

Background and schooling *Born* at Lachine, Quebec, Canada. *Education*: McGill University: BA Honours in Economics (1974). Yale University: MA (1975), MPhil (1976), PhD. (1980), all in economics. *Married*: 1991, to Julia Ann Scott of Toronto and Lennoxville, Quebec. *Father to*: Scott Douglas Watson (b. 1993) and David George Watson (b. 1995)

Employment and appointments

Institution	Period	Position
Department of Economics, McGill University (Montreal)	1985-	Associate Professor
	1977-85	Visiting Lecturer; Assistant Professor
	2005-10	Chair of Department
Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)	1983-84	Visiting Scholar
	1985-86	Visiting Professor (Summers)
The Americas Society (New York)	1990-91	Visiting Associate
Simon Fraser University (Vancouver)	1991-92	Visiting Scholar
C. D. Howe Institute (Toronto)	1992-97	Adjunct Scholar
	2002-	Research Scholar
<i>Ottawa Citizen</i>	1997-98	Editorial Pages Editor
<i>Policy Options politiques</i> , (IRPP, Montreal)	1998-2002	Editor
Institute for Research on Public Policy	2002-	Senior Research Fellow
Université de Savoie	2002-03	Visiting Scholar

Distinctions

Allan Oliver Gold Medal in Economics, McGill University, 1974

National Magazine Award Gold Medal for Humour for a story in *Saturday Night*, 1989

Runner-up, Donner Prize for best Canadian policy book of the year, 1998

Books, monographs & edited volumes

Globalization and the Meaning of Canadian Life (Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 1998) pp. 314 + xii (Runner-up, Donner Prize for best book of the year on Canadian public policy, May 1999)

Industrial Policy in Quebec and Ontario with Paul Davenport, Christopher Green, William Milne, and Ronald Saunders (Toronto: Ontario Economic Council, 1982; pp. 82).

A Primer on the Economics of Industrial Policy (Toronto: Ontario Economic Council, 1983; pp. 113 + ix)

William G. Watson, ed. *Report of the Policy Forum on Medicare in an Age of Restraint* (Kingston: John Deutsch Memorial for Economic Policy; 1984; pp. 53 + iii)

Richard M. Bird *Industrial Policy in Ontario* in association with Paul Davenport, Christopher Green, Yehuda Kotowitz, William J. Milne, Ronald S. Saunders, and William G. Watson (Toronto: Ontario Economic Council; 1985)

National Pastimes: The Economics of Canadian Leisure (Vancouver: The Fraser Institute; 1988) pp. 167 + xviii

John Richards, Francois Vaillancourt, and William G. Watson *Survival: Official Language Rights in Canada* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1992) pp. 140 + ix

William G. Watson, ed. *Report of the Policy Forum on a North American Free Trade Area* (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for Economic Policy; 1992) pp. 150 + viii

Co-editor (with John Richards, School of Business, Simon Fraser University) of C. D. Howe Institute publication series, *The Social Policy Challenge*:

1. William G. Watson, John Richards, and David K. Brown *The Case For Change: Reinventing the Welfare State* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994) pp. 134 + ix
2. Christopher Green, Fred Lazar, Miles Corak, Dominique M. Gross *Unemployment Insurance: How to Make it Work* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994) pp. 193 + xxiii
3. Harris, Richard G., et al. *Paying Our Way: The Welfare State in Hard Times* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994) pp. 138 + xvii
4. Courchene, Thomas J. *Social Canada in the Millenium: Reform Imperatives and Restructuring Principles* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994) pp. 368 + xxii
5. Richards, John, et al. *Helping the Poor: A Qualified Case for 'Workfare'* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995) pp. 206 + xxvii
6. Fallis, George, et al. *Home Remedies: Rethinking Canadian Housing Policy* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute, 1995) pp. 244
7. Thomason, Terry, et al. *Chronic Stress: Workers' Compensation in the 1990s* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995) pp. 178 + vii
8. Martin Dooley, et al. *Family Matters: New Policies for Divorce, Lone Mothers, and Child Poverty* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995) pp. 290 + iv
9. Doug May and Alton Hollett *The Rock in a Hard Place: Atlantic Canada and the UI Trap* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995) pp. 244 + xv
10. Roy J. Adams, et al. *Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Jobs: Tough Choices for Canadian Labor Law* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995) pp. 198 + iv
11. Helmar Drost, et al. *Market Solutions for Native Poverty: Social Policy for the Third Solitude* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1996) pp. 172 + vii
12. Charles M. Beach and George A. Slotsve *Are We Becoming Two Societies? Income Polarization and the Myth of the Declining Middle Class in Canada* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1996) pp. 190 + ix
13. John B. Burbidge, et al. *When We're 65: Reforming Canada's Retirement Income System* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1996) pp. 228 + vii

