Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to explore the unique features of policy-making in Canadian local
governments.

Organization:
The course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Students should have their own copy of the following (paperback) book:

Aaron A. Moore, Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban
Development (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013)

All other readings – including draft chapters for the 2nd edn of Sancton, Canadian Local
Government – will be available electronically through Western Libraries or will be available on
the course website (OWL).

Jan. 8  Introduction
Readings:  Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL),

Jan. 15  Local Parties and Elections
Readings:
Sancton, revised ch.9 for 2nd edn (OWL)

**Guest: Connie Wheeler, Program Manager, Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative**
Readings: Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI) website: http://www.ombi.ca/

**Jan. 22**
**Local Political Economy**
Readings:  
Sancton, revised ch.10 for 2nd edn (OWL)  
Moore, Ch. 1 and 2

**Jan. 29**
**Institutions and Processes for Planning: The Toronto Case**
Readings:  
Moore, ch.3-7

**Feb. 5**
**Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives**
Readings:  
Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp.4-7.  

**Feb. 12**
**Policy-making for Local Economic Growth**
Readings:  
Feb. 26  **Agenda-Setting Diffusion and Participation**
Readings:
Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp. 11-15

March 5  **Symbolic policy-making, including frameworks for future policy actions**
Readings: new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp. 15-16.
Martin Horak and Marilyn Dantico, “The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighbourhood Regeneration Initiatives in Toronto and Phoenix”, forthcoming publication (OWL)
Martin Horak and Aaron A. Moore, “Policy Shift without Institutional Change: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto” forthcoming publication (OWL)

March 12  **Implementation**
Readings:

March 19  **OMBI presentations**

March 26  **OMBI (and possibly miscellaneous presentations)**
April 2

**Conclusion**

Readings:
Sancton, draft concluding ch. (16) for 2nd ed

**Course Requirements and Responsibilities**

By January 22, all students must have chosen a local policy issue or an issue to analyze using OMBI data. By January 29 a schedule of oral presentations will be prepared by the instructor. The basic requirements will be as follows:

- **Essay outline – 20%**
  A brief outline (approximately 500 words) of the proposed essay together with a listing of the main sources. **Due January 22**

- **Oral presentation – 10%**
  Each student will be required to make a presentation based on their essay topic. Students scheduled earlier in the term will not be expected to have completed their research.

- **Essay – 50%**
  An essay of about 3000 words containing a comprehensive treatment of the policy issue or OMBI data-set chosen. **Due April 2**

- **Overall Participation – 20%**