

Research internships at Canada 2020

About Canada 2020

Canada 2020 is a leading, independent, progressive think-tank. Our objective is to inform and influence debate, to identify progressive policy solutions and to help redefine federal government for a modern Canada.

We do this by convening leading authorities from Canada and abroad, generating original policy thinking, and prioritizing effective communication.

The Canada We Want in 2020

This project started in early 2011 and now forms the core of our work at Canada 2020.

Our work is based upon a forward-looking vision of where we hope our country will be within a decade. It is our contention that at this time of systemic change (both geo-political and economic) there are critical challenges that demand a strategic response from the federal government.

We believe that success in the following five policy areas will create a better, more modern and progressive Canada by the year 2020. We have therefore chosen these as the focus of our work. They are:

- Increasing innovation and productivity
- Rising to meet the Asia challenge
- Squaring the carbon circle
- Reducing income disparities and polarization
- Securing our health system for the future

In developing a response to these fundamental challenges, a new paradigm for the federal government can and should emerge. We are not necessarily talking about more government, but about better, smarter and more efficient government.

- **Phase 1:** In November 2011 we launched a book in both French and English containing three papers in each of the five areas. Authors were invited to focus on strategic policy options for the federal government.
- **Phase 2:** Between January and May 2012 we hosted panels on each of our five focus areas.
- **Phase 3 (current phase):** We will continue to work in our five focus areas, raising the level of public debate and developing progressive policy solutions. Between January and May 2013 we will host a second series of panels, one in each of the areas. We will also be producing dedicated research papers to support the panels and advance knowledge.

Research internships

As part of Phase 3 of our work, we are developing a research programme in each area. Our intention is to produce several different types of research output, ranging from longer-term studies to shorter pieces that will either support our 2013 panel sessions or fill gaps in knowledge. See Annex 2 at the back of this document for a description of our various written outputs.

We would like to identify a number of research interns (RIs) who can contribute to this effort. Research interns will produce analytical commentaries that are:

- of clear relevance to one of our five areas
- argumentative and progressive
- grounded in data
- original in their approach
- policy-oriented
- produced in .pdf format on our website for free download
- between 2,000 and 4,000 words.

In some cases this may be a two-step process with interns producing background papers that are then amalgamated and drafted into C2020 analytical commentaries.

RIs will be asked to:

- Familiarize themselves with Canada 2020, our objectives and the scope of our work.
- Select a topic from the list provided by C2020 and write an outline for approval.
- Submit (and have approved) a realistic schedule for production of the output.
- Work closely with C2020 staff to ensure the relevance of the output.
- Submit their papers on time and to standard (MLA formatted, footnotes, full works cited list with annotations where necessary).
- Where possible, work with Canada 2020 to turn the papers into publishable outputs (to include drafting a shorter op-ed piece for external publication or C2020's own website).

Research interns will be paid \$500 for their finished piece.

The number of research interns will be limited by available resources at Canada 2020 (both financial and management).

If you are interested in applying for a research internship, please:

- Identify a topic that interests you from the list in Annex 1.
- Write a 200-300 words on how you would treat the topic and what sources you would expect to draw upon.
- Outline your timetable for completion of the task (assume timely C2020 response).
- Attach your CV.
- Send everything to Diana Carney, VP Research at C2020 (diana@canada2020.ca).

Annex 1: Current list of proposed RI topics

(As of 19 November 2012: This list will be updated on an ongoing basis.)

Each numbered point below is a separate topic.

Topics that relate directly to our forthcoming series of panels are in red. These are a priority for us, though we will be looking at other topics too.

Inequality

1. What are the linkages between inequality and others of our five areas (productivity, carbon, health)?
2. What effects do taxes (of various types) having on inequality? Look at experience in other countries too.
 - a. Correlation (if any) between corporate tax cuts and inequality levels.
 - b. Welfare cliffs and tax breaks for getting over these.
 - c. Wealth taxes and their effect (revenue raised and political impact).

Health

1. How does spending on youth (especially through education) compare with spending on old age (much through health)? To what extent does this ratio of spending reflect the values of our society?
2. What is the price of life in Canada? Look at the concept of *quality adjusted life years*, how this is used here and elsewhere, and how it helps guide decisions on costly medical interventions.
3. How do other countries approach wellness promotion (as opposed to health care)?
 - a. Food labeling, nutrition recommendations, fitness credits, food taxes, etc.

Carbon

1. How are the oilsands projected to grow over the next 20 years and what impact is this likely to have in terms of emissions and targets?
 - a. What alternative scenarios are there (e.g. with and without the Gateway and other pipelines, with more or less shale gas extraction, with government regulation vs. carbon tax) and how would these affect carbon emissions?
2. What is the attitude of business to carbon pricing?
 - a. Various business leaders have come out in favor of carbon pricing in Canada. Can we collate this information and compare it with business attitudes in jurisdictions that have adopted carbon pricing (e.g. Australia, BC, California)
3. What opportunities are there for Canada to participate in carbon offset markets? (as a supplier and a purchaser)?
 - a. Explore what Norway has done in this regard.
4. How does what Canada does in carbon link with the productivity agenda in this country? And the health agenda?

Asia

1. What potential is there for Canada to increase agricultural exports to Asia?
 - a. Look at projected growth of cities, projected demand for agricultural produce and match with Canada's productive potential

Productivity and innovation

1. What efforts have other countries made to increase public sector productivity?
 - a. Examine the use of benchmarking and other measurement tools and compare with Canada.

Annex 2: Canada 2020 Written Outputs

Canada 2020 produces five primary types of written output. All are targeted towards well-informed but non-specialist audiences, and should be written in clear language. Canada 2020 works interactively with authors to develop ideas and perform editing functions.

NB. There are clear links between these items so a single subject/research piece may result in several written outputs. In particular, we expect research reports and analytical commentaries to spawn opinion pieces and op-eds.

1. C2020 research reports are:

- defined in conjunction with C2020 or written in house
- based on original data/information or presenting new ideas about existing data/information
- policy-oriented
- produced in .pdf format on our website for free download and, exceptionally, in hard copy
- between 5,000 and 10,000 words in length.

2. C2020 analytical commentaries are:

- of clear relevance to one of our five areas
- argumentative and progressive
- grounded in data
- original in their approach
- policy-oriented
- produced in .pdf format on our website for free download
- between 2,000 and 4,000 words.

3. C2020 opinion pieces are:

- written specifically for the C2020 website
- message-driven
- progressive
- between 600 and 900 words.

4. C2020 op-eds are:

- often derived from longer research or commentary pieces
- targeted at mainstream newspaper or on-line outlets (i.e. go beyond C2020's own site)
- short (less than 800 words).

5. C2020 policy syntheses will be:

- produced at a later stage in our project
- based upon a series of prior findings and panels
- authored by C2020 staff.