

Publishing with the
Canadian Centre for
Policy Alternatives
SASKATCHEWAN



Introduction

There is little doubt that some academics wish their research would reach a wider public audience. However, for those scholars who would like to see their research inform public debate and inspire the public imagination, many traditional publishing venues can seem inadequate. While academic journals offer prestige, they rarely reach beyond a small community of like-minded scholars. Conversely, while more popular media outlets offer wider reach, they often offer little more than superficial treatment of academic research, unable to capture the academic rigour and nuance of more complex arguments.

At the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), we believe we can offer academics a place to publish that can present the complexity of your research while also offering you the opportunity to reach a potential audience of millions of people from across the country. Think of publishing with the CCPA as a companion to peer-reviewed journals, where your academic research is allowed to be timely and accessible to a wider audience. Indeed, publishing with the CCPA offers many benefits:

- CCPA publications are subject to rigorous peer-review
- Your research will be promoted to a large provincial and national audience
- We offer relatively quick turn-around time compared to academic journals
- Opportunity to join our cross-country network of CCPA Research Associates



Rigorous and Peer Reviewed

Our research is rigorous and peer reviewed, our policy analysis well reasoned and tightly argued. A recent open letter from over 500 Canadian academics praised the high quality and objectivity of the CCPA's research and its solid international reputation. Moreover, we can offer your research tremendous public reach. In 2015, the CCPA received over 12 million media views in Saskatchewan alone. Add that to our annual audience reach at the national level of over 520 million media views and you have an unprecedented platform to showcase your research.

We will also use our notable social media presence to vigorously promote your research. Our national Facebook following is over 28,000, while our CCPA Twitter feed is followed by over 18,000 persons. All told, the CCPA's organic reach to unique visitors via social media is upwards of 180,000 people per month! Our national website also offers a one-stop destination for progressive research and commentary. Last year alone, the Saskatchewan Office's research and commentary received over 75,000 page views while our reports and studies were downloaded over 30,000 times!

Rapid Publishing

Unlike academic publishing, we can offer a quick turn around time from draft to publication, ensuring your research reaches the public while it still remains relevant. While traditional academic publishing venues can take many months — if not years — before your research reaches publication, we aim to move from final draft to formal publication in the space of one month. Moreover, your research will be freely accessible to the public on our national website, while printed copies can be obtained at very reasonable rates.



What We are Looking For

As the largest progressive policy think-tank in Canada, our research is inspired by the values of economic and social justice, ecological sustainability and the principles of democracy. We are deeply interested in research that helps us better understand our current world and offers solutions for a better one. We always want our research to contribute to current public debates, so we are particularly interested in research that is relevant to current political, economic or social issues. We also strongly encourage research perspectives from women, racialized groups, Indigenous peoples, differently-abled and from the LGBTI community.

How to Get Started

We offer a relatively painless set of research proposal guidelines for individuals interested in publishing with the CCPA. Once your proposal is submitted, it will be vetted by the CCPA Saskatchewan board, which will decide if your research is a good fit for publication. Once you have been approved for publication, you will work with our Director who will assist in translating your research into popularly-accessible language, along with copy-editing, format and design. When a final draft is complete, it will be submitted for peer-review and the author will have a chance to make revisions based on the comments of the reviewers. Once a publishable-draft is ready, we aim to have your research published and promoted in the space of a month!

Becoming a CCPA Research Associate

Whether you publish with us or not, we invite academics to consider joining our network of research associates who have expertise in a range of public policy areas. Our research associates can contribute to the work of the CCPA in various ways. Some offer their expertise on relevant policy issues, some may respond to media requests on issues of public concern, assist with peer review and manuscript submissions and/or help develop the Saskatchewan Office's research agenda. If you are interested in becoming a CCPA Saskatchewan research associate, please let us know!



Concluding Thoughts

We recognize the enormous pressures to publish which all academics bear in the current university climate. We further recognize that preference is going to be given to peer-reviewed academic journals that seem to be the only currency of value in seeking tenure and promotion. Fortunately, the attitudes within the academy to non-traditional forms of publication are changing. Universities across North America are beginning to recognize the value of faculty engaging with the public through alternative styles of publication and presentation. Indeed, as Marc Renaud, former president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), warns, “we have traditionally said ‘publish or perish’. Now it is ‘go public or perish’.” Now is the perfect time to consider publishing your research outside the traditional academic venues. By publishing with the CCPA, your research will not simply reside — in Dr. Marc Spooner’s words — “neatly tucked away in journals,” but reach an audience large enough to have a direct impact on public opinion and policy-makers alike. If you would like to get started, please contact us today!

