“I LOVE WHAT YOU’RE DOING . . . STUDENTS HAVE HERE A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ENGAGED IN A CLASS THAT’S MEETING WITH REAL PEOPLE AROUND REAL ISSUES.”

— DR. WANDA THOMAS BERNARD, INDEPENDENT SENATOR
The MacEachen Institute plays a key role in advancing our understanding of Canadian democracy and civic engagement. It explores the ways in which citizens participate in electoral processes at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

Atlantic Canada has policy concerns that are unique in Canada. The MacEachen Institute supports research that explores and gives a voice to Atlantic Canada’s perspective in both a national and international context.

By rethinking health system design at the organizational, regional and federal levels, the MacEachen Institute aims to facilitate the redesign of complex health policy.

The MacEachen Institute examines the increasingly complex policies of critical infrastructure (CI) – the essential physical and cyber assets upon which we depend every day.
By facilitating workshops and conferences, hosting speakers and bringing together interested policy experts, stakeholders, faculty members and students, the Institute builds connections with the community and creates an impact with policy-focused research projects.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD RISKS

In anticipation of the centennial of the Halifax Explosion, the MacEachen Institute held two events focused on emergency management and disaster relief. The first, an emergency management round table with Pulitzer Prize winner Sheri Fink, welcomed students from the School of Public Administration, Journalism and the Health Law Institute, and representatives from the province to explore the ethical minefields of emergency response.

On the anniversary of the explosion, December 6, 2017, the Institute hosted Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi via video conference to discuss his role during the 2013 Alberta floods. Joining the mayor were emergency managers, public servants, Dalhousie researchers and students to pose their questions regarding emergency management planning and implementation.

CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

When important public policy decisions are on the horizon, the MacEachen Institute brings together experts and policy makers to discuss strategies and weigh options. With the federal government set to legalize cannabis edibles in the coming year, the Institute held a discussion with the NS Department of Justice, Darrell Dexter and Anne McLellan to share their expertise. The Institute has also hosted timely policy round tables on the value of commercial shipping to the Canadian economy, a code of conduct for seafood market states, and the issue of youth outmigration from Atlantic Canada.

TIMELY ROUND TABLES AND DISCUSSIONS
WEEKLY PANELS

In the fall of 2017, the MacEachen Institute ran the first Policy Matters speaker series, a weekly panel discussion on major policy issues. Each discussion featured thought leaders from civil society and focused on one of the Institute’s four research themes – Civic Engagement, Atlantic Canada and the World, Health Systems and Governance, and Smart Infrastructure. Held each Tuesday for nine weeks from September to November 2017, the discussions encouraged public engagement with local, national and international policy issues. All events were open to the public and live-streamed on Facebook Live.

ENGAGING TOPICS

The topics from 2017’s speaker series:

- Is Nova Scotia Ready for the Atlantic Immigration Pilot?
- All for One Nova Scotia? Perspectives on the Ivany Report
- The Tobacco Act, 1997
- Farms, Fisheries and Food: Canada’s Next Generation of Food Production
- Independent or Partisan? The Future of the Canadian Senate
- After the ‘Boom’: Re-Imagining Health Care After a Generation
- The Equity Myth: Diversity on University Campuses
- Half Empty or Half Full? The Outlook for the Canadian Water Sector
- Risk, Resilience and Critical Infrastructure
In the fall of 2017, Darrell Dexter began teaching a public policy course to second year graduate students in Dalhousie’s School of Public Administration. Expert guests joined Mr. Dexter and Institute Director Kevin Quigley to discuss and exchange views on important policy challenges with the class. The students worked in teams on policy challenges provided by the federal and provincial governments. Students crafted research papers on recent policy issues:

- Trade Opportunities in the European Union
- Regulating Cannabis Edibles
- Small Town Infrastructure Investments
- Decommissioning Infrastructure

“To be able to engage bright young people who have an interest in public policy development is something that I enjoy. Hopefully it will inspire people to see participation in the public service as something they’ll want to do.”

— DARRELL DEXTER, FORMER PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR FOR THE PROJECTS COURSE
LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS IN CIVIL SOCIETY

HONORARY DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Distinguished Fellows are leaders in civil society who have made significant contributions to the fields of public policy and governance.

The MacEachen Institute currently has two Honorary Distinguished Fellows, The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien and the Honourable Darrell Dexter.

JUNIOR FELLOWS

The Institute launched its Junior Fellows program on October 17, 2017 when PhD student Brittany Barber (Health) and Master’s student Andrew Lam (Sociology) were appointed. Junior Fellows contribute to the research, goals and learning culture of the Institute by supporting the development of progressive public policy.
“Racialized faculty actually report having more publications and more grants than non-racialized faculty. In other words, they are playing the game and they are playing it at a greater rate. [...] but they are not being rewarded”

— DR. HOWARD RAMOS, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, DALHOUSIE, SPEAKING AT OCTOBER 2017 POLICY MATTERS PANEL – THE EQUITY MYTH: DIVERSITY ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES
“We have a real opportunity to do things differently . . . We can be brave enough to shine light on all the things that aren’t working, all of the things that we need to fix, instead of just the status quo.”

