

History and Policy Work

University of Prince Edward Island
Careers for History
Main Building 117

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Agriculture and Fisheries

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Deputy Minister

Finance

Policy and Agriculture Resources

Aquaculture and Labs

Marine Fisheries, Agri-/Seafood and Regulatory Services

Farm Business Risk

Manager of Policy, Planning, and FPT Relations

FPT Policy Coordinator

FPT Policy Coordinator

Aquaculture and Fisheries Policy Coordinator

Trade Policy Analyst

Agri-Food Systems Coordinator

Undergraduate
History
Honours, UPEI,
2009

Masters in
Public Policy,
Ryerson, 2010

PhD Student:
Public Policy,
Ryerson
University, 2012-
Present

Contract:
Veterans Affairs
Canada

Contract:
Department of
Agr. & Fisheries
(Policy Analyst)

Undergrad
Travel:
Kenya and
Malta

Work Abroad:
Saudi Arabia

Contract:
PEI Association
for Newcomers
to Canada, 2013

Contract:
Health PEI

Present: Manager of Policy, Planning & FPT Relations (permanent)
PhD Student, Public Policy, Ryerson University



29 September 2015

Honourable Alan McIsaac
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
Government of Prince Edward Island
5th Floor Jones Building
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Dear Minister McIsaac,

I have been honoured to welcome you to your new role as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and as a member of our Cabinet team, and for the collaborative work we have begun in the past few months. Together, we will work to fulfill the trust that islanders have placed in us to lead with integrity and purpose, as we build a prosperous, caring and engaged society for the people of Prince Edward Island. We have a clear and coherent plan to enhance PEI's quality of life, to advance our economic growth, and to build strong community across our Island, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne, and your Department will play an important part in achieving those goals.

As a Government, we are committed to openness and transparency, and to the highest standards of ethical conduct in our decision-making and governance processes. We will be accountable for our actions, and we will increase opportunities for islanders to engage in shaping our future path and in carrying out the work of Government. You and your colleagues play a crucial role in fulfilling those commitments.

I look to you to ensure adherence to the strengthened measures that are being put in place for expense disclosure by Ministers and senior officials; to be frugal in conducting your duties; to deal with citizens and clients in a fair, transparent and balanced way; and to ensure open, merit-based processes for hiring and board appointments within your area of responsibility.

I also encourage you to commit to making sure that Prince Edward Island Government services can be easily accessed by our citizens, community groups and businesses. As we work internally and with regional governments to reduce unnecessary regulation and improve service delivery, I welcome your ideas and leadership.

Context

- DAF's mandate:
 - Support the growth and sustained development of all elements of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture on PEI.
- Policy Section's Mandate:
 - **Plan and develop** agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries, policies and programs .
 - Provide evidence-based research **advice** to the Minister, Deputy Minister and staff.
 - Plan and deliver stakeholder **engagement** activities, strategic **planning**, program **evaluation**, and **horizontal** initiatives.
 - Manage the **coordination of information** to and from various federal-provincial-territorial policy and program groups.

Policy Work

- **Public Policy:**

- A broad concept
- Goals or intents; standing decisions; guides to discretionary action; problem-solving strategies; sanctioned behaviors; norms of conduct; the out-put of the policy-making system; and constructions based on experience (Guba, 1984 pp. 64 - 65).

- **Policy Work**

- Policy work is knowledge work.
- “Public policy work is undertaken by any actor (individual or collective) that seeks to shape policy processes and outcomes” (Colebatch, 2006, p. 199).
- Governments, NGOs, universities, think tanks, researchers, the media, advocacy groups, business etc.