Co-editor with Christopher Ragan: *Is the Debt War Over? Dispatches from Canada's Fiscal Frontline* (Montreal; Institute for Research on Public Policy; 2004)

Articles and book chapters

'Bacon and Eltis on Growth, Government, and Welfare: A Review Article' *Journal of Comparative Economics* II:43-56 (March 1978)

'Old Wine in Old Bottles: Textiles and Clothing as the Acid Test for an Industrial Strategy' *Policy Options Politiques* II:4:14-19 (September/October 1981)

'The Poverty of Reaganism' *Policy Options Politiques* III:2:42-47 (March/April 1982)

'The Economics of Constitution-Making' *Law and Contemporary Problems* XLV:4:801-22 (Autumn 1982)

'The Economics of Technology' *Policy Options Politiques* IV:4:40-45 (March/April 1983)

'The Economic Implications of Aging' *McGill University Committee on Aging Occasional Papers* (May 1984)

- 'It's Still Not Time for an Industrial Strategy' *Canadian Public Policy* X:2:201-210 (June 1984)
- 'Freshening the Debate' *Policy Options Politiques* V:3:54-58 (May/June 1984)
- 'Heavy Landing' for Canadair: A Tale of Industrial Policy' *Regulation* VIII:6:4-7 (Sept/Dec 1984)
- 'Alberta's New View of Industrial Strategy' in Michael Walker, ed., *On Alberta's Industrial and Science Strategy Proposals* (Vancouver: The Fraser Institute, 1984)
- 'Some Questions of Principle' *Canadian Public Policy* XI:1:118-25 (March 1985)
- 'Federalism and Health Care' in Courchene, Thomas J., and David Conklin, eds. *Ottawa and the Provinces: The Distribution of Money and Power* (Toronto: Ontario Economic Council, 1985)
- 'A Southern Perspective on Northern Economic Development' pp. 165-82 in Michael S. Whittington, ed. *The North* Research Volume 72 of the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985)
- 'Pornography and Liberalism' *Policy Options Politiques* VI:5:18-21 (June 1985)
- 'Costing Seals' *Policy Options Politiques* VI:6:27-30 (July/August 1985)
- 'New Management Initiatives' pp. 4855 in Douglas D. Purvis, ed., *Report of the Policy Forum on the May 1985 Federal Budget* (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for the Study of Economic Policy, 1985)
- 'An Estimate of the Efficiency Gain from Fiscal Equalization' *Canadian Journal of Economics* XIX:2 (May 1986)
- 'A New Direction for Canada?' in Martin F. J. Prachowny, ed. *Policy Forum on the February 1986 Federal Budget* (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for Economic Policy, 1986)
- 'Simpler Equalization' *Policy Options Politiques* VII:8:22-24
- 'The Regional Consequences of Free(r) Trade' in William J. Coffey and Mario Polese, eds. *Still Living Together: Recent Trends and Future Directions in Canadian Regional Development* (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy; 1987)
- 'Section 36 Federalism' *Policy Options Politiques* VIII:5:21-3 (June 1987)
- 'CanadaUS Free Trade: Why Now?' *Canadian Public Policy* XIII:3:337-49 (September 1987)
- 'Demographic Change, Provincial Fiscal Behaviour, and Regional Economic Growth' *Canadian Studies in Population* 14:2:20922 (1987)
- 'Amusement, Recreation and Broadcasting' in James J. McRae and Martine Desbois, eds. *Traded and Non-Traded Services: Problems of Theory, Measurement, and Policy* (Halifax: Institute for Research on Public Policy; 1988) pp. 15971
- 'No Guarantees: Access to Markets Under the Canada-US FTA' in *Access to Markets Under the Canada/USA Free Trade Agreement* (McGill University Institute of Comparative Law; 1988)
- 'The Case of the Disputed Benefit: A Reply to Tim Hazledine' *Canadian Public Policy* XIV:2:214-21 (June 1988)
- 'Economy' in *The New Canadian Encyclopedia* (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers; 1988) pp. 6526
- 'The Draft Agreement: Cohabitation Worth a Try' in Tom Velk and A. R. Riggs, eds. *Canadian-American Free Trade: (The Sequel) Historical, Political, and Economic Dimensions* (Halifax: Institute for Research on Public Policy; 1988) pp. 57-68
- 'Three Bad Arguments Against Free Trade' *Policy Options Politiques* IX:8:15-18 (October 1988)
- 'Mammon and the Muse: Some Economic Problems in Canadian Publishing' pp. 215-30 in *Scholarly Publishing in Canada: Evolving Present, Uncertain Future* (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press for the Aid to Scholarly Publishing Programme; 1988)
- 'Cross-Subsidization and Canadian Culture' pp. 226-35 in *Cultural Economics 88: A Canadian Perspective* (Akron, Ohio: Association for Cultural Economics; 1988)