— DR. PAM PALMATER, MI’KMAW LAWYER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST FROM EEL RIVER BAR FIRST NATION, CHAIR IN INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE, RYERSON UNIVERSITY

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

POLICY MATTERS
2018 SPEAKER SERIES

The successful first season of Policy Matters bodes well for another series in 2018 with new discussion topics, local, national and international panelists, and increased engagement from the community. With a federal election approaching in 2019, the MacEachen Institute aims to inform citizens and engage them on pressing issues, and the 2018 Policy Matters speaker series will be central to that discussion.

ISSUES ON THE RADAR

The MacEachen Institute is planning events for 2018 focused on the most pressing policy issues. Upcoming events will focus on:

- NAFTA and the future of international trade for Canada
- Rising oceans and emergency management
- First Nation-Crown relations
- Healthcare strategies for Nova Scotia
- Tax policy and public opinion
Mr. MacEachen’s extensive experience and success working within the Canadian political system resulted in a nationwide commitment to and belief in our democratic process. And it is this philosophy that drives the MacEachen Institute and its mandate of enhancing citizen engagement, encouraging voter participation and promoting good government policy to build a strong and progressive country for all Canadians.

“All Canadians are living in the country that Allan J. built. . . . Let us honour him by recommitting ourselves as Canadians to continuing his life’s work of hard things done well.”
—JUSTIN TRUDEAU, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, SPEAKING AT ALLAN J. MACEACHEN’S CELEBRATION OF LIFE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

“His style was graceful, his manner was collaborative, but don’t let that fool you. He possessed a steely toughness that could not be shaken.”
—DAVID DINGWALL, FORMER MP FROM CAPE BRETON, SPEAKING AT THE MACEACHEN INSTITUTE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

“Allan J. was someone who was really instrumental in shaping the lives that we live every day.”
—DANNY GRAHAM, FORMER LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF NOVA SCOTIA, SPEAKING AT THE MACEACHEN INSTITUTE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
“IF YOU LOOK AT THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SOCIAL POLICY OF THIS COUNTRY AND ASK YOURSELF WHO, MORE THAN ANY OTHER CANADIAN, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ARCHITECTURE ... IT IS ONE PERSON. IT IS ALLAN J. MacEACHEN.”

— THE HONOURABLE BOB RAE
EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The MacEachen Institute External Advisory Council comprises public servants, political figures and leaders in civil society. Members of the Council support the Institute by offering feedback on strategic direction, facilitating external interactions and supporting connections between Dalhousie and other public policy actors.

Megan Leslie (Chair), President and CEO of WWF-Canada, Former MP for Halifax and Deputy Leader of Canada’s Official Opposition

The Honourable Wayne G. Wouters, P.C., O.C., (Vice-Chair), Strategic and Policy Advisor at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Former Clerk of the Privy Council, Government of Canada

Doug Kirkpatrick, President, Heydon Strategies Inc. Founding Executive Director of the original MacEachen Institute for Policy & Government

Nathan Kroll, President and founder of Current Studios, Nova Scotia technology entrepreneur

Colin P. MacDonald, Q.C., Former senior staffer in Allan MacEachen's office, Recently retired corporate law partner at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Advisory Board member of the original MacEachen Institute for Policy & Government

Taleeb Noormohamed, President and Chief Operating Officer, Casaza Inc., Advisory Board member of the original MacEachen Institute for Policy & Government

Pamela Palmater, Mi’kmaw lawyer and social justice activist from Eel River Bar First Nation, Chair in Indigenous Governance, Ryerson University

The Honourable Bob Rae, P.C., C.C., O.Ont, Q.C., Partner at OKT LLP, Canada’s special envoy to Myanmar, Professor at University of Toronto, served as Ontario’s 21st premier from 1990 to 1995

Janice Gross Stein, C.M., O.Ont, FRSC, Founding Director of Munk School of Global Affairs and Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

David A. Thompson, Owner, Weed Man Maritimes, Founding Trustee of the For the Public Good Trust (2011)

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Quigley (Chair) – Scholarly Director, MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance

Jerry Bannister – Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Jamie Baxter – Assistant Professor of Law, Schulich School of Law

Corey Beals – Graduate Student, Faculty of Management

Andrew Berge – Graduate Student, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Mary Brooks – Professor Emerita, Faculty of Management

Katherine Fierlbeck – Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Kate Sherren – Associate Professor, Faculty of Management

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sylvain Charlebois (Chair) – Dean, Faculty of Management

Alice Aiken – Vice-President Research

Camille Cameron – Dean, Schulich School of Law

Frank Harvey – Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Brenda Merritt – Dean (Acting), Faculty of Health

David Thompson – Owner, Weed Man Maritimes, Founding Trustee of the For the Public Good Trust (2011)

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