

PROFILE

- Extensive understanding of how public policy and politics work, both provincially and federally.
- First-hand experience of the functioning of Ontario and national media.
- Relationships with the key players at the highest levels of government.
- Experience and ability to manage and motivate individuals.
- High-level knowledge of communications issues and strategy.
- Proven skill in synthesizing and understanding complex issues.
- Writing skills that produce clear concise stories with a fast turnaround.
- The ability to ask the right questions, to probe weaknesses in arguments and challenge faulty logic.

PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Elenchus

Associate, Communications Policy

Since November of 2009, I have been providing strategic communications and policy advice for Elenchus. Elenchus has realized the communications has to be at the centre of all of a corporation's major decisions. It can no longer be treated as an afterthought, but has to inform program development, and be integrated into program delivery.

CBC Radio News

Queens Park Political Reporter, Toronto

Between 1998 and 2009, I was the Queens Park reporter and provincial affairs specialist for CBC Radio News in Toronto. During that time I covered three provincial election campaigns (1999, 2003 and 2007) as well as municipal and federal campaigns.

In 2003, I was the main analyst for the CBC Radio News during its election night coverage of David Miller's victory in the mayoral race. During the last three federal elections, I provided CBC Radio listeners stories of the critical battleground ridings in Ontario. I also co-hosted CBC Radio Toronto's election night coverage in 2006 and 2008.

Not all of my stories involved conventional politics. In 2002, I broke the news of plans for the first gay marriage in Canada, and I covered the campaign that ultimately led to its legalization in Canada.

CBC Radio News, Toronto

Municipal Reporter

In 1997, I resuscitated CBC Radio's then-dormant coverage of municipal politics when I covered the debate over the province's plan to amalgamate the five cities in Metro Toronto into one mega-city. This was the biggest political controversy locally since the Spadina Expressway, pitting the overwhelming majority of the City's residents against the Conservative government of Mike Harris. I then covered the election that brought Mayor Mel Lastman and the new Council into power, and reported on the first year and a half in the political life of the new city.

CBC Radio News, Toronto

General Assignment Reporter

From 1991-1997, I was one of the senior local reporters for CBC Radio News. During the time, I handled a wide-range of stories, but will mention three in particular: I was the first to identify the growing importance of culture to the city's economy; I was the on-site reporter during the TTC subway crash; but most importantly, I spent a couple of years focusing on the safety of Canada's blood supply. I was one of the first journalists to report on the failure of the Red Cross and federal and provincial governments to protect people from being transfused with HIV-contaminated blood or blood products.

In 1995, I jumped at the opportunity to be the bus reporter during the successful Mike Harris campaign, giving me a front-row seat on the most dramatic post-war political change in this province.

CBC Radio News, Toronto Senior Editor/Manager

From 1987-1991, I ran the local Toronto newsroom for CBC Radio News. As Senior Editor, I was responsible for managing the budget as well as the story production of seven reporters and editors. Every morning I would, with the input of the other members of the newsroom, set out the direction for the day's newscasts. I was also responsible for the operation of two bureaus at Queens Park and in Hamilton. During this time the newsroom made its first efforts to broaden our coverage of Toronto's diverse communities, with specials and enhanced coverage of the City's black community.

CBC Radio, Ottawa Producer and reporter

Between 1981 and 1987, I was a specialist reporter for CBC Radio News in Ottawa. I started out covering workplace and labor issues inside the federal public service, but later became the local station's first reporter on Parliament Hill, and reported nationally on a number issues, including the then-recurring postal strikes.

From 1975-1981, I was a current-affairs producer for the local CBC Radio station in Ottawa. During the time I worked on the afternoon rolling-home show, it increased its audience share to tie for #1 spot in the city. On the morning show, I developed a series of stories on illegal RCMP activities that were later corroborated by the MacDonald Commission.

Languages English
Successfully completed French language training at the CBC

Community Activities Board Member, Annex Resident Association 2005 - 2006
President, Queens Park Press Gallery 2000 – 2002
Secretary, Queens Park Press Gallery 2002 – 2008

In recognition of my contributions, the Queens Park Press Gallery awarded me a life membership in 2009

Education Bachelor of Journalism 1974-1975
Carleton University, Ottawa
Bachelor of Arts (History/Sociology) 1971-1974
Carleton University, Ottawa