INTRODUCTION

As the lead institution for Transforming Climate Action, Dalhousie University’s MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, established in 2015, will serve as the Policy Hub Transformation Accelerator for this Canada First Research Excellence Fund initiative. The goal of the Policy Hub is to facilitate stronger connections between researchers, policy-makers, and key stakeholders by creating purposeful exchanges between these groups, and by generating meaningful contributions to, and thought leadership on important ocean-climate policy.

BACKGROUND

The MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance is a nationally focused, non-partisan, interdisciplinary institute designed to support the development of progressive public policy and to encourage greater citizen engagement. The Institute looks at progressive ways to tackle public policy and governance issues through open discussion with a variety of informed players and aims to serve as the “go to” place provincially, regionally, and nationally for rich, robust public policy debate, discussion, and research. Over the past six years, the MacEachen Institute has hosted over 300 speakers, welcomed over 8,000 guests, and received over 23,000 video views on social media, with an additional 500+ media hits in local and national press. The Institute’s Policy Matters speaker series features national thought leaders, amplifies the work of academics, creates an interchange between academics and public servants and offers public policy learning opportunities for Dalhousie and the broader community.
The MacEachen Institute has hosted 35 policy-focused roundtable discussions both in-person and online, welcoming over 700 attendees, and has recently upgraded their roundtable meeting room with new audio-visual technology allowing for greater meeting accessibility in a hybrid format.

**KEY DELIVERABLES – ACTIVITIES: WHAT WILL THE POLICY HUB DO**

- Host roundtables with researchers and senior policy leaders to discuss critical policy, governance, and regulatory issues in the ocean-climate-people nexus. Through these discussions we will impress on policy advisors and senior leadership within relevant government departments the value and importance of purposeful exchanges to generate meaningful contributions to, and leadership on important ocean-climate policy.

- Translate science into succinct, accessible and impactful communications collateral and distribute them to mid-to-upper level civil servants, key stakeholders and to the broader public.

- Organize workshops that foster connections and build momentum towards the annual conference, and work strategically to sustain momentum post-conference.

- Disseminate policy recommendations to increase awareness of ocean-climate health.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED**

To accomplish the goals of the Policy Hub, an Assistant Director for Oceans (1.0 FTE) and a Research Assistant (0.5 FTE) would be hired and based out of the MacEachen Institute. The Assistant Director for Oceans will provide the leadership on ocean policy and governance across each of the three Transforming Climate Action themes, while the Research Assistant will support the Assistant Director in their role. In addition to salary support, funding for event expenses will also be budgeted.