



POLICYTHON

PROMPTS

Challenge the System

A student led organization at the University of Toronto

Land Acknowledgement

UTP acknowledges this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in the community, on this territory.

Foreign Policy

In 2018, the Canadian government detained Huawei's Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou for alleged fraud charges on the request of the United States government, congruent to their extradition treaty with Canada. Shortly thereafter, the Chinese government detained two Canadians — a former diplomat and businessman — on alleged espionage charges. Since then, analysts have observed that Canada's diplomatic ties with the Chinese government have been strained. Construct a foreign policy brief that addresses how Canada can best respond to the diplomatic situation. Consider Canada's extradition treaty with the United States, international law, and Canada's economic ties to China and the United States.

Economic Policy

The Covid-19 pandemic has had harsh consequences for economies globally. How can policymakers respond to the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic? In your policy brief please discuss how governments should balance their spending and deficits, while also introducing fiscal stimulus packages to respond to the economic damages. Centrally, how can post-Covid economic recovery be achieved? Construct a brief that addresses this area of policy concern with a focus on economic inequality, government deficits and unemployment.

Environmental Policy

The intersections of environmental issues and Indigenous peoples have a long-standing history in Canada. The health, livelihoods, and inherent rights of Indigenous peoples are threatened by resource extraction and environmental problems. Recently, the Wet̓suwet̓en nation in what is now known as British Columbia has protested against several proposed oil and gas pipelines that will pass through their territory. Construct a policy brief outlining and critiquing existing policies that endorse these pipelines, while proposing policy recommendations that can mediate this issue.

Public Health Policy

With recent vaccine approval, many countries must now develop coherent plans to distribute the Covid-19 vaccine to their large populations. Government and healthcare officials must integrate ideas of ethics and science to account for the differing needs of various groups throughout Canada. Construct a policy brief that addresses how the Canadian government can ensure equal distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Consider the social, economic, political, and geographic impacts of vaccines. An example is considering how areas that have low capacity clinics and how that impacts the distribution of vaccines in that area.

Human Rights Policy

Indigenous individuals represent about 4.1% of Canada's overall population but represent $\frac{1}{3}$ of federal and provincial federal correctional services admissions (Malakieh, 2018). Moreover, findings from the inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls reveal racist policing practices which have prevented authorities from protecting Indigenous women and two-spirited individuals against violence (Human Rights Watch, 2013). How can policymakers and the policy community in Canada address police brutality and the disproportional prejudice in the justice system as it impacts indigenous communities? Construct a brief that addresses this area of policy concern.