

# Policy Innovation Lab

May 2024

Food Security and Land Use Policy  
STUDENT INFORMATION PACKAGE



the Prentice Institute  
for Global Population and Economy



# OKI

Thank you for participating in the 2024 City of Lethbridge Policy Innovation Lab. The City of Lethbridge and our partners at the University of Lethbridge's Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, Lethbridge College, and of course our students, are looking forward to hearing your unique insights, experiences, and contributions. This information package provides an overview of the PIL to assist you in preparing your upcoming presentation.

## What is the PIL?

The 2024 Policy Innovation Lab (PIL) is a four-week experiential learning opportunity that focuses on the complex interconnections between Urban Food Security, Policy, and Land Use.

Over the month of May 2024, six undergraduate students, three each from the Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge, will participate in a seminar series to build their understanding of food (in)security, policy, and land use planning.

Working in collaboration, this diverse cohort of students will apply their lived and learned knowledge to conduct research, analyze policy interventions and make recommendations to address food insecurity within their community.

The students' work will contribute to the City of Lethbridge's Land Use Bylaw (LUB) renewal project.

## What are the PIL's goals?

The PIL intends to create a **knowledge bridge** between the City of Lethbridge, post-secondary students, post-secondary institutions (PSIs), and other community partners to understand and **respond to shared challenges**.

The City, Prentice Institute and College have worked together to recruit students to participate in this policy "bootcamp" with the aim of producing a **technical research report** that proposes food security interventions through land use policy updates.

In the PIL, students will attend seminars, presentations, field trips and professional development sessions allow them to **activate existing academic knowledge** within an applied environment, **learn new skills** and **leverage lived experience**.

Additionally, the PIL will help the City, College, and University to explore, grow, and **innovate new models for work-integrated and experiential learning**.

## City of Lethbridge Land Use Bylaw Renewal

The City of Lethbridge is undergoing a renewal process for its Land Use Bylaw (LUB). As one of the primary policy instruments used to manage land use in the city, the LUB creates a lasting impact on the spatial distribution of economic, social, residential and other activities. Given the long-term presence of the city's built environment (e.g., schools, houses, roads), the policies and regulations contained in the LUB are quite impactful.

The LUB renewal presents an opportunity to identify and reflect on the current spatial distribution of land uses, including those that directly relate to food production, distribution, sale, and access.

For example, the LUB can potentially address concerns such as food deserts and the location of key support services like food banks.

For more information visit: [GetInvolvedLethbridge.ca](http://GetInvolvedLethbridge.ca) and explore the Land Use Bylaw renewal project page.

## The Sustainable Development Goals as a Lens for Food Insecurity

The PIL's theoretical lens to explore food insecurity aligns with United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, the UN created the 17 interconnected calls to action (the SDGs) to improve peace and prosperity globally.

Framing food insecurity using the SDGs provides students with several points of entry for sustainable solutions to complex topics, such as hunger, inequality, justice, and partnerships.

This allows students with different lived experiences and academic backgrounds the opportunity to connect to the topic of food security, and the interconnected issues in diverse, intersectional, and impactful ways.



# Respect

Participating in the Policy Innovation Lab (PIL) comes with responsibility to positively, and actively foster an environment of respect, inclusion and understanding. Collectively we will create an environment for our peers and colleagues to feel welcome and supported.

# Confidentiality

The work of the PIL at times may require confidentiality. As a participant, you are responsible for carrying out and completing your assigned tasks with diligence and faithfulness without showing partiality, favoritism, or bias. You must maintain the confidentiality of any information (personal, financial, or technical) that is ascertained or disclosed to you during your work. Once your work is complete, you will be held accountable for safely returning all materials and data to the best of your ability.



## Location

Unless otherwise indicated, in-person presentations will take place at the University of Lethbridge Dr. Foster James Penny Building at 324 5th Street South. Certain seminars and site visits will occur elsewhere and are identified in the schedule on subsequent pages. You are expected to arrive at the identified seminar location in advance of the start time, so that sessions can begin on-time (i.e., 8:10/8:15 for sessions beginning at 8:30). To help you access the locations you will be provided with a one-month transit pass.

