



## Director's Message

Fall is a busy season for the Local Government Program. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, our Alumni Society will host its annual conference – always an exciting event, and a great opportunity to re-connect with colleagues. Later that same day, we will celebrate the achievements of our newest MPA and DPA graduates with our fall convocation and awards reception. And on November 21<sup>st</sup>, alumni of our Toronto DPA program will host the fifth edition of their own remarkably successful half-day conference. You will find details of both conferences inside this newsletter.

The LGP continues to grow and change. In response to evolving demand for local government education, we have transitioned our DPA programs to the Graduate level. We have already welcomed the first Graduate DPA students to our on-campus, City of London and GTA programs, and we are finalizing arrangements for the launch of the Toronto Graduate DPA program in the near future.

In other big news, this year marks the retirement of Professors Bob Young and Andrew Sancton. For many years, Andy and Bob have been at the very heart of the LGP. They have taught hundreds of local government administrators, and supervised dozens of Research Reports. They both played a central role in launching the MPA in 1991, and Andy served as Director of the Program for nearly 20 years. We will miss them. Inside this newsletter, you will find a brief profile of Bob; we will feature Andy in our next issue.

We are delighted that several new Faculty have recently become involved with the Local Government Program. Professors Zack Taylor and Joe Lyons have both started teaching in the program over the last couple of years; Chris Alcantara and Rob Leone will be doing so starting in 2017. I'd like to thank them – and all of our instructors – for devoting their time, talent and energy to make this an exceptional program.

I'd also like to welcome Leha Huffman. Leha joined us this past spring in an administrative role, and together with Josh Morgan carries out vital program support duties.

In the following pages you'll find information about some of our many activities, including our Distinguished Scholars in Residence Program, and our Local Governance Seminar Series. Happy reading, and my best wishes for a great fall to everyone in the LGP community!

- Martin Horak

*“Western’s Local Government Program introduced students to powerful academic theories like New Public Service. This one idea reinforced in me how important it is for elected officials and bureaucrats to treat their work as a vocation, and the need to develop, implement and manage quality public-sector programs with the goal to improve the health and well-being of all residents in a community.”*  
- Michael Genova, MPA

## Local Governance Seminar Series

Established in 2012, this speaker series has featured more than 20 presentations to date. Some Local Governance Seminars highlight innovative research by Western and visiting academics, while others feature prominent practitioners in the field. The talks are open to the public.

Our next LGS talk is “Governance Quality at the Local Level: Meaning and Measurement”, by Professor Zack Taylor. It will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm in SSC 4255. Please join us in person, or via live stream on our YouTube channel, where you can also view past seminars: [LGS YouTube Channel](#)



### Dan Mathieson – 2016 Distinguished Practitioner in Residence

The Local Government Program’s Distinguished Practitioner in Residence (DPR) program is designed to give students and others in the LGP community the opportunity to learn from an individual with an outstanding record of public sector leadership. Former London Councillor and Mayor Joni Baechler served as our first-ever DPR in 2015.

Our 2016 Practitioner is four-time Mayor of Stratford and MPA Alumnus Dan Mathieson. Dan has brought his passion and his expertise to numerous classes, speaking on topics that include policy making, the role of council, and strategic planning. In addition, last spring he presented on the subject of university – community relations in the Local Governance Seminar series, and hosted a policy forum on connected and autonomous cars in the Issues in Local Government course.

## New Research Partnership with Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Local Government Program, in partnership with Ontario’s Ministry of Municipal Affairs, is currently engaged in research that examines leading practices in efficient service delivery among Ontario municipalities. The purpose is to understand how Ontario municipalities can realize cost savings in service delivery without reducing service levels. The work will result in a publicly accessible set of case studies and analyses, which will serve as a resource for Ontario municipalities. The research is led by Andrew Sancton and Martin Horak, supported by a research team made up of Rachna Goswami, Umera Ali and Melihate Limani. We look forward to releasing the results of this work in the spring of 2017.

