

Robert Ian McAllister

Professor of Economics (retired)

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Profile

Ian McAllister continues to combine writing, teaching, periodic government and NGO advisory roles with occasional forays as a consultant in the private sector.

Writing

Many of Ian's professional interests are reflected in the books and articles he has written and/or edited. These include:

(Books authored by Ian)

- *Regional Development and the European Community: A Canadian Perspective*. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1982.
- *Projects for Relief and Development*. Geneva: Henry Dunant Institute, 1991 (also in Spanish and French).
- *Management for Development*. (co-author with Tom Kent). New York: University Press of America, 1985.
- *Sustaining Relief with Development: Strategic Issues for the Red Cross and Red Crescent*. Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1993.
- *Working with Neighbours: Universities as Partners in International Development*. Ottawa: Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 1996.
- *Through a Glass Darkly: From Disaster Relief to Modern Peacebuilding*. Cornwallis Park: Canadian Peacekeeping Press, 2002 (2nd ed. 2004).
- *The University as a Partner in Regional and International Development*. Pittsburg, Pennsylvania: Dorrance Publishing Co., 2015.
- *Projects in Search of Relief with Development*. New York: Linus Learning, 2016.
- *The University as a Partner in Relief with Sustainable Development* [In progress for 2024 publication review].

(Books edited by Ian)

- *Newfoundland and Labrador: The First Fifteen Years of Confederation*. (ed.). St. John's: Dicks and Co., 1965.
- *Six International Development Projects*. (ed.), Halifax: Centre for Development Projects, Dalhousie University, 1982.
- *Windows on the World*. (ed.), Halifax: Pearson Institute, Dalhousie University, 1993 (2nd ed. 1994).

- *Working with the Region: Universities as Partners in Regional Development*. (ed.). Halifax: Henson College, Dalhousie University, 1997.
- *The Future of Ocean Governance and Capacity Development: [Essays in Honor of Elisabeth Mann Borgese (1918 – 2002)]*, (co-editor). Leiden/Boston. Brill Nijhoff, 2018.

(As Author of Articles and Refereed Papers, including as a small sample):

- “On Issues and Initiatives: The International Red Cross in Times of Duress and Ambiguity,” *The Pearson Papers* (No. 9), Canadian Peacekeeping Press, (2nd ed. 2004).
- “Redefining the Role of Canadian Universities in International and Regional Development” (Guest Editorial), Ottawa: AUCC, *University Affairs/Uniworld*, February 2002.
- “The Social Sciences, Disasters and Relief Aid” and “The University as a Partner in Development,” in *UNESCO, World Social Sciences Report*, Paris, 1999.
- “On Ethics and the Peacekeeping Partners,” *Canadian Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 1999.
- “The Red Cross and the Environment,” in *Balance del Patrimonio* (Siglo XXI). Barcelona: University of Barcelona, 1991.
- “Breaking Out of the Ivory Tower,” “Re-Casting the Regions,” “Aid by Numbers,” “A New Atlantic Development Bank,” “Doors to the World,” “Better Aid,” “Regional Policy in the European Community,” “How to Re-Make DREE” – all in *Policy Options* over the period 1980-1992.
- “The Red Cross and Red Crescent: Development Challenges in the 1990s,” *Journal of Higher Education Policy*. Paris: Vol. 5, No. 1, March 1992.
- “The Role of a University in International Development: A Canadian Case,” *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 1988.
- “Economic Development and International Cooperation,” *Journal of Development and Administrative Studies* (Nepal), Vol. 9, No. 1, June 1987.
- “Canadian Aid for the Training of Public Servants in Ghana and Zimbabwe,” *Journal of Public Administration and Development*, (U.K.) Vol. 7, No. 3, 1987.
- “Post-War Approaches to Regional Development: Some Comparisons Between the Industrial West and Third-World Nations with Mixed Economies,” *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. VII, No. 2, 1985.
- “Newfoundland: From Dependency to Self-Reliance,” *Journal of Canadian Public Policy*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 1982.

(Author of Chapters in Books, edited by others. Sample includes):

- “Some Economic Problems of a Federal System,” in Lawrence Officer and L.B. Smith, *Issues in Canadian Economics*. Toronto: McGraw Hill Ryerson, 1974 (pp. 396-406).
- “Regional Development Policy in Canada: Four Questions,” in Robert A. Mundell and B.E. van Snellenberg, *Policy Formation in an Open Economy*. Waterloo: University of Waterloo, 1975 (pp. 207-218).
- “Canadian Program Experiences,” in N.H. Lithwick (ed.), *Regional Economic Policy: The Canadian Experience*. Toronto: McGraw Hill Ryerson, 1978 (pp. 346-359).

- “Assessment of Development Policies,” in S.D. Clark (ed.), *Problems of Development in Atlantic Canada*. Ottawa: The Royal Society of Canada, 1975 (pp. 127-141).
- “Regional Development: Experiences from the EEC,” in T.M. Shaw and Y. Tandon, *Regional Development at the National Level*, Vol. I, New York: University Press of America, 1985 (pp. 209-234).
- “From Disaster Relief to Human Security,” in M.V. Naidu, *Perspectives on Human Security*. Brandon: CPREA, 2001.