Should you have any questions or concerns at any point, please contact one of the PIL hosts.

# PIL Hosts

## **Perry Stein, RPP, MCIP, MA**

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## **Erica Gonzalez, BA**

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# PIL Partners

## **Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy**

Located at the University of Lethbridge, the Prentice Institute conducts research and analysis integrating demographic changes and how those changes impact ecosystems, health, and the economy. Our work provides evidence for the development of policy options in addressing some of the difficult challenges facing the world.

[www.prenticeinstitute.ca](http://www.prenticeinstitute.ca)

## **Lethbridge College**

Lethbridge College is a leading Alberta post-secondary institution offering more than 60 certificate, diploma, applied degree, degree, and apprenticeship programs.

[www.lethbridgecollege.ca](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca)

# PIL Schedule

May 6, 2024

1

## Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals

**Time:** 9:30am – 10:15am

**Presenters:** David Schimpky and Barbara Filion, Canadian Commission for UNESCO | **VIRTUAL**

**Description:** David and Barbara will introduce the work of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will also highlight the role that cities can play in advancing sustainable development more broadly. The goal is to explore the SDGs as a framework for thinking about sustainable community development and policy.

United Nations. (n.d.). *Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals*.  
United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

2

## Introduction to Policy

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

**Presenters:** Dr. Lars Hallstrom, Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, University of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Lars will provide an introduction to “policy,” and the different approaches that governments take when designing, using, and evaluating them. The goal is for students to have a preliminary understand of why governments use policy, and how policies are developed.

Lowi, T. J. (1972). Four Systems of Policy, Politics, and Choice. *Public Administration Review*, 32(4), 298-310. <https://doi.org/10.2307/974990>

May 7, 2024

3

## Local Government and Policy

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am

**Presenters:** Jeff Coffman, MA, University of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON**  
**PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Jeff will provide an overview of how cities use policy, including the ways in which they are constrained by the division of jurisdiction between levels of government (i.e., municipal, provincial, and federal). The goal is for students to think about how proposed city interventions need to consider the different policy levers available to planners, policy makers, and decision makers.

Cohen, N. (2022). Roles of cities in creating healthful food systems. *Annual review of public health*, 43, 419-437.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-052220-02109>

4

## Equity Perspectives on Policy

**Time:** 10:45am – 12:00pm

**Presenters:** Tamara Larter, MA, Dr. Lucy Natarajan, University College London, and Dr. Cheryl Martens, Universidad San Francisco de Quito | **VIRTUAL**

**Description:** Through a panel discussion, Tamara, Lucy, and Cheryl will share their reflections on the ways in which policy (including with respect to food and land use) have historically created inequities within communities, and the ways in which policy can also be used to address those same inequities. The goal is for students to consider policy through a critical lens and how the positive and negative impacts of policy are often not equally experienced.

Calderón-Argelich, A., Anguelovski, I., Connolly, J. J., & Baró, F. (2023). Greening plans as (re) presentation of the city: Toward an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach to urban greenspaces. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 86, 127984.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866723001553>

May 8, 2024

5

## Land Use Planning and Policy

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am

**Presenters:** Ross Kilgour, RTPI, Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Ross will introduce the structure of land use planning in Alberta, with a focus on Lethbridge, and the ways cities design, develop, implement, and evaluate land use policies. The goal is for students to understand the policy landscape in Lethbridge and how different plans and policies guide the city's development.

City of Cape Town. (2022). What is Spatial Planning and Spatial Development (English). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPIszF7ODhc>

Urban Institute. (2020, June 12, 2019). [Video]. *Zoning Matters: How Land-Use Policies Shape Our Lives*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLMsl92crZw&t=33s>

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## Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Activity

**Time:** 10:45am -12:00pm

**Presenters:** Taylor Manns and Sydney Whiting, Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, University of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Taylor and Sydney will lead the group through a presentation, activity, and discussion to introduce key concepts around inclusion, diversity and equity. The goal is for students to gain experience "activating" an equity-lens to critically evaluate planning and policymaking.



