

**MacEachen** MACEACHEN INSTITUTE FOR  
INDEPENDENT. INFORMED. PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE

# Communications & Engagement Report

2024 IN REVIEW

# Introduction

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As 2024 draws to a close, we are reflecting on a year of growth and engagement, advancing the MacEachen Institute's mission to shape policy and public discourse.

Key highlights:

- The release of a new book on the COVID-19 pandemic, **Seized by Uncertainty**, co-authored by Scholarly Director **Kevin Quigley**, and MacEachen Institute researchers **Kaitlynn Lowe, Sarah Moore, and Brianna Wolfe**;
- Exciting new research from our **Project Leads**;
- Successful **new graduate courses**, offered in partnership with Dalhousie's Master of Public Administration program;
- **Insights and outcomes** from our ongoing grant-funded research activities.

Thank you for your support and interest throughout 2024. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!



## 2024 Digital Metrics



**1,496** newsletter subscribers



**2,500+** social followers



**52,000+** site visits



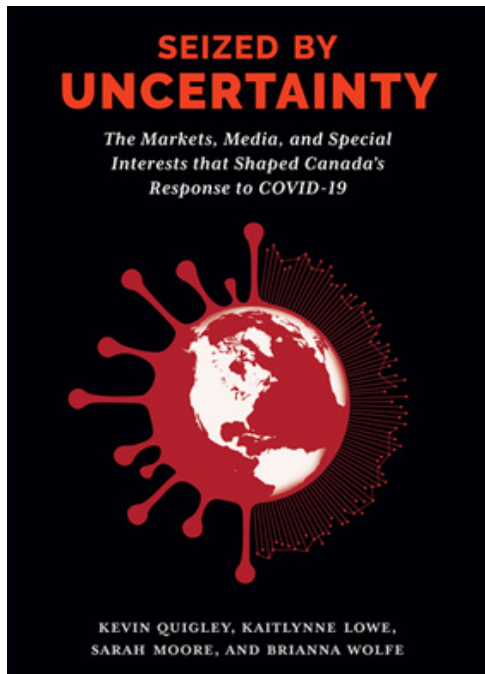
**419** hours watched

**MacEachen**  
INDEPENDENT. INFORMED.

# 2024 Highlights

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## Book Release: Seized by Uncertainty



### About the Book

*Seized by Uncertainty: The Markets, Media, and Special Interests that Shaped Canada's Response to COVID-19* examines how Canadian governments at various levels responded to the pandemic.

Co-authored by MacEachen Institute Scholarly Director Kevin Quigley and Institute research assistants Kaitlynne Lowe, Sarah Moore and Brianna Wolfe, the book is the result of research conducted in real time, beginning in March of 2020 as COVID-19 shut down public life in Canada and abroad.

*Seized by Uncertainty* was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in November 2024.

### MIPP Scholarly Director on Seized by Uncertainty

Co-author Kevin Quigley discusses the main themes of the book and shares key takeaways for readers. [More videos are available on the MacEachen Institute's website.](#)



**Dr. Kevin Quigley**  
Co-Author, *Seized by Uncertainty*  
Scholarly Director | MIPP

[Watch this video on YouTube.](#)

# 2024 Highlights

## Book Release: Seized by Uncertainty

CONTINUED

### Op-Eds

To promote *Seized by Uncertainty*, MacEachen Institute Scholarly Director Kevin Quigley wrote several op-eds connecting the themes of the book to current events and timely news stories.

#### In **THE CONVERSATION:**



[Friends like these: What a second Trump term may mean for the CDC, and how it affects Canada](#)

Nov. 4, 2024

[How scenario planning could help Canadian policymakers deal with American political chaos](#)

Nov. 4, 2024

[Trump's RFK Jr. nomination raises the stakes for media reporting on health](#)

Nov. 21, 2024

#### In **THE HILL TIMES:**

[A reluctance for post-pandemic learning](#)

Nov. 18, 2024

#### In **POLICY OPTIONS:**

[Classifying risk to prepare for disruptive threats](#)

Dec. 16, 2024

### BY THE NUMBERS

**123** roundtable participants

**34** panelists

**19** course speakers

**6** co-authors

### COVID-19 Research at the MacEachen Institute

*Seized by Uncertainty* is the culmination of four years of collaboration at the MacEachen Institute. It incorporates the testimonies and insights from experts in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, shared during panels, policy roundtables, and presentations organized by the MacEachen Institute. [Much of this research is available to access on the Institute's website.](#)

# 2024 Highlights

## Project Leads

### Dr. Talan İscan & Dr. Kathleen Kevany

Project: Aligning Canada's agriculture production incentives to encourage transition to healthier and more sustainable diets

Talan İscan's and Kathleen Kevany's research explores how agricultural subsidies can support local farmers, healthier diets, and environmental sustainability. [Read more about the project here.](#)



