This workshop will take stock of the social contract in Canada, focusing on three of its key dimensions: federalism, social policy, and multiculturalism. Each of these needs to be periodically updated, and the most recent federal election, in October 2015, indicates a public desire as well as the political will to renew the social contact. Current realities render this re-examination timely, for the social contract is fraying. Introducing their volume on Inequality and the Fading of Redistributive Politics, Banting and Myles warn: Canadian “governments have not responded energetically to the evidence of growing inequality, and they have not modernized the policy architecture in light of new social risks confronting Canadian families. Action and inaction, sins of omission and sins of commission, have weakened the redistributive state” (2013: 3).

The core of the workshop will be 11 presentations by leading Canadian and international academics – senior and emerging scholars – focusing on three broad themes: federalism, the welfare state, and multiculturalism, as well as a series of structured discussions between academics and policy-makers on the links between academic research and public policy-making (see program below). This structure has been selected in part as a reflection of Dr. Keith Banting’s distinguished contributions to scholarship and public debate, on the occasion of his retirement from the Queen’s School of Policy Studies and Department of Political Studies. While he is retiring, his core interests in understanding the forces that shape the social contract in Canada, and his commitment to linking academics and practitioners, remain as timely and relevant as ever.

The presenters showcase the domestic and international reach of Banting’s work, both in academic and policy circles, as well as his influential role in supervising and mentoring graduate students and emerging scholars. Post-conference, a volume of the papers will be published under the editorship of Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Richard Johnston, Will Kymlicka, and John Myles.
Preliminary Program

Friday, September 23, 2016
Grandview Ballroom
Delta Waterfront Hotel, 2 Johnston Street
Kingston, ON

3:15 PM  Welcome

3:30 - 5:00 PM  Public Policy in Canada: Contemporary Challenges and Research Frontiers
Moderator: Will Kymlicka, Philosophy, Queen’s University

Panelists:
France St-Hilaire, Institute for Research on Public Policy
Leslie Seidle, Institute for Research on Public Policy
Tom Axworthy, Public Policy Chair, Massey College, University of Toronto

5:30 – 6:30 PM  Reception
Harbourview Room, Delta Kingston (5th Floor)

Welcome
Daniel Woolf, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queen’s University

6:30 – 9:00 PM  Banquet
Grandview Ballroom, Delta Kingston (6th Floor)

Master of Ceremonies:
Hugh Segal, Master of Massey College, University of Toronto

Speakers:
Tom Courchene, Department of Economics and School of Policy Studies,
Queen’s University
Erin Tolley, Political Science, University of Toronto
Carolyn Tuohy, School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Toronto
Ken Battle, Caledon Institute of Social Policy
Hugh Segal, Massey College, University of Toronto
Saturday, September 24, 2016
Room 202, Robert Sutherland Hall
138 Union Street, Queen’s University

8:30– 8:45 PM  Breakfast and Welcome

8:45 - 10:15 AM  Social Policy
Moderator: France St-Hilaire, Institute for Research on Public Policy

Panellists:
R. Kent Weaver, Georgetown University and The Brookings Institution
  • “Federalism And The Welfare State In North America”
Jane Jenson, Political Science, Université de Montréal and Mireille Paquet, Political Science, Concordia University
  • “Canada’s Changing Citizenship Regime through the Lens of Immigration and Integration”
David A. Green, Economics, UBC and W. Craig Riddell, Economics, UBC
  • “Multicultural Diversity and Support for Redistribution: the Case of Income Assistance in Canada”

10:15 - 10:30 AM  Break

10:30 - 11:45 AM  Multiculturalism (1)
Moderator: Ratna Omidvar, Senate of Canada (tentative)

Panellists:
Irene Bloemraad, Sociology, Berkeley, Richard Johnston, Political Science, UBC, Stuart Soroka, Communications, University of Michigan, and Matthew Wright, Department of Government, American University
  • “Ethnic Diversity, Support for the Welfare State, and Multiculturalism Policy”
Randy Besco, Political Science, University of Toronto, and Erin Tolley, Political Science, University of Toronto
  • “Does Everyone Cheer? The Politics of Multiculturalism in Canada”

11:45 am - 1:00 PM  Multiculturalism (2)
Moderator: J. Scott Matthews, Political Science, Memorial University

Panellists:
Edward Koning, Political Science, University of Guelph
  • “The Impact of Federalism on the Politics of Immigrants' Welfare Dependence”
David Miller, Nuffield College, University of Oxford
  • “The Life and Death of Multiculturalism”

1:00 – 2:00 PM  Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 PM  Federalism
Moderator: Leslie Seidle, Institute for Research on Public Policy

Panellists:
Alain Noël, Political Science, Université de Montréal
  • “Quebec’s Politics of Redistribution Meets Austerity”
Robin Boadway, Economics, Queen’s University
  • “Designing a Basic Income for Canada”
Kyle Hanniman, Political Studies, Queen’s University
  • “Reconceptualising Federalism and the Welfare State: The View from Bond Markets”

3:30 - 3:45 PM  Break

3:45- 4:30 PM  Final Reflections
Moderator: Hugh Segal, Master of Massey College, University of Toronto

Panellists:
Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Political Studies/IIGR, Queen’s University
Rebecca Wallace, Political Studies, Queen’s University
Mel Cappe, School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto
Keith Banting, Queen’s Chair in Public Policy and Stauffer Dunning Fellow, Queen’s University

4:30 PM  Closing Remarks
John Myles, Sociology, University of Toronto