May 9, 2024

7

## Blackfoot Perspectives on Food

**Time:** 8:30am –12:00pm

**Presenters:** Lethbridge College Elders, Faculty and Staff | **IN-PERSON**  
**LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE**

**Description:** Through a morning of experiential and land-based learning, students will engage with Lethbridge College's Indigenous educators to learn more about Blackfoot culture, and perspectives on food and land use. The goal is for students to experience culture as an important dimension.

Buffalo Treaty. (2020). *Origins of the Buffalo Treaty*.

<https://vimeo.com/461642011>

Buffalo Treaty. (n.d.). *Treaty*.

<https://www.buffalotreaty.com/treaty>

Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. (n.d.). *Indigenous Food Sovereignty*. University of British Columbia.

<https://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/teach/case-studies/indigenous-food-sovereignty/>

Dennis, M. K., & Robin, T. (2020). Healthy on our own terms: Indigenous wellbeing and the colonized food system. *Journal of Critical Dietetics*, 5(1), 4-11.

<https://journals.library.torontomu.ca/index.php/criticaldietetics/article/view/1333>



May 10, 2024

8

## Sociological Perspectives on Food and Food Security

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:00am

**Presenters:** Dr. Michael Granzow, Lethbridge College | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Michael's presentation will focus on how sociological perspectives help us to think about food and food security. The goal is to provide additional theoretical framing to students when they think about food security as a concept and in the development of policy interventions.

Marcone, M. F., Madan, P., & Grodzinski, B. (2020). An overview of the sociological and environmental factors influencing eating food behavior in Canada. *Frontiers in nutrition, 7*, 77. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnut.2020.00077/full>

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## Anthropological Perspectives on Food and Food Security

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:00am

**Presenters:** Dr. Andrea Cuellar, Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, University of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Andrea's presentation will focus on how anthropological perspectives help us to think about food and food security. The goal is to provide additional theoretical framing to students when they think about food security as a concept and in the development of policy interventions.

MacRae, G. (2016). Food Sovereignty and the Anthropology of Food: Ethnographic Approaches to Policy and Practice. *Anthropological Forum, 26*(3), 227-232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2016.1201456>

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## Sustainable Development Goals and Food

**Time:** 11:15am – 12:00pm

**Presenters:** Dr. Alison Blay Palmer, UNESCO Chair Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University | **VIRTUAL**

**Description:** Alison's presentation will help focus the relevancy of SDGs specifically around food security, using food security as a representative issue that demonstrates why the SDGs needs to be addressed holistically. The goal is for students to learn more about the relationship between food and SDGs, but also how conceptual frameworks can help us understand complex issues.

Our World in Data Team. (2023). *SDG Tracker: Measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*. Our World in Data. <https://ourworldindata.org/sdgs#article-citation>

May 13, 2024

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## Land Use Bylaw Renewal Project Overview

**Time:** 9:00am –11:00am

**Presenters:** Ross Kilgour, RTPI, Senior Community Planner and Genesis Molesky, Planner II, City of Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Description:** Ross and Genesis will provide an overview of the Land Use Bylaw Renewal project, including the key considerations driving the update. They will also engage with students in a reflective conversation about the previous week of presentations, helping to connect those learnings to the PIL outcomes.

City of Lethbridge. (n.d.). *Land Use Bylaw Renewal Project*. City of Lethbridge. <https://getinvolvedlethbridge.ca/lub>

## Research Time

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:30pm

12

## Experiential Evening Activity

**Time:** Self-directed

**Description:** Students will expand upon their current knowledge of food insecurity through an experiential activity that focuses on individuals facing complex dietary, economic, and access barriers.

May 14, 2024

13

## Lethbridge College Farm Tour

**Time:** 9:00am – 12:00pm

**Presenters:** Joshua Leith, AgENT Program Coordinator, Lethbridge College and Kolk Farms | **IN-PERSON LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE**

**Description:** Students will travel to the Lethbridge College Farm and experience firsthand what a working farm looks and feels (and smells!) like. Following the tour, the students will share a meal with local producers from Kolk Farms to learn about their perspectives on food, policy, and land use.

