Jonathan
BARRY

AI governance · sovereignty · systems risk

I work at the intersection of technology and public policy—thinking about how powerful systems should (and shouldn't) be built, deployed, and governed. I'm interested in rigorous work that stays readable, and ideas that hold up outside the lab.

Director of Policy to Yoshua Bengio at Mila and LawZero.

EDUCATION

Master in Public Affairs (M.P.A.)

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ • May 2025

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in International Relations

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC • May 2015

EXPERIENCE

Policy Advisor - Economic, Defence, and Foreign Policy

Liberal Party of Canada

March 2025-May 2025, Ottawa

- Served as lead policy advisor on economic, foreign, and defence policy to Prime Minister Mark Carney, drafting a substantial portion of the party platform for the winning 2025 election.

- Proposed Canada's most ambitious defence plan in generations with hundreds of billions in new defence spending, prioritizing Canadian sovereignty and charting a path to meet NATO commitments.

- Oversaw billions in new AI and quantum investments through innovative funding mechanisms, including novel tax credits and financial instruments, to close Canada's productivity gap and commercialize our research edge.

- Architected a reset of Canadian foreign policy focused on diversifying international relationships and rebuilding strategic alliances with Europe.

AI Governance Fellow

Mila - Quebec AI Institute

May 2024-March 2025, Montreal

- Managed the International AI Safety Report project, chaired by Turing Award winner Yoshua Bengio, ensuring cohesive and high-quality contributions from a team of 25 writers across AI safety topics including bias, environmental impact, loss of control, and cybersecurity.

- Collaborated with 35 senior advisors, including two Nobel Prize laureates, and over 100 reviewers to ensure the report's rigour and policy relevance, reviewing and refining all content to communicate technical AI safety concepts clearly for senior policymakers and government stakeholders.

- Researched and proposed a novel governance framework for advanced AI laboratories that can ensure long-term human control over and benefit from cutting-edge AI foundation models for a forthcoming paper.

- Synthesized lessons from international governance precedents and current AI governance models to create a robust multi-veto framework, establishing new standards for safe and responsible AI development practices.

Director of Operations

Office of the Minister of National Defence

March 2019 - January 2022, Ottawa

- Principal advisor for the Minister on stakeholders, issues, and political dynamics in Canada, as well as the main point of contact for all levels of government and Indigenous groups.

- Worked with colleagues across departments to advance key policy initiatives, including AI use in the military, anti-racism initiatives, and Indigenous partnerships.

- Managed a team of six ministerial staffers and four constituency staffers to build and execute a strategy to ensure the Minister achieved their political goals.

- Built ongoing stakeholder relationships by leveraging relationships with media outlets, Chambers of Commerce, academic institutions, tech companies, and defence stakeholders.

Northern and Western Desk

Office of the Minister of National Defence

October 2017 - October 2019, Ottawa

- Coordinated and staffed the Minister's travel itinerary for all Western and Northern Canada to ensure the success of announcements, stakeholder engagement, and partisan events.

- Drafted and approved speeches for the Minister, including major addresses at the Shangri-La Dialogue, NATO Defence Ministerials, and the Liberal Party of Canada National Convention.

- Provided comprehensive briefings and support to Members of Parliament on complex defence issues, ensuring informed decision-making.

Senior Writer

Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

January 2016 - October 2017, Ottawa

- Drafted correspondence to VIPs for the Prime Minister's signature and directly briefed him on suggested responses, rising issues, and stakeholder communications.

SKILLS

Policy Research and Analysis • **Strategic Communications** • **Data Analytics** • **Persuasive Writing**

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