(As Author of Book Reviews. This small sample includes):

- Derek Bok, *The Politics of Happiness*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011 (in the *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*).
- Robert L. Tignor. *W. Arthur Lewis and the Birth of Development Economics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006, and also Sebastian Mallaby. *The World’s Banker*. London, Penguin Books (in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. XXVII, No. 3, 2006, pp. 420-23).
- Howard C. Clark, *Growth and Governance of Canadian Universities: An Insider’s View*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003 (in the *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*, Vol. 47, No. 3, 2004, pp. 418-20).
- Michael Ignatieff, *Empire Lite*. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2003 (in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. XXV, No. 3, 2004, pp. 514-15).
- Adrian Wood, Raymond Apthorpe, and John Borton (eds.), *Evaluating International Humanitarian Action*. London: Zed Books with ALNAP, 2001 (in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1, 2002, pp. 171-74).
- World Bank, *Assessing Aid* (in the *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*, Vol. 42, No. 2, 1999, pp 279-82).

For a more comprehensive list, see

<http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/faculty/science/economics/FacultyPaper/Papers%20on%20Reg%20and%20Intl%20Dev%20June%202011.pdf>

Teaching

Much influenced by the mentorship of several of his own teachers while at Oxford, teaching continues to be an immensely important privilege of Ian’s – even well after “official retirement”. His main teaching commitments (as a professor of economics) began at Dalhousie University in 1971, and he has retained appointments there ever since, albeit taking substantial leaves-of-absence for other undertakings as well. Other short-term/part-time teaching roles have taken him to numerous countries, including Indonesia, Nepal, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Costa Rica, many European nations, and universities in various other parts of Canada and the USA. Periodic administrative roles have also been hinged to his teaching, including chair of the Dalhousie Economics Department, chair of the Pearson Institute’s Board, director of Dalhousie’s (former) Centre for Development Projects, and Chair of Dalhousie’s senate committee on international development. He was responsible for designing and overseeing the evolution of Dalhousie’s MDE program, which has now generated some 300 graduates. Perhaps his most ‘pioneering’ graduate class at Dalhousie has been running since 1992, ‘From Disaster

Relief to Development.’ A substantial number of student publications, theses and other initiatives have been among the offsprings. He has had the privilege of supervising to completion some 150 theses.

Public Service

Ian’s main public service activities have focused on regional development, overseas aid and several sectors (including energy, ocean governance and aspects of public finance). He has served on two Royal Commissions (as a commissioner on the Canadian Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing [1984-86] and as the secretary and economic adviser to the Royal Commission on Newfoundland’s Economic Prospects [1965-67]). From 1962-65 he was the Provincial Economist, Newfoundland Government; from 1968-71, he headed the regional development unit of the Canadian Finance Ministry. Government advisory committee appointments have included to the Minister of External Relations on Canadian aid to Africa, a Canadian minister of industry’s industrial incentives committee, a premier of Nova Scotia’s board of economic advisors, a mayor of Halifax’s task force on the development of HRM, as special adviser on rural electrification policy to Newfoundland’s board of public utilities, and on the economics of Fundy tidal power to a Canadian Energy Minister. He has been an invited contributor to a variety of Canadian boards and commissions, as well as to the OECD and to UN agencies on various policy issues discussed in his books and papers (including on the European Union and its regional policies, on the roles of universities in development, and on the effectiveness of a cross-section of particular projects and foreign aid programs).

Non-Governmental Organizations

Ian’s NGO experience has been dominated by his work with the Red Cross. From 1989-91 he was the (full-time) senior development adviser (and development department head) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva. He has subsequently retained a profound commitment to the work of that Movement and has written quite extensively about issues relating to the fragile links between relief and sustainable recovery. He represented the IFRC on over 30 international missions – from the Rio Earth Summit in Brazil to UN events in New York and Paris, from crisis situations in Romania, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia, to advisory work in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Perhaps his most enduring contribution may prove to have been an outcome of the various training workshops he has designed and contributed to.

Other NGO experiences have been most substantially with Canada’s erstwhile Pearson Peacekeeping Training Centre, on which he also served as a part-time faculty member (1995-2005), and for which he taught in various settings (including at the Royal Military College, Toronto, and the Romanian Military Academy, Bucharest), as well as at Cornwallis Park and Ottawa. Additional roles have been with a First Nations Development Council, the International Ocean Institute (as chair of the IOI-Canada Board 2010-13) and as a speaker for NGOs, including Olympic Aid, the Henry Dunant Institute (Geneva) and at a variety of Economic Associations’ conferences. Among Atlantic region boards and NGO councils, he has at various times served on those of Armbrae Academy, the Nova Scotia Red Cross, Peaceful Schools International, APEC, APRB, the Halifax YMCA, and the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association.

More recent awards include:

- Member of Honour, National Red Cross of Romania (2000)
- Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2003)
- Dalhousie University Economics Teaching Award (2010)
- LL. D (Honoris Causa) Dalhousie University (2015)

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