Responsive Government Policy for the Future

900 Bay Street, Second Floor, Ontario Room, Macdonald Block
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
On behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 MAESD Policy Research Symposium, *Responsive Government Policy for the Future*. Through this Symposium, I hope that you gain a greater understanding of both Ontario’s changing landscape and how the Ministry plans to respond to these changes. Today you will hear from researchers, academics, policy-makers, and other leading experts in the areas of postsecondary education, the labour market and adult training.

The theme of this Symposium, *Responsive Government Policy for the Future* reflects our goal of providing innovative solutions to Ontarians in a time of rapidly shifting needs in a transformative economy. As the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Workforce Policy and Innovation Division, I am guiding the government’s plan to develop a workforce development strategy that supports Ontarians through this period of transition. We are building a workforce informed by many of the topics that will be highlighted in the panel dialogues today. The sessions today will focus on increasing access to postsecondary education and employment for disadvantaged groups, creating partnerships to retain Ontario’s entrepreneurship and talent, recognizing Indigenous Institutes, and better understanding the impact of automation on the future of work.

Looking ahead, Ontario is facing many challenges in terms of the potential impacts that the transforming economy has on the nature
of work. Connecting with the research community and policymakers can help us to better understand the opportunities available in this changing landscape. We can also find ways to leverage our strengths and open doors for citizens to pursue their dreams.

I would also like to recognize the winners of the Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge who are joining us today for the Award Ceremony. This year’s award-winning researchers have explored areas of inquiry relevant to policy issues, such as labour market forecasts, school to work transitions, and skills gaps in postsecondary institutions.

Please join me in congratulating the winners of the Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge!

Enjoy the day.

Erin McGinn
ADM, Workforce Policy and Innovation Division
8:30 am – 9:00 am  Registration and Coffee
9:00 am – 9:10 am  Welcoming Remarks
9:10 am – 10:00 am  Keynote Address
10:00 am – 10:15 am  Break
10:15 am – 11:00 am  Labour Market Information: Workforce Strategy
11:00 am – 11:15 am  Break
11:15 am – 12:00 pm  Postsecondary Education and the Labour Market: Access
                     Enabling Technologies
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm  Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge Award Ceremony
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm  Lunch Break
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm  Recognizing Indigenous Institutes
                     Talent and Entrepreneurship in Postsecondary Education Institutions and Beyond

* Concurrent sessions
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm  Break
2:15 pm – 2:55 pm  Fire-side Chat – Automation and the Labour Market
2:55 pm – 3:00 pm  Closing Remarks
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  Networking Café
AGENDA

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Registration and Coffee

9:00 am – 9:10 am
Welcoming Remarks

Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD)

9:10 am – 10:00 am
Keynote Address: Building a Highly-Skilled Workforce

Craig Alexander, Senior Vice-President
and Chief Economist
Conference Board of Canada

In his keynote address, through a blend of labour market trends and policy perspectives, Mr. Alexander will highlight the ongoing trends and future opportunities for Ontario’s workforce. He will build on his current role at the Conference Board of Canada, as well as his previous experience as Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist for TD Bank Group, and as an Economist at Statistics Canada.
10:00 am – 10:15 am
Break

10:15 am – 11:00 am
Labour Market Information: Workforce Strategy

This panel will highlight building a highly skilled workforce. Panelists will discuss how governments, educational organizations, and the private sector can promote lifelong learning and skills development, as well as develop workforce strategies that respond to changes in Ontario’s economy, such as the increase in participation rates for older workers and precarious employment.

Chair: Catherine Chandler-Crichlow
President & Chief Human Capital Officer
3C Workforce Solutions

Steven Tobin, Executive Director
Labour Market Information Council

Jamison Steeve, Executive Director
Martin Prosperity Institute and the Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity

Angella MacEwen, Senior Economist
Canadian Labour Congress
11:00 am – 11:15 am
Break

11:15 am – 12:00 pm (Concurrent session)
Postsecondary Education and the Labour Market: Access

The focus of this talk is on access to postsecondary education and the labour market. Panelists will discuss some of the most effective strategies and approaches for mobilizing information and building partnerships. It will highlight best practices to increase access to postsecondary education and training opportunities for hard-to-reach student populations and how this impacts labour market participation.

