

Video 8: What are careers in public policy?

Curriculum Links

This video series fits within the following high school courses across Canada. Teachers are encouraged to explore further connections to other courses in their province or territory.

Alberta

- Grade 9 Social Studies
- Social Studies 10-1 or 10-2
- Social Studies 20-1 or 20-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2

British Columbia

- Social Studies 11
- Political Science 12

Manitoba

- Grade 9: Social Studies
- Grade 12: Global Issues: Citizenship and Sustainability

New Brunswick

- Civics 10
- Political Science 120
- Canadian Law 120

Newfoundland

- Social Studies 1201/1202
- Social Studies 2201
- Social Studies 3201/3202
- Ethics and Social Justice 2106
- Career Development 2202

Northwest Territories

- Grade 9 Social Studies
- Social Studies 10-1 or 10-2
- Social Studies 20-1 or 20-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2

Nova Scotia

- Citizenship Education 9
- Global Politics 12
- Advanced Global Politics 12
- Law 12

Nunavut

- Grade 9 Social Studies
- Social Studies 10-1 or 10-2
- Social Studies 20-1 or 20-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2

Ontario

- Grade 10: Civics & Citizenship
- Grade 11: Politics in Action: Making Change
- Grade 12: Canadian and International Politics

Prince Edward Island

- Grade 9 Social Studies
- Canadian Studies CAS401A

Québec

- Monde Contemporain
- Sensibilisation à l'entrepreneuriat
- Histoire du Québec et du Canada

Saskatchewan

- Social Studies 10
- History and Social Studies 30
- Law 30

Yukon

- Social Studies 11
 - Political Science 12
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The Big Question

In video 8, we explore different careers in the public policy space. Students will hear from the firsthand job experiences of [Action Canada](#) Fellows, young leaders in Canada who are involved or interested in public policy. The activities in this Teacher Guide will help students explore career paths they may be interested in pursuing. More questions about public policy related career paths may be raised after viewing the video, teachers and students are encouraged to watch the rest of the Policy 101 video series to learn more. (Specific focus, Video 7: Who else plays a role in public policy?)

Learning Goals

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- List different types of career paths related to public policy.
- Share a career path they are interested in related to public policy and the steps needed to pursue that career path. (If pursuing the Extension Activities.)

Materials

You will need the following materials to complete the activities described in this Teacher Guide.

- Access to technology for video viewing
 - [Video 8: What are careers in public policy?](#)
- Printed video transcript PDFs (if using)
 - These can be helpful for students who need support following the video, for English or French language learners or simply for annotation purposes
- Writing surface for class viewing (white board, Smart board, chalkboard or chart paper)
- Writing utensils for writing surface
- [Appendix 1: Public Policy Career Paths](#) for each student
- [Appendix 2: Job Requirements Deep Dive](#) for each student (if pursuing Extension Activities)
- Sticky notes, few per student (if pursuing Extension Activities)

Pre-Video Activity

Tackle this activity before watching the video.

Minds On

Whole Group, 15 minutes

1. Ask the class for job or career paths that they are interested in. Record ideas on a writing surface for all to see. *NOTE TO TEACHER: depending on the dynamics of your class, you may want to have some ideas here to help move the brainstorming along.*
2. For each job or career path, brainstorm how it might be related to public policy. Ask guiding questions such as:
 - a. What policies influence this job?
 - b. Does this job itself influence public policy decision making? Directly? Indirectly?

Post-Video Activity

After watching the video, dive into this post-video activity to further discussions and deepen learning.

Assessment: Worksheet

Independent – Whole Group – Pairs, 20 minutes

NOTE: This can be done in pairs or groups if preferred.

1. Ask the class to complete [Appendix 1: Public Policy Career Paths](#). In this activity they will be asked:
 - a. What are the four categories of public policy career paths discussed in the video?
 - b. How would you describe each career path?
 - c. What is a specific job example within each career path?
 - d. What other career paths can you think of to add to this list? *NOTE TO TEACHER: a reminder of content from [Video 7: Who else plays a role in public policy?](#) is helpful here.*
2. As a group, discuss which skills or areas of interest they think might be associated with each career path (see skills and interests for policy-related career paths below). Record these brainstormed ideas where all students can see. Below is a list to help with brainstorming if needed.
3. Ask students to discuss with a partner which career path is most interesting to them based on the examples given in the video as well as the skills, abilities and areas of interest discussed in the class brainstorm. Would they pursue a career in this field? Ask students to highlight their identified career path interest on their worksheet.
4. Ask students to hand in their completed worksheet. Use these to assess student learning. Follow up with individual students who may need more clarity.

Career Path #1 Research: Inform Policy

- Being Curious: Having a natural curiosity and asking questions to find answers.
- Smart Thinking: Ability to analyze information and make well-thought-out conclusions.
- Problem-Solving: Figuring out solutions and being creative when faced with challenges.
- Good Communication: Expressing ideas clearly in writing and when talking to others.
- Math and Stats Skills: Being good at math and understanding statistics, depending on what you're studying.
- Paying Attention to Details: Being careful and precise when collecting and analyzing data.
- Tech Savvy: Knowing how to use tools and technologies that are important in your field.
- Loving a Subject: Being really interested and excited about a specific topic or field of study.

- Doing the Right Thing: Understanding and sticking to what's right and ethical in your research.
- Managing Time Well: Using time efficiently to balance schoolwork and research tasks.