Research Proposal Guidelines

Full-Length Study/Report

For those authors interested in publishing original research, or full-length research studies with us (over 20 pages), we suggest you submit a proposal based on the following guidelines.

- Project title
- Main research question
- Provide any context relevant to the proposal, including relevant literature, and state of academic or policy debate.
- Describe the objectives of the project, what is new that can be discovered, and the strategic relevance or public interest value of the research.
- What role does the research play in informing/framing public debate, influencing policy decisions by governments, or equipping social movement groups with information/analysis they need?
- What are the project's guiding questions and how does your methodology get at these questions?
- Describe any data sources, interviews, literature, statistical models, etc. that will be used, and explain why you are using these methods.

Proposal should be 2-4 pages in length. Also outline what specific resources you require from CCPA Saskatchewan. Proposals will be evaluated by the CCPA Saskatchewan Board of Directors.

All full-length reports that are approved for publication will be subject to peer-review.

Samples of CCPA Saskatchewan reports:

After the Freeze: Restoring University Affordability by Rolling Back Tuition in Saskatchewan by Paul Gingrich

Blank Spaces: The Accountability and Oversight Gap in Saskatchewan's Contract Roadbuilding System by Taylor Bendig

Building an Environmentally Sustainable Future for Saskatchewan: Saskatchewan's Role in Global Climate Change and the Path to Sustainability by Peter Prebble, David Henry, Murray Hidlebaugh and William Wardell

Impaired Judgement: The Economic and Social Consequences of Liquor Privatization in Western Canada by David Campanella and Greg Flanagan

A Living Wage for Regina by Paul Gingrich, Brian Banks and Simon Enoch

A Profitable Brew: A Financial Analysis of the SLGA and Its Potential Privatization by David Campanella

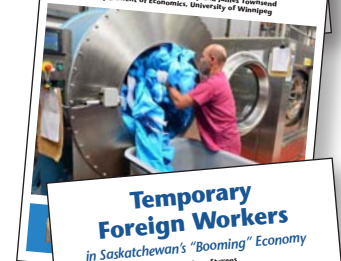
SaskPower's Carbon Capture Project: What Risk? What Reward? by Brian Banks and Mark Bigland-Pritchard

Short-Term Gain, Long-Term Pain: The Privatization of Hospital Laundry Services in Saskatchewan by Hugh Grant, Manish Pandey and James Townsend

Temporary Foreign Workers in Saskatchewan's "Booming" Economy by Dr. Andrew Stevens

Unions in a Democratic Society: A Response to the Consultation Paper on the Renewal of Labour Legislation in Saskatchewan by Christopher Schenk

Warehousing Prisoners in Saskatchewan: A Public Health Approach by Dr. Jason Demers



Saskatchewan Notes

Saskatchewan Notes is a policy backgrounder/brief regularly produced by the Saskatchewan Office. Saskatchewan Notes usually run from between 4 to 8 pages (2000 to 4000 words), and are used to outline a specific policy area or issue. Topics should be specific to Saskatchewan or emphasize how the policy or issue in question will impact the province. Past Saskatchewan Notes have looked at diverse issues such as the impact of provincial electoral boundary changes, the dissolution of the Canadian Wheat Board, provincial liquor privatization to uranium pollution in Saskatchewan's north. Content can be critical of existing policy, but should never be partisan. Any citation style can be used as long as it is consistent throughout the document. Also think of using images and/or graphs/tables that can help visualize your narrative.

Behind the Numbers

Behind the Numbers is the CCPA's national blog site. "Behind the Numbers" is a very focused, short CCPA publication format used to shed light on a specific issue or policy dilemma by providing key facts, figures and/or arguments. It should focus on one key idea and use links to other sources and evidence to bolster your argument. Your argument should be short and concise — 500 to 1000 words. Content can be critical of existing policy, but should never be partisan.



CCPA

CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES

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Have Questions?

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