Chair: David Bartucci, Director
Partnerships and Implementation Branch
MAESD

Julian Kitchen, Professor
Department of Teacher Education
Brock University

Mahadeo Sukhai, Head of Research and Chief Accessibility Officer
Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Lance McCready, Associate Professor
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto

Helen Tewolde, Senior Researcher and Manager
Centre for Equitable Access, Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
11:15 am – 12:00 pm (Concurrent session)
Enabling Technologies

How can program design and delivery be responsive to the speed and scope of change due to automation, and support re-skilling and up-skilling for the changing labour market? The discussion will focus on both challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies and how government can respond to drive policy innovation forward.

Chair: Zoë Kroeker, Director
Postsecondary Education Policy Branch
MAESD

Matthias Oschinski, Director
Innovation Economics, MaRS

Benji Sucher, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Layer 6 AI at Layer 6 AI
TD Bank Group

Sarah Doyle, Director of Policy and Research
Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge

A W A R D
C E R E M O N Y

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Erin McGinn, Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division
MAESD, Emcee

Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister
MAESD
Introductory Remarks and Award Distributor
Awish Aslam is a second year PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Western University. Her winning brief is entitled “School-to-Work Transitions among Second-Generation Immigrants”. Awish’s research interests include the social and economic integration of second-generation immigrants in Canada, migration and ethnic relations, and the sociology of work. Her MA thesis highlights the same work as her winning brief, and the focus of her PhD dissertation is the work experiences of second-generation Canadian Muslim women.
Patrick Gill recently completed his Masters of Arts in Public Policy and Administration through Ryerson University on a part-time basis. His winning brief is entitled, “A Labour Market Forecast for the Toronto Region’s Construction Activity”. As the Senior Manager of Policy with the Toronto Region Board of Trade, Patrick’s passion and purpose is to make Toronto a more globally competitive city-region. To this end, Patrick recently authored an international market prioritization study for the City of Toronto, a best practices toolkit for how cities, including Toronto, should partner with other cities world-wide, and a concept paper, entitled “Superlinx”, that rethinks transit governance for Toronto and the region.
Shannon McKechnie is a Master’s student in education policy at Western University. Her winning brief is entitled, “Addressing the Skills Gap with Student Affairs Practitioners”. She previously completed a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her current research explores how provincial-level policy related to workplace skills development in postsecondary students is enacted at the institutional level by engaging with staff in the field of student affairs and services in higher education institutions in Canada. Shannon is interested in broader issues of student success and student development in postsecondary education, and how these are affected by institutional, provincial, and national policy.
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm
Lunch Break

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm (Concurrent session)
Recognizing Indigenous Institutes

This session centres on the *Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017* and its implications across government and Indigenous Institutions. The panelists will focus on co-creation and how it was applied to the development of the Act. This will offer insights on the successes in this area, as well as the challenges faced, and lessons learned.

**Chair: Arnold Blackstar**, Director
Indigenous Education Branch
MAESD

**Jean-Guy Fréchette**, Executive Director
Aboriginal Institutes Consortium

**Rosie Mosquito**, Chair
Aboriginal Institutes Consortium and
Executive Director, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win
Education and Training Institute

**Shannon Chace**, Legal Director
Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Education
and MAESD

**Janet Chow**, Counsel
Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Education
and MAESD
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm (Concurrent session)
Talent and Entrepreneurship in Postsecondary Education Institutions and Beyond

This talk addresses attracting and retaining talent and entrepreneurship in postsecondary education institutions and connecting these efforts to the labour market. Panelists will discuss entrepreneurship programming in postsecondary education, barriers faced by women in accessing entrepreneurship opportunities, and how co-operative education can boost the participation of marginalized communities in the labour market.

Chair: James Brown, Director
Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Secretariat, MAESD

Beatrix Dart, Professor of Strategy and Executive Director, Initiative for Women in Business, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

Dave Drewery, Research Coordinator, Waterloo Centre for the Advancement of Co-Operative Education, University of Waterloo

Creso Sá, Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Centre for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Break
2:15 pm – 2:55 pm
Fire-side Chat
Automation and the Labour Market

This one-on-one discussion will highlight the challenges and opportunities surrounding the effect of automation on Ontario’s labour market. The two experts will discuss the Mowat Centre report Sunil co-authored on the effects of automation on the economy, and training programs and policies that support workers.

Sunil Johal, Policy Director
The Mowat Centre, School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto

Jay Porter, Director
Strategy and Innovation Branch
Ontario Cabinet Office

2:55 pm – 3:00 pm
Closing Remarks

Kristie Pratt, Director
Information Management and Strategy Branch
MAESD

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Networking Café
EVENT COMMITTEE

Helen Cranley
Manager

Ciara Hart
Research Analyst

Juhi Sujan
Research Analyst

Labour Market Information and Research Unit
Information Management and Strategy Branch,
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development