A Prognosis of Policy History: Stunted: Or Deceivingly Vital? A Brief Reply to Hugh Davis Graham

Author(s): Donald T. Critchlow

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (Autumn, 1993), pp. 50-61

The Stunted Career of Policy History: A Critique and an Agenda

Author(s): Hugh Davis Graham

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Spring 1993), pp. 15-37

The Myth and Reality of Policy History: A Response to Robert Kelley

Author(s): Martin Reuss

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Winter, 1988), pp. 41-49

**Needs
updating!**

The Idea of Policy History

Author(s): Robert Kelley

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Winter, 1988), pp. 35-39

Public Policy and the History Collaborative

Author(s): Stephen P. Crosby

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Spring 2010), pp. 82-89

Historians and Policymaking: A View from inside the Beltway

Author(s): Martin Reuss

Source: *The Public Historian*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (Autumn, 1993), pp. 69-75

Review: Historians and Policy Making

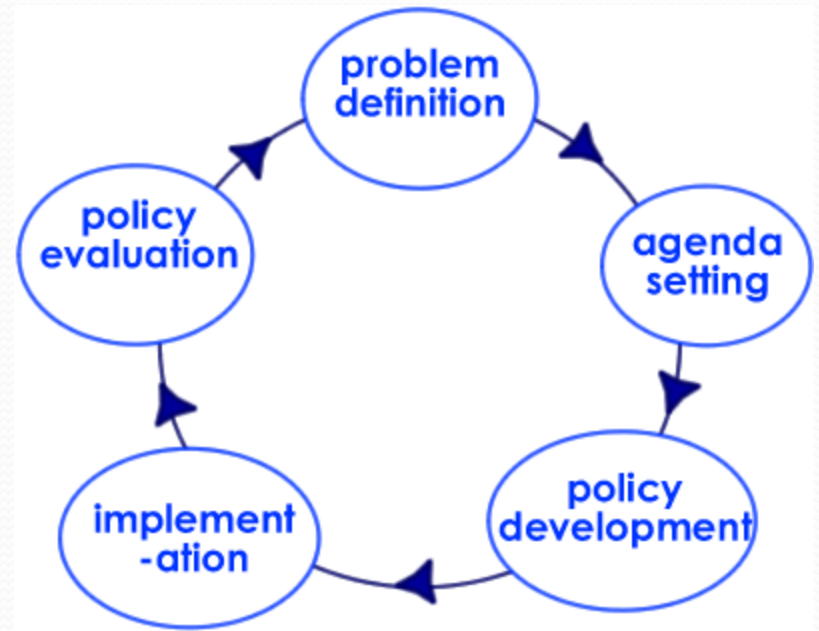
Reviewed Work(s): History and Educational Policymaking by Maris A. Vinovskis

Review by: John L. Rury

Source: *American Journal of Education*, Vol. 107, No. 4 (Aug., 1999), pp. 321-327

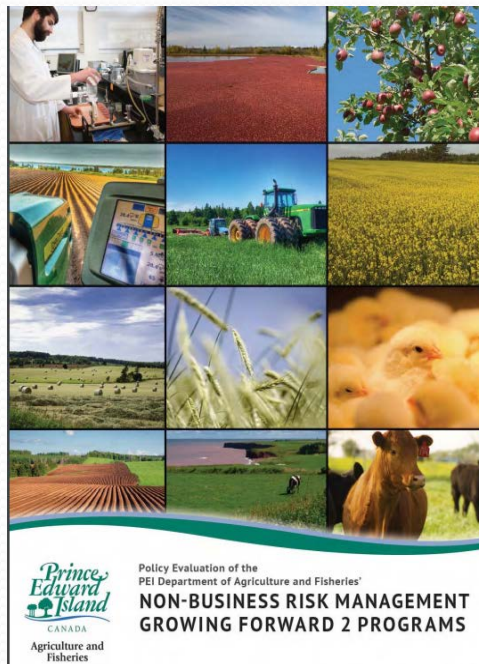
History

- Historical research skills are often *implicit* in the policy process but are **important**.
- History can be used to **unravel complexities** related to past decisions made by government.
- **Archival research** is vital to understand complexity.
- Decision-makers often ask for issues and problems to be **clarified**.
- Policy is often told in sets of “**stories**” (Stone, 2012).