Edmonton Community Foundation. (2023). *Food Security in Our Time* (Vital Topics, Issue. [https://communityfoundations.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ECF-Vital-Topics-Two-July-2023\\_20598\\_F.pdf](https://communityfoundations.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ECF-Vital-Topics-Two-July-2023_20598_F.pdf)

Hilario, K. M. (2021). *Food Deserts in Canadian Cities*. Arcgis Storymaps. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/934a49ffcdf347aa8cec1ccde13978c5>



May 15, 2024

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## Urban Food Security Interventions

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am

**Presenters:** Dr. Kevin Jones, University of Alberta | **IN-PERSON ECOLE LA VERENDRYE**

**Description:** Kevin will share urban food security interventions that have taken root in other communities, and the role of community-based organizations in supporting them. The goal is for students to begin conceptualizing what community-based action looks like in relation to food security and land use.

Davison, D. (2018). *How urban agriculture is transforming Detroit* | Devita Davison. TED. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G88JZ1DIdg8&t=166s>

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. (2023). *Milan Pact Awards 2022*. [https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Milan-Pact-Awards-2022-REPORT\\_light.pdf](https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Milan-Pact-Awards-2022-REPORT_light.pdf)

**Note:** Only chapter 6 of the report.

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## Policy and the Environment

**Time:** 10:45am – 12:00pm

**Presenters:** Kathleen Sheppard, Environment Lethbridge | **IN-PERSON**

**Description:** Kathleen will provide students with insight from an environmental lens. She will share her perspectives on the relationship between emerging ecological risks such as drought and climate change, and food security. The goal is for students to consider the environmental lens as they explore food security interventions, and how land use actions can both harm and contribute to environmental sustainability.

C40 Cities. (n.d.). *Food Security*. C40 Cities. <https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/scaling-up-climate-action/adaptation-water/the-future-we-dont-want/food-security/>

May 16, 2024

Research Time

Time: 8:30am – 12:30pm



May 17, 2024

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## Student Leader Perspectives on Food Security

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am

**Presenters:** Representatives from the University of Lethbridge Students Union and Lethbridge College Students Association | **IN-PERSON INTERFAITH FOOD BANK**

**Description:** Representatives from the ULSU and LCSA will share their perspectives of the impact that food security has on students, including students from diverse cultural backgrounds. They will also share recent initiatives taken to respond to food insecurity on their campuses. The goal is for students to hear about how food insecurity is impacting their peers, but also how student leaders envision possible interventions.

Meal Exchange. (2021). *2021 National Student Food Insecurity Report*.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fa8521696a5fd2ab92d32e6/t/6318b24f068ccf1571675884/1662562897883/2021+national+student+food+insecurity+report>

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## The Role of Foodbanks

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:00pm

**Presenter:** Danielle McIntyre, Executive Director, Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank | **IN-PERSON INTERFAITH FOOD BANK**

**Description:** Danielle will share the role of food banks within the food system and interventions that her organization is undertaking to respond to the various dimensions of food insecurity. The goal is for students to understand the role of social service organizations within the urban food system, and the changing needs of individuals and families accessing these services.

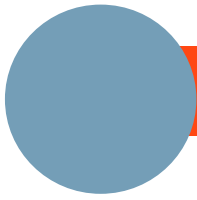
Interfaith Food Bank. (n.d.). *Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge*.

<https://interfaithfoodbank.ca/>

Tarasuk, V., Fafard St-Germain, A.-A., & Loopstra, R. (2020). The relationship between food banks and food insecurity: insights from Canada. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 31, 841-852.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11266-019-00092-w>

May 21, 2024



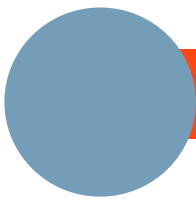
### Research Time & Professional Development

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

**Presenter:** Centre for Teaching, Learning and Innovation, Lethbridge College | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Professional Development Session:** Delivering Compelling Presentations