**Talan İscan**  
Faculty of Science



**Kathleen Kevany**  
Faculty of Agriculture

#### Media Coverage

[Nova Scotia researchers explore ways to support agricultural sector, meet climate goals and nutritional needs](#)

April 14, 2024 | *The Halifax Examiner*

[Canada's agricultural policies are falling short of health and sustainability goals](#)

Oct. 16, 2024 | *The Conversation Canada*

#### Policy Roundtable

On June 25, the MacEachen Institute hosted an agriculture policy roundtable featuring non-profit leaders, agricultural producers, health experts and policymakers from all levels of government to discuss initial findings from Dr. İscan's and Dr. Kevany's research project. After the roundtable, the MacEachen Institute published a briefing note detailing the findings from the session, [available here.](#)

*Left: Participants at agriculture roundtable, June 25, 2024.*



### Dr. Niki Kiepek

Dr. Niki Kiepek (School Occupational Therapy) was appointed a MacEachen Institute Project Lead in October 2024. Her research will integrate the knowledge and perspectives of people seeking mental health and addictions treatment in the healthcare system, with the goal of improving the system's support for vulnerable populations.

[Read more about the project here.](#)



**Niki Kiepek**  
Faculty of Health

# 2024 Highlights

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## Project Leads

CONTINUED

### Dr. Sarah Moore

Project: Amplifying voices of children and youth with disabilities to support their health and well-being through policy, practice, and research

Since being appointed as a Project Lead, Dr. Sarah Moore ( Health and Human Performance) has been working with Junior Fellows Amanda Higgins and Sofia So to support a youth-led advisory council, empowering youth with disabilities to participate in this research regarding their health and well-being. [Read more about the project here.](#)



**Sarah Moore**  
Faculty of Health



**Upcoming Activities:** Junior Fellows Amanda Higgins and Sofia Lo are organizers of the [Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference](#), to take place at Dalhousie University in March 2025. The MacEachen Institute will play an active role in sponsoring and supporting the conference. The Communications Officer will work closely with the Junior Fellows to plan and execute the conference's communications and stakeholder engagement strategy.

### Anthony Rosborough

Project: Understanding the technical and legal barriers to software-dependent medical device repair in Canadian hospitals (Unlocking Healthcare)

This project will draw awareness to the legal and regulatory challenges around medical device repair, and address the impact of those challenges on sustainability, healthcare delivery, and market competition. [Read more about the project here.](#)



**Anthony Rosborough**  
Schulich School of Law

**Upcoming Activities:** In May 2025, the MacEachen Institute will host a policy roundtable to support this research.

Media Coverage:

[Updates to Canada's Copyright Act bring consumers closer to the 'right to repair' your devices](#)  
Nov. 7, 2024 | *The Conversation Canada*

# 2024 Highlights

## MPA Courses

### Winter 2024: Allan MacEachen Memoirs Course

Through the generosity of Mr. MacEachen's estate, the Institute was given a unique opportunity to use Mr. MacEachen's unpublished memoirs to develop an MPA course. Perspectives on the Contributions of Allan J. MacEachen served as an opportunity to examine his many lasting contributions to public life in Canada through social and economic policy initiatives. The course featured 17 speakers, including academics, current and former elected officials, and members of Mr. MacEachen's former staff. [A complete list of course speakers is available on the Institute's website.](#)

In September 2024, the Cape Breton Post published a feature story about the course and the unpublished memoirs, including interviews with several course speakers and instructor Dr. Kevin Quigley. [Read the article here.](#)



### Fall 2024: Risks and Crises Course

For the Fall 2024 semester, the MacEachen Institute hosted Risks and Crises, a Master of Public Administration course co-taught by Kevin Quigley and Darrell Dexter. The course brought together experts and officials from various sectors and all orders of government to



MPA students with course instructors Darrell Dexter and Kevin Quigley, Nov. 19, 2024.

discuss different dimensions of risk governance. The 13 speakers included 8 academics from 6 different institutions, professionals from Public Health Ontario, the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, and several published authors. [A complete list of course speakers is available on the Institute's website.](#)

# 2024 Highlights

## Recent Grant Capture & Activities

### Accessible Tourism for People with Disabilities

Since 2020, the MacEachen Institute has been conducting SSHRC-funded research focused on improving the accessibility of tourism for people with disabilities. The comparative project examines the tourism industries in both Nova Scotia and Scotland, and is a partnership with the University of Strathclyde. [Read more about the project here.](#)



[Read the briefing note here.](#)

In Spring 2024, research participants met to finalize **12 recommendations** for policymakers aimed at improving the accessibility of the tourism industry. These recommendations are published in a [briefing note](#), available on the MacEachen Institute's website. These policy recommendations are based on the outcomes of two [scenario planning sessions](#) hosted by the MacEachen Institute in Fall 2023.

