Annual Queen’s Policy Forum

The Academy and the Policy World:
How can universities help respond to Canada’s complex policy challenges?

Donald Gordon Centre
Queen’s University, Kingston, ON

Agenda

Saturday November 4, 2017

9:00     The Academy and the Policy World
         Moderator: Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Provost, Queen’s University

         Speakers:
         Ted Hsu, former MP, former critic for Science and Technology
         Michael Horgan, Chair of the Principal’s Commission on the Future of Public Policy at Queen’s University

10:00    Break

10:15    Panel 1: Clean Water
         Access to clean water remains a significant challenge for Canada’s First Nations; more than 120 communities were under boil water advisories as of April 2017, affecting thousands of individuals. The Government of Canada has committed to ending boil-water advisories by 2021. Meeting this public policy challenge requires an honest assessment of needs on the ground. Scientists can help by providing monitoring and analysis to support better treatment techniques. Engaging the NGO community may help to rebuild trust and repair faith in Canada’s ability to provide solutions.

         Moderator: Warren Mabee, Director, Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy (QIEEP)

         Speakers:
         Chief Linda Debassige, M’Chigeeng First Nation
         John Smol, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change, Queen’s University
         Dimple Roy, Director, Water, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

11:45    Lunch
Panel 2: Aging and Frailty
The ramifications of the demographic shift we are facing are considerable and impose many challenges for policy makers. The obvious dual hit of reduced proportional tax revenue from employment and significant increase in health care expenditures is confounded by a health and social care system poorly equipped to address the needs of this aging generation. Our current system is neither designed nor presently capable of responding to the novel phenomenon of frail, elderly citizens with multiple comorbidities requiring multi-disciplinary, cross-sectional integrative home and community care. Transformational care models are required. How can we work collaboratively to develop an Aging Strategy to guide policy development and application?

Moderator: David M.C. Walker, Executive Director, School of Policy Studies

Speakers:
Marie-Lison Fougère, Deputy Minister, Seniors’ Affairs, Ontario
John Muscadere, Scientific Director and CEO, Canadian Frailty Network
Samir Sinha, Director of Geriatrics, Mount Sinai and UHN Hospitals, and Provincial Lead, Ontario’s Seniors Strategy

Panel 3: Security
Calling on the military to fix problems around the world is a tempting strategy because soldiers are readily available on short notice. Yet doing so too often can lead to a mismatch between a country’s level of ambition and budgetary realities. Although unwilling to invest more defence dollars over the past decades, the government is nonetheless placing greater demands on the Canadian Armed Forces – from peacekeeping to counter insurgency capabilities – involving a full suite of military assets. Academic researchers can avoid the political trappings that come with decisions on the defence budget. From their vantage point, they can offer targeted advice about the hard choices that come with pursuing global foreign policy objectives as a middle power.

Moderator: Kim Richard Nossal, Professor, School of Policy Studies

Speakers:
• Stéfanie von Hlatky, Director, Queen’s Centre for International and Defence Policy
• John Hannaford, Privy Council Office
• Mercedes Stephenson, CTV News