### LGP Faculty

2015-2016

*Andres Perez  
Andy Sancton  
Bill Irwin  
Bob Young  
Carol Agocs  
Carol-Lynn Chambers  
Catherine Burr  
Jennifer Kirkham  
Joe Lyons  
John Ballantine  
Kelley Coulter  
Ken Strong  
Laura Stephenson  
Martin Horak  
Tara Oudekerk  
Ursula Stelman  
Zack Taylor*

# A Profile of Robert Young

Robert A. Young is one of Canada's most accomplished political scientists. After receiving his BA and MA degrees from McGill and studying for a year at the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris, he graduated in 1980 with a DPhil in Politics from Oxford University. His thesis was entitled 'Development, Planning and Participation in New Brunswick: 1945-1975'. Bob joined Western's Political Science department in 1981. Since then he has produced a remarkably diverse range of significant scholarly publications. In 1988 he won the CHR prize for the best article in the *Canadian Historical Review* and in 1996 the Douglas Purvis Memorial Prize for the best work on Canadian Economic Policy. His 1995 book on *The Secession of Quebec and the Future of Canada* is widely recognized as the definitive work on the subject in both Quebec and the rest of Canada. From 1996 to 2000 he was Chair of our Department. In 2003-04, he served as president of the Canadian Political Science Association, the only Western professor ever to be so honoured.

Bob Young taught in Western's MPA program from its beginnings in the early 1990s. As a member of the original MPA committee, he was largely responsible for designing the scheduling and sequencing of courses that is still in use today. In 2003 he was appointed as a Canada Research Chair in Multilevel Governance. In this capacity he won a major collaborative research grant to study Public Policy in Municipalities, the largest academic research and publishing enterprise ever conducted involving Canadian municipal government. In 2015 Western awarded him the Hellmuth Prize for outstanding contributions to research. Bob's retirement in June 2016 is a major loss to Western's Local Government Program, but his contributions to Canadian political science will last for years to come.

- Andrew Sancton

## The LGP: Bob's Perspective

### How did you get involved with the LGP?

I came here to teach public policy, and Allan O'Brien and Andy Sancton and Hans Hosse invited me to get involved with their proposal to establish an MPA program.

### What was your main area of focus?

Research methods and statistics. There was no one else who could teach these fields.

### Where would you like to see the future of the LGP go?

I think it should take advantage of its monopoly in the local-government field, and expand. We have a deep concentration of expertise, and a great reputation.

### What advice do you have for future faculty or students of the LGP?

Treasure the program and your chance to work within it.

### What was the best thing about working for the LGP at Western?

The students have been a pleasure and an inspiration. I have learned so much from them!

### What is your favorite memory from working with the LGP or Western in general?

Designing a schedule that accommodated both the 1-year full time and the 3-year part time programs. Seeing the students conduct sophisticated research to answer important questions. They can be very, very capable.



# Alumni Conference 2016 – Street Level: Connecting Government to Community

**Friday, October 28, 2016**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

London Public Library, Central Branch, Citi Plaza, 251 Dundas St, London, ON

Please join us for Western's Local Government Program Alumni Society 2016 annual conference. This year's theme is **Street Level: Connecting Government to Community**.

Our keynote speaker will be **Sam Tsemberis**, the founder and executive director of **Pathways to Housing**, a Housing First program for individuals with serious mental illnesses, long histories of homelessness.

We also invite you to join us for **Cocktails & Conversation**, a networking reception taking place at YOU Made It Café, 332 Richmond Street, London, on the Thursday evening prior to the conference. The guest speaker will be **Steve Cordes, BA'84, Executive Director, Youth Opportunities Unlimited**. There is no additional fee to attend Cocktails & Conversation. [Registration](#)

## 6th Annual City of Toronto DPA Conference

This sixth annual Diploma in Public Administration Conference is being organized by City of Toronto graduates of Western University's Local Government Program and the Corporate Learning & Leadership Development Unit in Human Resources **on Monday, November 21, 9 a.m. – noon in Toronto City Hall's Council Chamber**.

**Workforce 20/20 – Transforming the Toronto Public Service** is the topic for this year to gain a better understanding of the vision and plan for the Toronto Public Service.

Dr. Martin Horak, Associate Professor of Political Science & Director, Local Government Program, Western University will lead a panel discussion with public and private sector experts. They will share their expertise on how they are transforming their organizations in response to changing public expectations and needs.

- Rukmini Madduluri

### Contact Us

#### Local Government Program

Department of Political Science  
The University of Western Ontario  
Room 4154, Social Science Centre  
London, ON N6A 5C2  
t: 519-661-2111  
f: 519-661-3904  
w: <http://localgovernment.uwo.ca/>



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)