#### Media Coverage:

[How the N.S. tourism industry could better support people with disabilities](#)

July 18, 2024 | *CBC Info Morning Halifax*

[Accessible Tourism Recommendations](#)

July 18, 2024 | *CBC Info Morning Cape Breton*

### Accessibility Standards Canada: Evacuating People with Disabilities

In 2021, the MacEachen Institute received funding from Accessibility Standards Canada to study Evacuating Persons with Disabilities. The project analyzes four stages of evacuation - **communication and alert; transportation; shelter; and return to community** - with a focus on improvements for people with disabilities.

This work was completed in May 2024 with publication of the final report, Mass Evacuation and People With Disabilities, as well as briefing notes, presentations, and reports for each stage of evacuation. [Read all the reports here.](#)



[Read the final report here.](#)



# 2024 Highlights

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## Recent Grant Capture & Activities

CONTINUED



### CART Network Partnership with DalTRAC

The MacEachen Institute is a partner in the Dalhousie Transportation Collaboratory's Climate Action Research for Transportation (CART) Network. This \$3.6 million project, funded by Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund, is a national endeavour led by **Dr. Ahsan Habib** and DalTRAC in partnership with 3 academic and 14 organizational partners.



Former Mayor of Toronto David Miller delivers his keynote speech at CART showcase, Feb. 9, 2024.

#### Inaugural Research Showcase

The Institute supported the official launch of the CART Network, its inaugural Research Showcase held at the Halifax Central Library on Feb. 9, 2024. The event included a keynote speaker, former Mayor of Toronto David Miller, as well as a panel of local experts in the transportation and planning sectors. Opening remarks were provided by the Honourable Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change for the Province of Nova Scotia.

### Cybersecurity Training Program Launch: Dr. Srinivasa Sampalli



Dr. Srinivasa Sampalli with academic and industry partners at the project launch, Oct. 10, 2024.

The MacEachen Institute is a partner in the \$1.6 million project, "A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Research, Education, and Training in Cybersecurity for Emerging Technologies", led by **Dr. Srinivasa Sampalli** (Faculty of Computer Science). The project, funded by NSERC and industry partners, will train 200 students in new cybersecurity technologies, developing the workforce Canada needs to address emerging global cybersecurity threats. The MacEachen Institute will support training in cybersecurity policy and governance.

# 2024 Highlights

## Recent Grant Capture & Activities

CONTINUED

### Mass Evacuation Webinars with York University & Queen's University

**MASS EVACUATION SPEAKER SERIES**

# CHAIN REACTION

**The Role of Transportation and Humanitarian Supply Chains in Mass Evacuation Planning**

**Dr. M. Ali Ülkü**  
Centre for Research in Supply Chain Analytics, Dalhousie University

**Erica Fleck**  
Director of Emergency Management, Halifax Regional Municipality

**Dr. Ahsan Habib**  
Dalhousie Transportation Collaborator, Dalhousie University

**MAY 21, 2024**  
3PM ADT | 2PM EDT | 1PM CDT  
12PM MDT | 11AM PDT

Moderated by:  
**Dr. Aaida Mamuji**  
York University

Logos: Y-EMERGE, YORK U, MacEachen, cifal, unitor, Queens, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

In June and July, the MacEachen Institute partnered with emergency management research hubs CIFAL York and Y-EMERGE at York University, and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University, to host two webinars focused on different aspects of mass evacuation. The webinars, Mass Evacuation & First Nations and Chain Reaction: The Role of Transportation and Humanitarian Supply Chains in Mass Evacuation Planning, attracted over 300 attendees.

[Watch the recordings here.](#)

### Catalyzing Change in Health Systems

The MacEachen Institute will be partnering with Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Associate Dean (Medicine), on a CIHR-funded research project aimed at training public health professionals in emergency response measures. The project will commence in early 2025.



**Gaynor Watson-Creed**  
Faculty of Medicine

# About the MacEachen Institute

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Allan J. MacEachen, 1963.

The MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance at Dalhousie University is a nationally focused, non-partisan, interdisciplinary institute designed to support the development of progressive public policy and to encourage greater citizen engagement.

Named for the late Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, the Institute aims to build on Mr. MacEachen's legacy by promoting vigorous debate on progressive public policy issues.

[Read more about the MacEachen Institute here.](#)

## Governing Council Members

### **Mike Smit (Chair)**

Dean, Faculty of Management  
Dalhousie University

### **Jennifer Bain**

Associate Vice President, Research & Innovation  
Dalhousie University

### **Charles MacDonald**

Dean, Faculty of Science  
Dalhousie University

### **Jennifer Andrews**

Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
Dalhousie University

### **Sarah Harding**

Dean, Schulich School of Law  
Dalhousie University

### **Brenda Merritt**

Dean, Faculty of Health  
Dalhousie University

## Special Thank You:

### **Colin P. MacDonald, K.C.**

*Chair, MacEachen Institute External Advisory Council*  
Former senior staffer for Allan J. MacEachen  
Partner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (retired)

### **David A. Thompson**

*MacEachen Institute External Advisory Council*  
Owner, Weed Man Maritimes

## Contact Us:

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