

Governments play a critical role in the health of non-profits and the communities they serve. No matter where you work – a small performing arts company, a neighbourhood agency, or an organization working on the sustainability of land and food – governments have an impact on how you achieve your mission through such things as program funding, legislation, and regulation. In other words, public policy affects all non-profits regardless of mission or current focus.

While many non-profits are comfortable in the policy arena, others deal with public policy without fully understanding how governments go about the public policy process. We all need to learn to be more adept in shaping and affecting public policy as it is being developed so that we can help ensure results are as positive as possible for our critical non-profit sectors and the issues they advance.

Please join the Metcalf Foundation in a series of workshops designed to strengthen non-profits' understanding of public policy and how you can work with government in order to influence change. This series is for all those within your organization who want to understand policy better, want to check their assumptions and would benefit from a forum for candid exchange and discussion on the importance of the public policy process.

Session 1

November 7, 2008 – 9:30 - 12:00

What is Public Policy and Why Should We Be Bothered?

- What is public policy and how is it developed?
- What is the difference between good policy and bad policy?
- Whose job is it to create public policy options?

Session 2

December 5, 2008 – 9:30 - 12:00

Public Policy: Who's Who in Government

- How do political staff and civil servants function differently?
- What is the hierarchy of how decisions get made in government?
- How do non-profits build effective relationships with government?

Session 3

January 9, 2009 – 9:30 - 12:00

How Do We Develop More Effective Public Policy Options?

- What are the components of an effective background analysis?
- How do we develop and analyze policy options?
- How does a policy option turn into a government recommendation?
- How can we engage the media and other key constituencies in our issue?

Workshop Leader: John Stapleton

- public policy expert and Metcalf Fellow
- over 28 years' experience in the Ontario government
- currently working to assist organizations and communities undertaking public policy initiatives

Location: Ontario Heritage Centre

8 Adelaide Street East, Toronto (one block north of the King Subway Station, just east of Yonge)

Registration is free, but attendees must pre-register with Heather Dunford at the Metcalf Foundation (416-926-0366 X 33 or hdunford@metcalffoundation.com). A light breakfast will be available at 9:00 AM.