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**Extensive background in senior public service, communications, diplomacy, journalism, and academics.**

- **Current Position: Senior Policy Fellow, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina.** Areas of focus: policy-communications interface; energy and environment policy.

#### **1) Public Sector**

- **2011-13: Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy Security, Prosperity, Sustainability Task Force, Natural Resources Canada, Government of Canada, Ottawa.**
  - The Task Force was a focal point within the federal government for the coordination of energy communications, outreach and policy, in particular relating to the oil sands, pipelines and regulatory reform of major resource projects. Role required close collaboration with the NRCan Deputy Minister, the Privy Council Office and other departments, such as Environment Canada, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Transport Canada, as well as the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency and the National Energy Board.
  - A major component of mandate was the horizontal coordination of communications and outreach in the federal government relating to the Government's comprehensive Responsible Resource Development regulatory initiative. It included the planning and launch for the RRD initiative in the 2012 Canadian federal budget through management of a secretariat with representatives from six departments and agencies.
- **2007-2011: Consul General for Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Canada.**
  - Based in Denver, CO., the Consul General position serves as the official Government of Canada representative in the four-state region of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.
  - Role focused on trade, investment, political, economic and academic relations between the U.S. and Canada, as well as Consular affairs.

- Among key issues of Canada's engagement strategy with the U.S. were oil sands outreach and engagement at the political, corporate and NGO level, as well as border issues related to trade, investment and the environment.
- **2004-2007: Assistant Secretary to Cabinet, Communications and Consultations in the Privy Council Office, Department of the Prime Minister of Canada.**
  - The assistant secretary to cabinet is the most senior communications position in the Government of Canada.
  - Advised the Prime Minister's Office of both Paul Martin and Stephen Harper, cabinet, deputy ministers, as well as government departments and agencies on key communications and policy issues.
  - Role included developing and integrating the government's overall strategic communications planning, presentations to cabinet and coordination and execution communications in support of government priorities and planning, and implementation of the Government's advertising and public opinion research strategy.
- **1998-2004: Assistant Deputy Minister, Communications and Consultations, Department of Finance, Government of Canada.**
  - Worked closely with the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Finance and other members of the senior executive in the Finance Department, advising, coordinating and implementing communications policy, with a particular emphasis on communications, public opinion research and public outreach through consultations with key stakeholders and interest groups across Canada.
  - Planning, editing, translation and publication of major Finance Department initiatives, such as the annual Government of Canada Budget and the annual Economic and Fiscal Update.
  - Supported Minister of Finance and department in its engagement with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and meetings of the G-20 finance ministers.

## **2. Private Sector**

- Prior to joining government, an extensive 24-year career in journalism, including daily newspapers, weekly newsmagazines, syndicated opinion columns, radio and television, including position as sessional lecturer in journalism at the University of Regina.
- Author of three books.
  - **Anton, a young boy, his friend and the Russian Revolution.** Historical fiction novel shortlisted for the 2010 Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Award;

finalist for the USA Books News 2010 Best Books Awards,; and, honourable mention at the New England Book Festival.

- Two previous non-fiction books, which dealt with Canadian history and politics, including **False Expectations: Politics and the Pursuit of the Saskatchewan Myth**, was published in 2006 by the University of Regina.

### 3. Awards

- **Recipient, 2013, Joan Atkinson Award**, Public Service of Canada
- **Recipient, 2007, University of Regina alumni award for professional achievement;**
- **Recipient, 2006, Saskatchewan Commemorative Centennial Medal** in recognition for contributions of society;
- **Recipient, Southam Fellowship**, Massey College, University of Toronto, 1992-93

### 3. Education

- **Bachelor of Arts**, Political Science, University of Saskatchewan
- **Masters of Arts**, Political Science, Vermont College, Union Institute and University, Montpelier Vermont
- **Southam Fellowship**, University of Toronto