

## *Introduction*

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### *Editor's Introduction* *aboriginal policy studies*

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*Editor, aboriginal policy studies*

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*aboriginal policy studies* is an online, peer-reviewed and multidisciplinary journal that publishes original, scholarly, and policy-relevant research on issues relevant to Métis, non-status Indians and urban Aboriginal people in Canada. For more information, please contact us at [apsjournal@ualberta.ca](mailto:apsjournal@ualberta.ca) or visit our website at [www.ualberta.ca/nativestudies/aps/](http://www.ualberta.ca/nativestudies/aps/).

# Editor's Introduction

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We would like to welcome our readers to volume 4, issue 1 of *aboriginal policy studies*. This issue is being published somewhat later than we would have liked due to a number of factors that have happily been resolved. This issue contains two articles, three commentaries, a book review and a set of foundational documents. The various contributions to this issue continue to follow the journal's broad scope, which is to publish "original, scholarly, and policy relevant research on issues relevant to Métis, Non-Status Indians and urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada." As we emphasized in previous introductions—and as I will continue to emphasize until it is resolved—*aps* welcomes relevant submissions from all geographical and political regions of Canada. We are still not receiving an adequate number of submissions on issues pertaining to Métis policy, nor are we receiving a satisfying number of submissions on urban Aboriginal issues in central and eastern Canada.

The first article in this issue, authored by Brassard et al., includes an analysis of empirical data obtained from qualitative research into domestic violence against Aboriginal women living in four remote communities in Quebec. Applying a feminist intersectionality approach (including race, gender, social class, and geographical isolation), Brassard et al. reveal a number of different "domination systems" that together effectively reproduce the potentialities of domestic violence in these communities, and, as such, reproduce the intergenerational vulnerability of many of the women who live there.

In the issue's second article, Bougie and her co-authors explore the utility of the Community Well-Being Index (a well-known statistical instrument that measures well-being at the community/neighbourhood level) for measuring, in a comparative context, the well-being of status Indians and non-Aboriginal Canadians living within the same neighbourhoods in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The authors demonstrate the instrument's efficacy, suggesting that it provides a solid understanding of the socio-demographic and socioeconomic composition of small geographic areas within a community. In turn, this holds great promise for assisting in the creation and dissemination of evidence-based policy.

In addition to our articles, volume 4 issue 1 contains three commentaries. The first commentary, authored by Indigenous Studies scholar Robert Innes, uses the recent discussions around the necessity of a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women to talk about the relative lack of policy focus on the arguably equally urgent issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal men. Undertaking a meta-analysis of existing data on Aboriginal men's victimization, Innes convincingly demonstrates that any policies that attempt to deal with colonial violence against Aboriginal women must include elements that acknowledge the role of men as both perpetrators of this violence and victims of the same systems of oppression within which violence against women is rooted.

The issue's second commentary provides discussion of a strategy for Inuit youth and children in Ontario. Despite the fact that a majority of Inuit still live "north of 60," their population is growing in Canada's cities: the population of Inuit living in Ontario, for example, will potentially reach 15,000 in the next 10 years. In the specific context of Ontario, the authors point to the growing need for culturally appropriate services to address the needs of Inuit who have migrated to its cities or, for that matter, who were born and raised there. The authors identify a number of gaps and barriers in existing policies, emphasize particular outcomes to improve existing policies, and provide helpful "best practice" examples of Inuit-specific policies that already exist.

Finally, Dr. Shauneen Pete provides commentary on the University of Regina's (U of R) recent attempts to "Indigenize the academy." Beginning with a discussion of epistemic ignorance (i.e. ignorance of Indigenous ways of knowing and being), Dr. Pete demonstrates how the University of Regina's leadership have embarked on a strategic vision anchored in the notion of *mamawohkamatowin* (a Cree term that denotes "working together towards common goals"). The U of R has since engaged in various elements of planning and implementation of their strategic vision, including a public discussion of what Indigenization means that includes a sincere engagement with local Indigenous communities and peoples. Few universities have engaged in Indigenization in the manner in which the U of R has, and they are to be commended for their efforts.

Finally, this issue includes a review of Dr. Natacha Gagné's new book *Being Maori in the City* and includes, as its set of foundational documents, *Sport Canada's Policy on Aboriginal Peoples' Participation in Sport* (2005). As explained by one of Canada's leading scholars on Aboriginal sport (Dr. Janice Forsyth of the Olympic Centre of the University of Western Ontario in London, ON), this policy was only ever a departmental document, with no supporting legislation to back it up. In effect, it served as an image-making tool for the federal government, in light of the hosting of the 2010 Olympic Games. One of the priorities of the new Aboriginal Sport Circle is to get the government to revive the policy, alter it to fit the new context for sport, and give it teeth. Nonetheless, it is, in effect, the most important government document on Aboriginal sport.

We would like to end our introduction by inviting interested scholars and policy actors to consider submitting journal articles or commentaries to our upcoming issue of *aboriginal policy studies* that seeks to incorporate research findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.