

Public Policy Institute

Ida Goodreau Alumni Award



Working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island

2020 Recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award

Jennifer Breakspear
Executive Director, SARA for Women Society
PPI Grad, Class of 2013



Jennifer Breakspear is a prolific non-profit leader in British Columbia and a graduate of the Public Policy Institute's Class of 2013. A true trailblazer and changemaker in the non-profit sector, Jennifer is also the first recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award.

Jennifer is an alum of the Public Policy Institute Class of 2013 and at that time was the Executive Director at Options (Opt) for Sexual Health. As part of her studies at the Public Policy Institute, Jennifer focused on the public health policy initiative of implementing a province-wide HPV vaccination program for all school-aged children to decrease the prevalence of cervical cancer.

Jennifer's extensive career as a non-profit leader also includes her current role as Executive Director at SARA for Women in the Fraser Valley, and previous roles as Executive Director at QMUNITY – BC's Queer Resource Centre and at PHS Community Services Society in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

In addition to her current role at SARA, Jennifer also supports leadership in the non-profit sector as a consultant through her firm, Breakspear Leadership and Training and also as an instructor for SFU Continuing Studies Non-Profit Management Program.

2021 Recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award

Sherry Edmunds-Flett
Executive Director, L.I.N.C
Long-Term Inmates Now In the Community
PPI Grad, Class of 2014



Sherry attended the Public Policy Institute in 2014 on behalf of L.I.N.C. and her project focused on the District of Mission's food strategy. Fast-forward seven years later, L.I.N.C. now manages Emma's Acres which is a nationally recognized, award-winning agricultural social enterprise. Emma's Acres provides offenders with employment skills and reintegration supports as they are transitioned out of prison. It also serves as a place of healing for survivors of serious crime and both these groups, work alongside community members. The farm seeks to enhance the food security in the District of Mission by creating a year-round local source of food. But more importantly, the farm is a place of reintegration, restoration, and healing.

Sherry continues to use the learnings from PPI to advocate for reforms in the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) system. Her work focuses now on pioneering the use of cultural assessments. The CSC has

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acknowledged that the assessments they currently use are biased against Indigenous offenders and offenders of African descent. And she is focused on making having those acknowledgements turn into actions of change.

PPI is proud to give Sherry the 2021 Ida Goodreau Alumni Award for her contributions to the non-profit sector and her roles as an advocate and ally as she continues to make meaningful change in the space. To learn more about L.I.N.C. and Emma's Acres, please visit <https://lincsociety.bc.ca/>.

2022 Recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award

Daljit Gill-Badesha
Vice President - Community Health & Childcare Partnerships
The Centre for Child Development, Surrey, BC
PPI Grad, Class of 2011

[Hear directly from Daljit](#) about the impact this program had on her career and how the Public Policy Institute served to Influence her studies, her career and the scope of her work after participating in this program.



2023 Recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award

Erin O-Melinn
Executive Director
Hub Cycling
PPI Grad, Class of 2014

This year, PPI is honouring Erin O'Melinn, the Executive Director of Hub Cycling. Erin played an integral leadership role in gaining government support for universally accessible school cycling education in BC. Erin graduated from the Public Policy Institute in 2014.



At the time, the "Bike Right" initiative did not have any public funding and awareness was low. HUB Cycling and its partners have since reached over 21,000 students in over 200 schools with transportation cycling education, including in-class and on bike training. Funding exceeds \$500,000 annually from the Province of BC.

Erin credits the Public Policy Institute for equipping her with the tools needed to take the policy proposal to the next level. Erin learned to tailor the "Bike Right" proposal to help meet the province's

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climate change goals, as cycling is a sustainable mode of transportation, with benefits around health, affordability, equity, and access. “It’s the long game. Policy change and programming change at a broad level takes time and patience, and that’s what they told us in the Public Policy Institute is you’re going to be putting in a lot of hard work and shaping things, developing them, making collaborative relationships, relationships with government, and you may not feel progress, but once you get it shelf ready and a political window opens, then it’ll be ready to push through the window,” Erin says.

2024 Recipient of the Ida Goodreau Alumni Award

Samantha Gambling
Former Provincial Lead
BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food
PPI Grad, Class of 2020

Samantha Gambling completed the Public Policy Institute In 2020 when the program was offered entirely online. We are proud to be recognizing Samantha for her achievements in organizing collective advocacy, engagement, outreach, and communication activities to advance the Coalition’s vision for a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for BC and Canada.



Through Budget 2023, the province announced it is investing \$214 million over three years so school districts can create or expand local food programs in schools throughout B.C. The funds will be used for purchasing food and hiring dedicated staff to coordinate providing meals and snacks to students. This is the largest investment in school food programs in the province’s history.

“It’s been really amazing to see what collaborative action can do given the right opportunity,” Gambling said. Gambling has also been involved in federal advocacy around a national school food program. After years of meeting with MPs, budget submissions, public campaigns, and network building, the national Coalition for Healthy School Food celebrated the federal government’s announcement that they will invest \$1 billion over five years towards the creation of a national school food program.

“The Public Policy Institute gave me the foundation to advocate in a way that aligned with government processes so I could be effective in my advocacy,” Gambling said. “I think it’s important baseline knowledge for anyone in the non-profit sector who wants to advocate or push forward a particular issue, to understand the ins and outs of how to do that.”