Career Path #2 *Public Servants: Create Policy*

- Talking and Writing Well: Speak and write clearly to share information with others.
- Smart Thinking: Understand information, policies, and make good decisions.
- Getting Along with Others: Build good relationships and work well with different people.
- Problem-Solving: Learn to solve complex issues in public service.
- Adapting to Change: Be flexible and take on new challenges in a changing environment.
- Teamwork: Work well with others to achieve common goals.
- Caring About Social Issues: Have a strong interest in helping communities and addressing social challenges.
- Doing the Right Thing: Understand and follow ethical standards in public service.
- Understanding Policies: Be interested in learning about and contributing to public policies.
- Leading Well: Develop leadership skills, even in smaller activities, to succeed in public service.

Career Path #3 *Politics: Advance Policy Ideas*

- Communication Skills: Speak and write well to share ideas with others.
- Public Speaking: Learn to talk confidently in front of people, a useful skill for leaders.
- Critical Thinking: Think carefully to make good decisions and understand policies.
- Networking: Build relationships with people in your community for success in politics.
- Community Engagement: Get involved in local activities and understand community issues to connect with voters.
- Leadership Skills: Develop strong leadership qualities, even in school or community settings.
- Research Skills: Learn to find and understand information about different issues.
- Negotiation Skills: Practice compromising and negotiating for agreements on policies.
- Passion for Public Service: Care about helping others and making a positive impact on society.
- Ethical Awareness: Understand and follow the right way of doing things to keep public trust.

Career Path #4 *Advocacy / Lobbying: Influence Policies*

- Speaking and Writing Well: Practice talking and writing about things that matter to you.
- Research Skills: Learn how to find and share information about important issues.
- Caring About Causes: Find something you really care about, like the environment or social justice.
- Thinking Smart: Think carefully about issues and why they're important.
- Talking in Public: Practice speaking in front of others to share your ideas.
- Understanding Others: Try to understand how other people feel and see things.

- Making Friends: Connect with people who care about the same things you do.
- Being Flexible: Be ready to change your plans if needed.
- Knowing the Rules: Learn about the laws related to the cause you care about.
- Social Media Skills: Get familiar with using social media to talk about your cause.

Extension Activity

Interested in continuing the learning? Try the activity below.

Deep Dive: Job Requirements

Independent (Optional: Pairs or Small Groups) – Whole Group, 45 minutes

NOTE: This can be done in pairs or groups if preferred.

1. Using completed [Appendix 1: Public Policy Career Paths](#) from the previous activity, ask students (independently, in pairs or in small groups) to dig deeper into the career path they selected as most interesting.
2. Using an online job search engine, ask students to find a posting for a job that is relevant to their selected career path. *NOTE TO TEACHER: have a shortlist of job search engines that are relevant in your area.*
3. Guide students to complete [Appendix 2: Job Requirements Deep Dive](#) which asks the following questions:

JOB INFORMATION

- a. Public Policy Career Path
- b. Specific Job
 - i. Where did I find the job posting?
 - ii. Where is the job located?
 - iii. Is this somewhere I would be interested in living?

JOB CREDENTIALS

- a. What education credentials are required for this job?
 - iv. What post-secondary degree courses would I have to take after high school to be eligible for this job?
 - v. What courses do I have to take during high school to be able to apply for the necessary post-secondary education?
- b. What skills are required for this job?
 - vi. Which of these skills do I already have?
 - vii. Which of these skills would I need to develop?
 - viii. How could I develop these skills?
- c. Is this an entry level position or a more advanced position?

- ix. If it is a more advanced position, what job experience would I need to have before applying?
4. To allow students to see other career paths they may not have considered, have students share their work with the class through a Gallery Walk. Ask students to post their worksheet around the class in visible locations. Allow students to walk around the class and review worksheet that interest them, taking note of career paths they may not have considered. Sticky notes can be used to leave encouraging comments or to ask clarifying questions. Clarifying questions can be reviewed as a class so everyone hears the answers.

About the Policy 101 Video Series

The Policy 101 Series breaks down public policy into digestible content for students through engaging videos, podcasts, and teacher guides. These modules empower students to learn the basics of public policy and critically analyze its implications. The series aims to sow the seeds for a future where youth play an active role in shaping the policies that shape their lives.



Name: _____

Appendix 1: Public Policy Career Paths

CAREER PATH: _____	
How would you describe this career path?	List an example of a specific job within this career path.
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CAREER PATH: _____	
How would you describe this career path?	List an example of a specific job within this career path.

CAREER PATH: _____	
How would you describe this career path?	List an example of a specific job within this career path.
(Additional) CAREER PATH: _____	
How would you describe this career path?	List an example of a specific job within this career path.

Name: _____

Appendix 2: Job Requirements Deep Dive

JOB INFORMATION

1. Public Policy Career Path

2. Specific Job

a) Where did I find the job posting

b) Where is the job located?

c) Is this somewhere I would be interested in living?

JOB CREDENTIALS

1. What education credentials are required for this job?

a) What post-secondary degree or courses would I have to take after high school to be eligible for this job?

b) What courses do I have to take during high school to be able to apply for the necessary post-secondary education?

2. What skills are required for this job?

a) Which of these skills do I already have?

b) Which of these skills would I need to develop?

c) How could I develop these skills?

3. Is this an entry level position or a more advanced position?

a) If it is a more advanced position, what job experience would I need to have before applying?
