Analyst 1 will research, compile and analyze data and information necessary for infrastructure management, maintenance and claims against the City.   |
| <b><u>Manager, Global Accounting Policy and Advisory (Global Finance) – ScotiaBank</u></b>       | The Manager, Global Accounting Policies & Procedures is responsible for researching and developing accounting policies and procedures and their implementation for the Bank, as directed by the Director or Senior Manager. It involves analyzing and assessing the impact of accounting standards and proposed changes, resolving complex accounting issues, and providing advice and counsel on specialized transactions where required. As a result, the incumbent must become and remain up to date in the areas of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) within their responsibility and be generally familiar with other major changes to IFRS as they occur.                                 |

# Job Opportunities

| Position   | Description   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>Manager, Compliance – Sun Life</u></b>   | The Manager of Compliance reports to the Director of Compliance for SLGI Asset Management Inc. and will join a motivated, results oriented and dynamic Compliance team. In this role, you'll support the second line of defense compliance function to ensure all business activities as an Investment Fund Manager, Portfolio Manager and Exempt Market Dealer meet all governing regulatory requirements and internal policies.   |
| <b><u>Compliance Specialist – Mobis Parts Canada Corporation</u></b>                             | MOBIS Parts Canada ("MPCA") is a technological leader in the automotive industry, specializing in the distribution of parts for Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors. With a strong commitment to collaboration, ingenuity, and a promise to bring safety and happiness to our customers, MPCA is dedicated to constant evolution and the development of cutting-edge technologies. Headquartered in Seoul, Korea, MOBIS operates in approximately 40 countries worldwide, and has significantly expanded its presence in Canada. At MOBIS we encourage individuals to take on new challenges and drive innovation, helping us maintain a global competitive edge through product quality and customer value. |
| <b><u>Director, Audit, Risk and Compliance (ERM/Compliance) – Toronto Transit Commission</u></b> | You will be responsible for the results of Audit, Risk & Compliance (ERM/Compliance Stream) activities and for the selection, development and allocation of professional staff and co-sourced resources under their direction. You will also play an integral role in providing the Department Head and senior management with information and advice on driving ERM and Compliance program maturity.   |
| <b><u>Manager, Policy &amp; Compliance – Definity Financial Corporation</u></b>                  | Definity is the parent company to some of Canada's most long-standing and innovative insurance brands, including Economical Insurance, Sonnet Insurance, Family Insurance Solutions, and Petline Insurance. Our ambition is to be one of Canada's leading and most innovative property and casualty insurers. We can't do that without our people, so we embrace and encourage a culture that's collaborative, ambitious, rewarding, and empowering.  |