- ‘Comments on the 1990 Federal Budget’ in *Policy Forum on the Federal Budget of 1990* (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for Economic Policy; 1990)
- ‘Afterword’ in *Reshaping the North American Partnership for the 1990’s* Report of the 1990 Canada-US Conference of the Americas Society (New York: Americas Society; 1991) pp. 115-20
- ‘The Status Quo’ in *Toolkits and Building Blocks: Constructing a New Canada* (Toronto: C.D. Howe Institute; 1991) pp. 116-19
- ‘Canadian *Perestroika* or Why I am a Separatist’ in Richard Beach, ed. *Focus Canada* (Plattsburgh: Centre for the Study of Canada, State University of New York; 1991) pp. 9-18
- ‘Comments on McFetridge and Lall’ and ‘Comments on Globerman’ in Walter Block and George Lermer, eds. *Breaking the Shackles: Deregulating Canadian Industry* (Vancouver: The Fraser Institute; 1991) pp. 32-7; 148-50
- ‘Quebec: Provincial Public Finances’ in Melville McMillan, ed., *Provincial Public Finances: Volume I, Provincial Surveys* Canadian Tax Paper No. 91 (Toronto: Canadian Tax Foundation, 1991) pp. 130-59
- ‘The Bank of Canada and the Free Trade Agreement’ in F. A. Siddiqui, ed. *The Economic Impact and Implications of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press; 1991) pp. 65-74
- ‘In Praise of the Status Quo’ in T. Velk and A.R. Riggs, *Will Canada Survive? Federalism in Peril* (Vancouver: The Fraser Institute; 1992) pp. 179-90
- ‘North American Free Trade: Lessons from the Trade Data’ *Canadian Public Policy* XVIII:1:1-12 (March 1992)
- ‘Two Thumbs Up for Latter-day Birth (or Death) of a Nation’ *Canadian Public Policy* XVIII: 1:104-110 (March 1992)
- With Richard Harris: ‘Three Visions of Competitiveness: Reich, Porter and Thurow on Economic Growth and Policy’ in Thomas J. Courchene and Douglas D. Purvis, eds., ‘Productivity, Growth and Canada’s International Competitiveness,’ *The Bell Canada Papers on Economic and Public Policy* Vol 1:233-300 (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for the Study of Economic Policy; 1993)
- ‘A Skeptical View of the Social Charter’ in Jonathan Lemco and William B. P. Robson, eds. *Ties Beyond Trade: Labour and Environmental Issues under the NAFTA* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1993) pp. 108-31
- ‘The Economic Impact of the NAFTA’ C. D. Howe Institute *Commentary* No. 50 (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; June 1993) pp. 28
- ‘The View from the Right’ pp. 1-30 in *The Case For Change: Reinventing the Welfare State* The Social Policy Challenge 1 (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994)
- ‘Environmental and Labor Standards in the NAFTA’ C. D. Howe Institute *Commentary* No. 57 (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; March 1994) pp. 20
- ‘The Study in Brief’ pp. xi-xxiii in Christopher Green, et al. *Unemployment Insurance: How to Make it Work* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1994)
- ‘La politique industrielle: un certain scepticisme’ in Filip Palda, ed. *L’état interventionniste: le gouvernement provincial et l’économie du Québec* (Vancouver: The Fraser Institute; 1994) pp. 19-63
- ‘The Study in Brief’ pp. 1-33 in *Family Matters: New Policies for Divorce, Lone Mothers, and Child Poverty* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995)
- ‘The Study in Brief’ pp. 1-21 in *Chronic Stress: Workers’ Compensation in the 1990s* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995)

