The Ideas Issue

Given the aftermath of the financial crisis, growing public skepticism, and looming demographic change, bringing new ideas to the world of public policy is critical.

Prior to receiving any submissions for this issue, we discussed our desire to focus this issue on ideas and innovation. Contributors did not disappoint. Giselle Valarezo brings a critical theory lens to the topic of Canada’s temporary foreign worker program. Ernest Chong examines perceptions of visible minorities towards the Canadian Forces. Alexander Sculthorpe discusses the competing ideas of democracy witnessed during Canada’s ‘coalition crisis.’ Alex Stoutley examines the role of public consultation when ideas about Toronto’s Jarvis Street renewal collide. Ramzi A. Nashef puts forward a proposal for quantitative evaluation of Canada’s National Security Policy.

We interview Daphne Meredith, Chief Human Resources Officer of the Government of Canada, about modernizing human resources, and Elly Alboim, Former Senior Advisor to Paul Martin, about the role of media in shaping ideas and public policy. Fittingly for an issue about ideas, the final line of this publication is Michael Hart’s idea to improve government.

We would like to thank the founding editors of the Public Policy and Governance Review, Michael Nicin and Alissa Von Bargen, for starting the PPGR with such momentum. We hope to continue their efforts and contribute to the policy dialogue. We would also like thank contributors to the PPGR blog (www.ppgreview.ca) for their insightful commentary.
on emerging issues. The PPGR blog has become a forum for discussions of policy, politics, and the public service.

We hope you enjoy reading the work of all the PPGR’s contributors, whether in this publication or on the Blog, as much as we do. It is a testament to the quality of Canada’s policy students, and shows that Canada’s public sector will continue to generate innovative solutions to the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Anna Strathy & Brent Barron,

Editors-in-Chief

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