

Introduction

Eleanor D. Glor

Issue 28(1) 2023 of *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal (TIJ)* is the culmination of many years of research that has attempted to get a handle on the antecedents that accompanied the implementation and fate of a population of 183 trailblazing innovations introduced in the Allan E. Blakeney Government of Saskatchewan (GoS), 1971-82 and to assess whether those antecedents were unique or similar to those of other innovations and of normal public policies and administration. The issue also provides a senior manager's personal perspective some of the innovations.

The research reported in this issue was preceded by a study of the fate of Canadian federal government departments (ministries) (Glor, 2011); a systematic literature review of the demography of public, private and non-profit organizations (Glor, 2013); a study comparing the fate of GoS income security innovations and their organizations (Glor and Ewart, 2016) and a study based on a questionnaire of 550 paired items identifying antecedents of implementation and fate of ten GoS income security innovations and their organizations (Glor, 2017a, b; 2018; 2019). To previous research on antecedents of innovation published in *The Innovation Journal* this issue adds several new, summary elements, including: the first demography of a public sector innovation population, identification of the GoS innovations and analysis of their antecedents for both implementation and fate, a comparison of the antecedents of implementation of policy innovation identified in a systematic literature review (Glor, 2021a, b, c, d, e, f) and the GoS antecedents, and a comparison of the fate of the GoS innovation population and that of normal policy and organization populations. To this quantitative research the issue adds the personal perspective and experience of a senior manager in the Blakeney government. This provides an idea of the kind of people who worked for this government—their concerns, values and management styles—through the experience of one of them, Gerry Gartner.

The social democratic New Democratic Party (NDP) Blakeney government in Saskatchewan is not a unique government in that five other of the 10 Canadian provinces have had NDP governments, including British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Although there has never been a federal NDP government, there have been several Liberal minority governments, supported by the CCF/NDP party. These minority governments introduced such national programs as universal hospital and medical care and, during the current government, dental care for low-income children and a promised pharmacare program. What was unique in Saskatchewan was having Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF)/NDP governments for 47 of the 63 years (74.6% of the time), 1944 to 2007. As demonstrated in this issue of *TIJ*, the trailblazing innovations of Blakeney government were very innovative in the combined Canada and USA context. They would not have been as innovative if assessed in the European context. Saskatchewan was a trailblazer in its own population (context). This issue provides a perspective on how innovative and the kind of people it took to implement a population of 183 trailblazing innovations.

References:

- Glor, Eleanor D. 2021a. Can the PRISMA Protocol be Used to Guide a Systematic Literature Review of Antecedents of Policy Innovation Trailblazing and Adoption? – I. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 2.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2021b. Analysis of Antecedents of Trailblazing and Adoption of Public Policy Innovation Identified by a Systematic Literature Review– II. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 3. <https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2021c. A Nomenclature and Classification System for Antecedents of Public Policy Innovation Trailblazing and Adoption Derived from a Systematic Literature Review – III. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 4.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2021d. Comparisons of Antecedents of Trailblazing/Adoption and Quantitative/Qualitative Studies of Public Policy Innovation Identified in a Systematic Literature Review – IV. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 5.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2021e. A Comparison of Antecedents of Different Types of Innovation – V.. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 6.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2021f. Conclusion: Important Antecedents of Public Sector Innovation – VI. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 26(2), article 7.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol26-no2.htm>
- _____. 2019. Factors and factor clusters most influential in introduction and global fate of innovations and their organizations – IV. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 24(2), article 1. <https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol23-no2.htm>
- _____. 2018. Factors (Antecedents) Influencing Creation and Fate of Innovations and their Organizations – III. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 23(2), article 1. <https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol23-no2.htm>
- _____. 2017a. Studying Factors Affecting Creation and Fate of Innovations and their Organizations - I: A New Instrument" Appendix I Appendix II Appendix III Appendix IV. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 22(2), article 1.
<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol22-no2.htm>

_____. 2017b. Studying Factors Affecting Creation and Fate of Innovations and their Organizations – II: Verification of Raters and the Instrument. *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 22(3), article 1.

<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol22-no3.htm>

_____. 2011. Patterns of Canadian Departmental Survival. *Canadian Public Administration*, 54(4): 551-566. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17547121>

_____ and Garry Ewart. 2016. What Happens to Innovations and their Organizations? *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, 21(3), article 1.

<https://www.innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol21-no3.htm>