- 'The Study in Brief' pp. 1-20 in *The Rock in a Hard Place: Atlantic Canada and the UI Trap* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1995)
- 'Calling the Tune: the Finance of Canadian Social Services' in Roy D. Hogg and Jack M. Mintz, eds. *Who Pays the Piper? Canada's Social Policy* (Kingston: John Deutsch Institute for the Study of Economic Policy; 1995) pp. 55-72
- 'The Study in Brief' in *When We're 65: Reforming Canada's Retirement Income System* (Toronto: C. D. Howe Institute; 1996) pp. 1-26
- 'For economic growth, look to the 1950s' in *Cité Libre XXVIII*:1:20-3 (Winter 2000)
- 'Has neo-conservatism failed?' *Policy Options politiques* 22:2 (March 2001) pp. 6-18
- 'Thirty-million-tier is near' in David Gratzer, ed. *Better Medicine: Reforming Canadian Health Care* (Toronto: ECW Press; 2002) pp. 229-48
- With Christopher Ragan: 'Is the Debt War over: Introduction and summary' in Christopher Ragan and William Watson, eds., *Is the Debt War Over: Dispatches from Canada's Fiscal Frontline* (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy; 2004) pp. 1-45
- 'Introduction to the Carleton Library Series Edition' Harry G. Johnson *The Canadian Quandary: Economic Problems and Policies* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press; 2005) pp. vii-lvi
- With Viet D. Do: 'Economic analysis of regional trade agreements' in Lorand Bartels and Federico Ortino, eds. *Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO Legal System* (Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2006) pp. 7-22
- 'A Canadian is...' in Irvin Studin, ed., *What is a Canadian? Forty-three thought-provoking responses* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart; 2006) pp. 238-43
- 'A policy for services? Don't tilt' in Richard G. Lipsey and Alice O. Nakamura, eds., *Services Industries and the Knowledge-Based Economy* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press for Industry Canada; 2006) pp. 159-66
- 'Think small and do no harm' in Jeremy Leonard, Christopher Ragan and France St-Hilaire, eds. *A Canadian Priorities Agenda: Policy Choices to Improve Economic and Social Well-Being* (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy; 2007) pp. 533-46
- 'Let the market work! The market and the public sector' in Hassan Bougrine and Mario Seccareccia, eds. *Introducing Macroeconomic Analysis: Issues, Questions, and Competing Views* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery; 2010) pp. 9-21
- 'Markets are free enough' in Hassan Bougrine and Mario Seccareccia, eds. *Introducing Microeconomic Analysis: Issues, Questions and Competing Views* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery; 2011) pp. 33-43.

Courses taught

Graduate: Public finance, regional economics

Undergraduate: Introductory economics; macroeconomics; microeconomics; international trade and finance; public finance; labour; trade policy; industrial organization; regional; Canadian economic policy

Administrative positions held at McGill

Founder and Chairman: Department of Economics Working Papers Series

Chairman: Department of Economics (2005-10); Humanities Review Group (2007-9), Social Graduate Faculty Science Research Committee; Department of Economics Graduate Programme; Faculty of Arts Constitutional Review Committee; Department of Economics Visiting Speakers Committee

Coordinator: North American Exchange Programmes; Canadian Studies Seminar

Member:

McGill University Senate: Steering Committee; Academic Salary Policy Committee

Faculty of Arts: Promotion Review Committee; Ad Hoc Committee on Computing; Space Allocation Committee; Dean's Advisory Committee, Selection of Chairman for the Department of Economics; Dean's Advisory Committee, Selection of Chairman for the Department of Political Science

McGill Association of University Teachers: Council (twice); Council Subcommittee on Salaries

Graduate Faculty Council: Executive Committee

Programme Committees: Industrial Relations; North American Studies; Canadian Studies

Department of Economics: Planning Committee; Course Evaluation Committee; Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Committee; Steering Committee; Undergraduate Committee; Graduate Committee; Search Committee

McGill-Queen's Press: Finance Committee

Other Memberships: Search Committee, Dean of Management; University Tenure Committee, Faculty of Management; Faculty of Law Cyclical Review Committee; Faculty of Law Search Committee for a Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law; Faculty of Medicine Planning Committee; Faculty Club Council; McGill Institute for the Study of Canada Advisory Board

Refereeing

Academic Press (New York), *Journal of Comparative Economics* (New Haven), Economic Council of Canada (Ottawa), Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Ottawa), Prentice-Hall Canada (Scarborough, Ontario), Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (The Macdonald Commission), *Canadian Journal of Regional Science* (Montreal), *Contemporary Policy Issues* (University of California), *Canadian Public Policy* (Guelph University), *Canadian Journal of Economics* (Toronto), National Magazine Awards (Toronto); Institute for Research on Public Policy (Montreal); C. D. Howe Institute (Toronto)

Editing

Consulting Editor, McGill-Queen's Press (1984-89)

Co-editor with John Richards, C.D. Howe Institute Publication Series, *The Social Policy Challenge* (1992-97)

Editorial pages editor, *Ottawa Citizen*, January 1997-September 1998

Editor, *Policy Options politiques*, Institute for Research on Public Policy (1998-2002)

Grants and contracts

1981-84. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Research Grant to study various aspects of federal-provincial economic relations.

