



PROMPT
PACKAGE 2022

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO POLICYTHON



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTP wishes to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

CONTENT WARNING

We recognize that this content is sensitive, current, and personal to many UofT students, Policython members, and Policython participants. The Equity Team is here to support you or connect you with resources pertaining to mental health and advocacy. That being said, if you are uncomfortable with partaking in Policython because of these topics, please contact the Equity Team for a full refund within 24 hours. Please do not hesitate to reach out – any concerns which you bring to Equity can be confidential and dealt with privately if necessary.

PROMPTS

FOREIGN POLICY

THIS PROMPT CONCERNS THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN UKRAINE.

In 2014, Canada's defense minister under then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Jason Kennedy, refused the provision of military equipment to aid the Ukraine government in its fight against pro- Russia separatists, despite the Canadian military having a surplus of equipment. However, Canada has loaned Ukraine a total of \$400 million between 2014 and 2015, which was repaid with interest as of 2020. As Russia continues to invade and occupy parts of Ukraine's territories, the government of Ukraine has pleaded for help from Canada and its NATO allies. Considering Canada's previous attempts in supporting Ukraine, construct a policy brief on what you believe Canada's next steps should be. Consider the type of sectoral sanctions to impose, provision of military equipment, whether providing more loans is beneficial, and other ways Canada can offer its support.

You may want to consider the following information when constructing your brief:

- Operation Unifier is the Canadian Armed Forces contribution to the security of Ukraine in coordination with the Ukrainian Armed Forces.
- In January 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau agreed to loan up to \$120 million in the face of Russia's ongoing attempts to destabilize Ukraine, and continues to explore other ways to get involved.
- Ukraine has requested more aid in the form of weapons and military equipment, and severe sectoral sanctions.
- As of February 2022, Putin has carried out various military operations, including bombing Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and other cities. Putin has also threatened a nuclear attack if the West intervenes.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Justin Trudeau's government had introduced a single use plastic ban in 2021 to effectively manage waste in Canada. This ban impacts recycling, reduce and reuse programs and business operations across Canada. This pathway to zero waste introduced by the federal government will cause producers to innovate new ways to reuse plastic in the country. Create a policy brief outlining and analysing the existing actions taken on the plastic pollution and how they will aid in meeting sustainable development goals. Further include recommendations and strategies to effectively achieve zero waste by 2030. Consider looking into Fisheries ACT and UNDRIP for a more in-depth analysis.

PROMPTS

ECONOMIC POLICY

On January 1st 2022, the federal government implemented first-ever national-tax on non-resident owners of vacant and underused housing. However, measures have not been effective at effectively reducing foreign speculation on Canadian real-estate as GTA home prices are up 28% from last year. What measures would you introduce in Ontario to combat the effects of foreign speculation on Canadian real-estate?

Considering the ineffectiveness of prior demand side policy initiatives could supply side measures aimed at increasing inventory and creating price competition increase Canadian housing affordability?

Have prior policies implemented in attempt to hinder foreign buying been useful in combating the housing crisis?

How would these policies impact local economies in both the short-run and the long-run? How would housing markets within Canada outside of a policy's jurisdiction be affected by it?

You may want to consider the following sources when constructing your brief:

- [Housing minister: Canada needs temporary ban on foreign buyers to ease affordability crisis](#)
- [Trudeau pledges expansion of first-time home buyers' initiative, new foreign speculation tax](#)
- [Curb unproductive foreign ownership](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

THIS PROMPT CONCERNS THE ONGOING DISCOVERY OF UNMARKED INDIGENOUS GRAVES AT FORMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) collected the stories of Indigenous people who experienced the Indian Residential Schools policy and in 2015, the TRC released a report with 94 calls to action (Government of Canada, 2021). Within the report, there is a section of calls to action relating to Missing Children and Burial Information (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, 2015). During the summer of 2021, many mass unmarked grave sites were unearthed at previously operated Residential Schools across Canada, and there are likely many more that have not yet been unearthed. Canadians must support Indigenous people in unearthing unmarked Residential School graves and honour the children who never made it home. How can policymakers and the policy community better support these types of reparations? Construct a brief that addresses this area of policy concern.

PROMPTS

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

THIS PROMPT CONCERNS SYSTEMIC FAILURES IN ADDRESSING INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT.

Youth mental health and addiction has been a pertinent problem that current policies fail to fully address, especially within the Indigenous community. Current policy regarding this issue is in place, including the subsidization of 22 hours of counseling every 12 months, with additional hours available on a case-by-case basis, for Indigenous people with mental health problems under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. However, this policy fails to provide culturally sensitive and specific help for Indigenous people, and is a reflection of Canada's long history of creating solutions that do not account for the differing lifestyle and experiences of the Indigenous community. Your task is to amend this current policy on mental health counseling to better address calls from Indigenous advocates and the multitude of cultures and healing traditions across Indigenous groups.

Make sure that your brief centres solutions around Indigenous advocacy and considers the exclusion of Indigenous communities from decision-making. We also encourage that you look into areas where Indigenous advocacy and current policy clash.


GOOD LUCK

Thank you for participating in Policython 2022. We look forward to reading your briefs!

CONTACT

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