

# David T. McGrath

## PROFILE

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Experienced bilingual business professional with a background in government, business, management consulting, and the non-profit sector. I carry on a practice in communications and government and stakeholder relations. I currently serve as the Chief Consultant to the *Energy Council of Canada*. In mid-2016, I completed a 20-month contract as the CEO of the Kingston, Ontario affiliate of the affordable homeownership charity, *Habitat for Humanity*. During that time, I reduced my other consulting activity to help steer the affiliate through a critical transition.

## CAREER

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*September 2021 – present: Chief Consultant – Energy Council of Canada (ECC)*

In late 2021 the ECC engaged me to work as its Chief Consultant. The organization's mission is to raise awareness of energy policy issues in Canada, the energy industries' contribution to Canada's economy and society, and the sector's potential for exporting goods and services. In that time, I have:

- Maintained the organization's website,
- Written and edited a quarterly newsletter,
- Written and edited an annual compendium of developments in the energy sector,
- Written advocacy documents,
- Made presentations to the ambassadors and diplomatic delegations from the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Indonesia, and the European Union countries' diplomatic representatives in Canada.

*July 2016 – present: Communications, government & stakeholder relations, and management consultant*

My consulting services comprise communications advice, government relations advice, policy research, writing and editing various types of documents. I have a background in economics, public policy, and finance. I apply that training and experience to represent the interests of various organizations to the public, government, and stakeholders.

*December 2014 – July 2016: CEO Habitat for Humanity Greater Kingston & Frontenac*

Board member from 2010; Vice-Chair from early 2014. In late 2014, I was asked to manage a highly sensitive personnel issue. I resolved the matter firmly and discreetly, and eliminated a significant risk to the affiliate's reputation. I subsequently was asked by the board to serve as interim CEO to stabilize and build the affiliate.

I represented my affiliate in meetings with mayors, municipal councils, members of provincial and federal parliament, Ontario cabinet Ministers, as well as community and church groups. I also helped form a 3-person government

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relations committee, deputized by the 26 Ontario *Habitat for Humanity* affiliates to develop a common government relations strategy.

In my tenure with the affiliate, my staff and I were able to:

- restore the “good standing” status of the affiliate with *Habitat Canada* (the oversight body for *Habitat* affiliates in Canada),
- expand its service territory, adding 43,000 persons – a 25% increase,
- build a house for a new client family in the new service territory in 2016,
- negotiate a precedent-setting partnership agreement with *Habitat Canada* to move the Kingston affiliate’s *ReStore* and triple its size (*ReStores* sell donated building materials and furnishings; their net income covers operating costs of the affiliates where they are located), and
- increase Kingston’s existing *ReStore* sales by 8% since 2014 and net income by 35%; over the same period the affiliate’s cash position increased by over 36%.

*August 2010 – December 2014: Government Relations & Communications Consultant*

Senior policy consultant to the Canadian hydropower industry (*WaterPower Canada*), which produces 60% of Canada’s electricity. Engagements included:

- writing and editing briefing papers on environmental law and policy,
- drafting communications to senior officials and Ministers,
- writing articles for domestic and international industry journals,
- representing *WaterPower Canada* in meetings with federal Ministers and Members of Parliament,
- attendance at Parliamentary Committee hearings.

*July 2001 – May 2010: BP Canada Limited Government Relations/Regulatory Affairs/Project & Commercial Negotiator*

I was recruited by BP from the federal government to work in the oil and gas industry on major projects.

- Designed government relations strategy for a proposed major natural gas pipeline from Alaska to Alberta.
- Helped lead a multi-company task force of firms seeking to ship gas on a proposed pipeline from the Mackenzie Delta; we succeeded in having the *Canada Oil and Gas Act* amended to facilitate northern natural gas exploration and development.
- Negotiated a commercial framework agreement with *Ktunaxa First Nation* in British Columbia in support of a project to produce natural gas from coal deposits that extend into *Ktunaxa*’s traditional territory.
- Negotiated the purchase and sale of natural gas rights with other companies in Alberta and British Columbia.

*May 1973 – July 2001: Government of Canada*

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I have had a long and varied career as a federal public servant, working initially as a statistical analyst and ultimately as a senior policy advisor. Achievements include:

- Negotiation of policy-related terms of 26 petroleum industry mergers and acquisitions with a total value of \$16.5 billion.
- Writing and editing Ministerial speeches and other department documents.
- In 1990, at the invitation of the Canadian ambassador, I wrote and participated in seminars in Sweden promoting Canada as an investment destination.
- In 2000, I represented Canada at a meeting in Paris of a standing committee of the *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* to explain Canada's federal energy regulatory regime.
- I appeared as an expert witness before the *House of Commons Standing Committee on Energy*, during its review of new legislation on oil and gas exploration on federal lands.

## EDUCATION

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- MBA, Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) 1992
- Certificate in Administration, University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada) 1991
- BA, Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada) 1970 – 1972
- University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada) 1968 – 1970

## OTHER INTERESTS AND BACKGROUND

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Bilingual – English and French; some knowledge of German and Spanish

Media Relations Training: *Barry McLoughlin Associates Inc* (Ottawa) 1992 and *BP Canada Limited* (Calgary) 2007

I have published articles on social issues (*FastForward Weekly*, Calgary), history (*Guild Messenger*, Barnardo's Orphanage, London UK), and sports (*Welling United FC Game Day Programme*, London UK). I have also produced written material in my role as a volunteer in youth sports. This included drafting fundraising brochures as well as newsletters targeted to children from the age of 9 to 12 years.

Interests include: writing, history, law, government, economics, hiking, and cycling.

Community involvement:

- Kanata Minor Hockey Association (Ottawa)
- Crowfoot Minor Hockey Association (Calgary)
- Kanata Soccer Club (Ottawa)
- Southwest United Soccer Club (Calgary)
- Habitat for Humanity (Calgary, Kingston)

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- Calgary Food Bank
- Volunteer Counsellor, Kingston Hospital, Mental Health Unit

Online presence:

- LinkedIn: [David McGrath](#)
- [davidmcgrath consulting](#)

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