1981-84. Research grant from le Programme de formation de chercheurs d'action concertée to study various aspects of federal-provincial economic relations.

October 1981. Ontario Economic Council Research Commission to study various aspects of industrial policy in Quebec.

April 1984. SSHRC grant to study the determination of provincial government expenditures, with special emphasis on the role of federal grants.

March 1985. Research commission from the International Fund for Animal Welfare for a study of the economics of the Canadian seal industry.

May 1986. Contract with *New Canadian Encyclopedia* to write entry on ‘The Canadian Economy’.

July 1986. Research commission from the Fraser Institute to participate in its DRIE-financed research project on the service sector.

October 1986. Research commission from the federal Department of Health and Welfare to review the economic literature on demographic change and federal-provincial fiscal relations.

April 1987. SSHRC grant to support project ‘Further Results on Equalization and Efficiency’.

July 1987. Research contract from the Federal Department of Health and Welfare to construct a small simulation model to investigate demographic change, federal-provincial fiscal relations, and regional economic growth.

July 1987. Research contract from Gowling and Henderson, Barristers and Solicitors, to prepare paper on the economics of federal-provincial fiscal relations.

July 1991. Research contract from the Equality Party to prepare paper on the economic feasibility of self-determination for Quebecers opposed to separation

July 1992. Research contract from the Canadian Broadcasters’ Rights Association to prepare paper on appropriate royalty rates for broadcast music.

May 1994. Research grant from Canadian Donner Foundation to write book on economic integration and public policy.

September 1994. Contract with Graphic Communications Union to write review of Report of House of Commons Standing Committee on Health on plain-packaging of tobacco products.

April 2005. SSHRC grant to study various aspects of regional trade agreements

Appointments and awards

May 1973 Oscar Ekes Prize in Economics, McGill University.

May 1974 Alan Oliver Gold Medal in Economics, McGill University.

1985-95 Member, Board of Advisers, John Deutsch Institute for Economic Policy, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario

1989-90 Member, Board of Advisers, C. D. Howe Institute, Toronto, Ontario

June 1989 Finalist (with Andrew Coyne) Kenneth R. Wilson Memorial Awards for Excellence in Canadian Business Journalism for ‘Everything you want to know about free trade but no one’s telling you’ *Financial Post*, Special supplement, Nov. 1988

April 1990 Gold Medal Winner for Humour, *1989 National Magazine Awards*

March 1992 Editorial Board, *Canadian Public Policy* (four-year term)

1992-97 Adjunct Scholar, C. D. Howe Institute, Toronto

1995-2000 Editorial Board, University of Toronto Centre for Public Management Monograph Series in Public Administration and Public Policy

May 1999 Runner-up, Donner Prize for best book on Canadian public policy for 1998

2000-9 Advisory Board, Canadian Ditchley Foundation

2003- Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Public Policy (Montreal)

Regular newspaper columns

Financial Post (Toronto) 1988-98; *Montreal Gazette*, 1994-2009; *Ottawa Citizen*, 1997-; *National Post* (Toronto) 1998-

Occasional writing

‘The purloined option’ *Report* (July/August 1980).

‘Confederation then and now’ *Policy Options politiques* I:4:6162 (December/January 1980/81).

- 'Free trade, market access, and specialization' *McGill Journal of Political Economy* XIII:1987-88:1-16.
- 'A New York state of mind' *Saturday Night* August 1989 pp. 38-40.
- 'Economics and Canadian culture' *Econotes* Published by the John Deutsch Institute for Economic Policy Vol 2, No 2 (Summer 1989).
- 'On being Canadian in the new American Century' Ambassador's Lecture, Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C. October 1991.
- Background paper on industrial policy for meeting of Ditchley Foundation, 1-3 October, 1991, Val David, Quebec.
- 'As Quebec goes...' *Commentary* February 1996.
- 'Interviews with Brian Mulroney and John Turner' in *Free Trade: Risks & Rewards* (Kingston-Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press; 2000) pp. 35-47.
- 'Globalization: Resting, but not dead' review article in *Literary Review of Canada* June 2004 pp. 8-10.
- 'Ninety-seven years and counting': review of Richard Parker's *John Kenneth Galbraith: His Life, His Politics, His Economics* in *Literary Review of Canada* May 2005, pp. 12-3.
- 'An economic crisis primer' *Reader's Digest* March 2009:58-61.

Recent talks

- Invited panelist, "Poverty and the guaranteed annual income," Canadian Association of Business Economists Spring Policy Conference, Ottawa, 30 March 2011.
- Invited speaker, "Inequality and democracy," Keith Davey Policy Forum, University of Toronto, Toronto, 26 September 2011.