Program Evaluations

- Programs must be described and placed in their appropriate developmental contexts (*Canadian Evaluation Society, Competency 3.2*)



1.2 Programs Context


Agriculture has been an important aspect of Canadian society since prior to confederation (Fowke, 1946: 3). Section 95 of the *Constitution Act* provides that provincial and federal governments both have jurisdiction in relation to agriculture. As such, agriculture in Canada is a shared public policy jurisdiction between federal, provincial, and territorial governments (Carr, 1962: 158). Present day agriculture administration continues to involve high levels of cooperation with federal, provincial and territorial governments and stakeholders as demonstrated in the GF2 initiative.

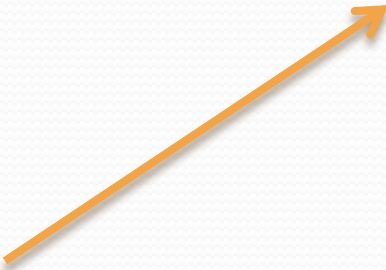
1.2.1. Federal Context

In July 2008, the federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments announced the signing of a five-year agreement on agriculture called *Growing Forward*, a strategic framework encompassing the policies and programs put in place to support the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector (2009-2013). *Growing Forward* replaced Canada's original agriculture policy, the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). GF2 is an extension of *Growing Forward*, and the GF2 Policy Objectives are based on a range of social and economic research, stakeholder engagement and other FPT discussions. The development of these Policy Objectives involved public hearings between October

Briefing Notes

- One-page information summaries explicitly include background information related to a topic.

 <p>Prince Edward Island Agriculture and Fisheries CANADA</p>	Date
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Contact Information	
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Archival Searching

- Searching government archives for past policies and their evaluations provides guidance for decision-making.

The screenshot shows the website for the Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office. The header includes the Prince Edward Island logo and the text 'PUBLIC ARCHIVES AND RECORDS OFFICE'. A search bar is visible in the top right. Below the header is a banner image featuring historical documents and buildings. A navigation menu on the left lists: 'PARO Collections Database', 'Online Exhibits', 'Digitized Architectural Plans', 'Copyright', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area includes a 'Public Archives and Records Office' title, a 'Search Archives' button, and an 'Important Notice' section. The notice states: 'The Public Archives and Records Office website is moving to the new Government of Prince Edward Island website at princeedwardisland.ca.' It also provides contact information: 'If you have questions about Public Archives material on princeedwardisland.ca, please contact us at archives@gov.pe.ca or (902) 368-4290.' Winter hours are listed as: Monday: CLOSED, Tuesday to Friday: 10:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday evening: 6:30pm-9:00pm. There are also links for 'Search PARO Collections Database' and 'Search Memory PEI to explore our finding aids'. The ACPEI logo is at the bottom.



Storytelling

- Communicating the intention of a policy or program decision is often done in the context of “story-telling”.

News



Feedback wanted on agriculture policy

Islanders are invited to comment on the next federal, provincial, and territorial agriculture policy framework set to launch April 1, 2018.

The province's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting online feedback throughout February and March in English and French at [Next Agricultural Policy Framework](#). Feedback received will help the department develop programming and initiatives for the next framework covering 2018 to 2023, that will replace the current one known as Growing Forward 2.

“Government is committed to encouraging active participation of farmers, industry, and residents in the development of department programs and policies,” Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Alan McIsaac said. “The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries encourages Islanders to weigh in on some of the critical issues that will affect one of our most vital sectors for years to come.”

Islanders are invited to provide their input on programs or initiatives for the following priority areas:

- markets and trade;
- science, research and innovation;
- environmental sustainability and climate change;
- value-added agriculture and agri-food processing; and
- public trust.

These priority areas are outlined in the Calgary Statement and were released by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture in July 2016.

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History, final thoughts.....

- Public policy can benefit from historical methods.
 - Contextualizes decision-making
 - Shows long-term trends
- Historical “story-telling” helps to provide information to decision-makers and a public whom are often inundated with data, facts, and “hard evidence”.
- Literature researching, writing, and communication skills are thus imperative.
- When job searching it is important to articulate the historical research *skills* you have developed.

References

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