

School of Public Policy and Democratic Innovation and Bruce Water Policy Fellow



Mike Goffin is one of Canada's most experienced water policy leaders. Over the course of his more than 40 year career with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Mr. Goffin was engaged in policy development and program delivery in a wide variety of areas including environmental protection, water and ecosystem management, wildlife management, meteorology, intergovernmental affairs, Indigenous relations and community engagement.

For more than a decade, Mr. Goffin was responsible for leading Canada's efforts to restore and protect the water quality and ecosystem health of the Great Lakes. In 2012 he was lead negotiator for Canada responsible for the negotiation of the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Mr. Goffin was a long serving member and past Canadian Co-chair of the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Board. He also served as Canadian Co-chair of the International Joint Commission's International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and on many other international, national and intergovernmental water policy leadership committees. He has a vast network of partners across Canada including many Indigenous leaders.

In 2020, Mr. Goffin took on a special assignment to lead the creation of the Canada Water Agency. The process to create the national Agency involved the most extensive review of freshwater policy and management in Canada since the establishment of the Federal Water Policy in 1987, and a two-year national consultation and engagement process. When the agency was created in 2023, Mr. Goffin became Director General, Policy and External Relations. He played a pivotal role in establishing strategic policy priorities for the agency, recruiting a leadership team, and laying the foundations for work on legislation to establish the independent agency and modernizing the Canada Water Act before retiring from the Federal Public Service in 2024.

Mr. Goffin received his undergraduate degree in geography and environmental studies and a Master of Science degree in Geomorphology from the University of Toronto.

He is excited to share his knowledge, expertise and mentorship with Canada's next generation of water policy leaders. He has served on the selection committee for the Bruce Fellowships in Canadian Freshwater Policy and looks forward to making significant contributions through his new role as a SPPDI-Bruce Water Policy Fellow.