

**John McGrath
ERA Inc.**

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ASSOCIATE, COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

John McGrath has had a long and well-regarded career reporting on issues and events in federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions.

For the last decade he was the Queens Park reporter, and provincial affairs specialist, for CBC Radio News. During that time he broke many stories on energy and power, earning a reputation as one of the media experts on the issue. Energy is a subject that continues to fascinate him, and an area where he's applying his skills in strategic communications

PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

ELENCHUS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES (ERA INC.)

Associate, Communications Policy

Since November of 2009, I have been providing strategic communications and policy advice for Elenchus Research Associates. ERA believes that communications has to be at the centre of all of an organization's major decisions. It can no longer be treated as an afterthought, but has to inform program development, and be integrated into program delivery. John's clients have included the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, and the Independent Electricity System Operator

Queens Park Reporter, CBC News,

1998-2009

As the Queens Park reporter and Provincial Affairs Specialist for CBC Radio News in Toronto I covered three provincial election campaigns (1999, 2003 and 2007) as well as municipal and federal campaigns. During that time I reported on some very dramatic political changes in Ontario, starting with the implementation of the Common Sense Revolution to the defeat of the Conservatives under Ernie Eves, and the victory of Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals. In the process, I became one of the few journalists with expertise in the energy field, because two of the key issues for all three governments were the pricing and supply of electricity.

In 2003, I was the main analyst for the CBC Radio News during its election night coverage of David Miller's victory in the mayoral race. During the last three federal elections, I provided CBC Radio listeners stories of the critical battleground ridings in Ontario. I also co-hosted CBC Radio Toronto's election night coverage in 2006 and 2008

Not all of my stories involved conventional politics. In 2002, I broke the news of plans for the first gay marriage in Canada, and I covered the campaign that ultimately led to its legalization in Canada

Municipal Reporter, CBC News Toronto

1997-1998

After a period of neglect, I resuscitated CBC Radio's municipal coverage when I reported on the conflict over the amalgamation of the City of Toronto. This was the biggest political controversy locally since the Spadina Expressway, pitting the overwhelming majority of the City's residents against the Conservative government of Mike Harris. I then covered the election that brought Mayor Mel Lastman and the new Council into power, and reported on the first year and a half in the political life of the new city

News Reporter, CBC News Toronto

1991-1997

During the nineties, I was one of the senior local reporters for CBC Radio News. During the time, I handled a wide-range of stories, but will mention three in particular: I was the first to identify the growing importance of culture to the city’s economy; I was the on-site reporter during the TTC subway crash; but most importantly, I spent a couple of years focusing on the safety of Canada’s blood supply. I was one of the first journalists to report on the failure of the Red Cross and federal and provincial governments to protect people from being transfused with HIV-contaminated blood or blood products.

In 1995, I jumped at the opportunity to be the bus reporter during the successful Mike Harris campaign, giving me a front-row seat on the most dramatic post-war political change in this province.

Senior Editor/Manager, CBC News Toronto

1987-1991

As Senior Editor, I ran the local Toronto newsroom for CBC Radio News. I was responsible for managing the budget as well as the story production of seven reporters and editors. Every morning I would, with the input of the other members of the newsroom, set out the direction for the day’s newscasts. I was also responsible for the operation of two bureaus at Queens Park and in Hamilton. During this time the newsroom made its first efforts to broaden our coverage of Toronto’s diverse communities, with specials and enhanced coverage of the City’s black community.

Producer/Reporter, CBC News Ottawa

1975-1987

I began my career as a news reporter in Ottawa, where I was a specialist reporter for CBC Radio News. I started out covering workplace and labor issues inside the federal public service, but later became the station’s first reporter on Parliament Hill, and reported nationally on a number issues, including the then-recurring postal strikes.

From 1975-1981, I was a current-affairs producer for the local CBC Radio station in Ottawa. During the time I worked on the afternoon rolling-home show, it increased its audience share to tie for #1 spot in the city. On the morning show. For the show CBO Morning, I developed a series of stories on illegal RCMP activities that were later investigated by the MacDonald Commission.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Education	Bachelor of Journalism Carleton University, Ottawa	1974-1975
	Bachelor of Arts (History/Sociology) Carleton University, Ottawa	1971-1974
Languages	English Successfully completed French language training at the CBC	

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board Member, Annex Resident Association	2005 - 2006
President, Queens Park Press Gallery	2000 – 2002
Secretary, Queens Park Press Gallery	2002 – 2008

In recognition of my contributions, the Queens Park Press Gallery awarded me a life membership in 2009