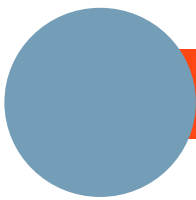
May 22, 2024



### Research Time

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

May 23, 2024



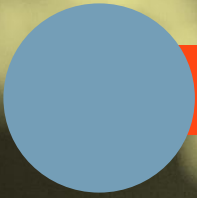
### Research Time & Interim Presentation

**Interim Presentation and Feedback:** 9:00am – 11:00am

**Research Time:** 11:00am – 12:30pm



May 24, 2024



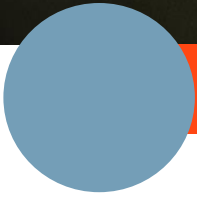
## Research Time & Professional Development

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

**Presenter:** Centre for Teaching, Learning and Innovation, Lethbridge College | **IN-PERSON PENNY BUILDING**

**Professional Development Session:** Making Compelling Infographics

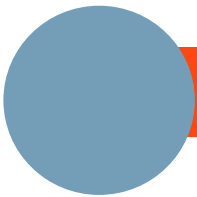
May 27, 2024



## Research Time

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

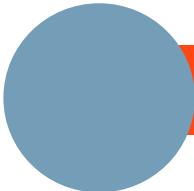
May 28, 2024



## Research Time

**Time:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

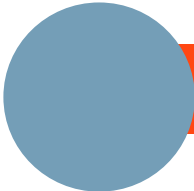
**May 29, 2024**



**Research Time**

Time: 8:30am – 12:30pm

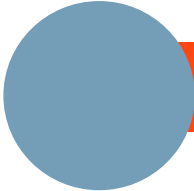
**May 30, 2024**



**Research Time**

Time: 8:30am – 12:30pm

**May 30, 2024**



**Research Time & Final Presentation**

Final Presentation and Debrief: 9:00am – 10:30am  
Celebration: 10:30am +

# Deliverables for the PIL

## Seminar Attendance & Leadership

Students are expected to attend all the seminars unless there are extenuating circumstances. While attending, students are expected to participate fully, including reviewing supplementary reading materials in advance of sessions, and being engaged in conversations. You are also expected to contribute to a positive learning and knowledge sharing environment between yourself and your peers, the PIL hosts, presenters, and other participants.

## Interim Presentation | May 23, 2024

The interim presentation is an opportunity for students to receive formal feedback on their research report from City staff and faculty. The student can then incorporate the feedback into the final report. The presentation should take the form of a powerpoint presentation (or similar) highlight the key aspects of the written paper.

## Final Research Report | May 31, 2024

The final research report is the main focus of the PIL. City staff will use the report to engage with the topic of food security in the broader context of the LUB Renewal Project, including evaluating potential recommendations for policy change. The main components of the report include:

- Local Experience
  - What is food security?
  - From an intersectional lens, what is the community need with respect to food security?
  - Mapping or other illustrative tool that describes the current state of food (in)security in the city, including at its various “scales” (e.g., neighbourhood level, demographic level).
- Potential Policy Approaches
  - Case studies / best practices from other municipalities
  - Potential policy approaches that can be taken in the new LUB

If there is time, students can also explore:

- Food and the LUB
  - How does the LUB impact the location/availability/accessibility of food within the city?
  - How is food considered by each of the City’s different Land Use Districts?
  - Where is food typically available today? What kinds of land use definitions to these uses fall under today (e.g., convenience store, retail store, restaurant, soup kitchen)?
  - How difficult is it to get approval for creating new instances of these uses (e.g., zoning and/or development approvals)?
  - Are there rules in the current LUB that tend to (perhaps unintentionally) create food deserts in the City? (e.g., auto-centric development paradigm)
  - Are the concerns that people, businesses or other stakeholders might have with changes to how food-related uses are considered in the LUB?

## Academic Poster | May 31, 2024

The academic poster is a supplement to the final report, summarizing the project for a public audience. Additional information and templates will be provided.

## Evaluation

Students will be asked to participate in the evaluation of the PIL at its conclusion.



**CITY OF**  
 **Lethbridge**

[Lethbridge.ca/cityscholars](https://lethbridge.ca/cityscholars)