

The Lefebvre Austruther Maingy Questionnaire Tony Dean

Tony Dean

Tony Dean is a Fellow in Residence at the School of Public Policy and Governance, a role in which he teaches a second-year MPP elective and advises on public administration and building capacity for policy and delivery. From 2002 to 2008 he was Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Ontario Public Service, a position that was preceded by appointments as Deputy Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister and Associate Secretary of the Cabinet responsible for Policy. Dean has extensive experience in public sector leadership, public policy development, negotiations and mediation, and has written on public administration and leadership for the Public Policy Forum, Canadian Government Executive magazine, and for The Guardian newspaper's magazine, Public. Dean has a B.A. in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Hull, U.K., and an M.A. in Sociology from McMaster University.

Lefebvre Austruther Maingy was a Canadian federal civil servant circa 1885. Little is known about him, but if we could travel back in time, we would ask him the following questions. The Maingy is a regular feature of the PPGR.

What traits do you most admire in a policymaker? Ability to quickly obtain, synthesize and make sense of disparate information which informs realistic policy options; skills in working collaboratively across organizational and professional boundaries; thinks simultaneously about policy, cost implications, communications and practicality of delivery; keeps supply of shareable chocolate in office.

What traits do you most admire in a politician? Values-driven leadership, consistency, clarity in establishing expectations and priorities, sense of humour when the going gets rough.

What traits do you most despise in a policymaker? "Seen it all, done it all, know it all".....reluctance to listen to others (there are still some people like this!).

What traits do you most despise in a politician? I love them all. No! Hang on.....no sense of humour, a few are reluctant to take responsibility for own decisions, no chocolate supply.

Who is your favourite author? Ian Rankin

What's your idea of happiness? Being in touch with my family, feeling fit and healthy, making a contribution to the society I live in, hot tea and a Kit Kat.

What do you hate the most? Grinding poverty, bad drivers who put others at risk, a really bad smell when you walk into a restaurant.

How would you like to die? With the strength and dignity I saw in my Mother.

What is your present state of mind? Ready to sit back and listen to Van Morrison's "Astral Weeks," while cuddling my cat, Tiger.

What is your favourite food? Pasta with homemade pesto, prosciutto and fresh grated parmesan, as made by my wife.

What is your favourite drink? Coffee (with a chocolate cookie).

What talent do you wish you had? I'd like to speak another language.

Who most inspires you? People who show great inner strength when facing adversity.

What advice would you give a young policymaker? Explore different areas of policy making, Spend time in an operational or service delivery setting, become practiced in working across boundaries. Look for the core aspects in any issue or argument and learn to identify and synthesize them for yourself and others....and, while the Cadbury's Fruit and Nut bars are really cheap at Price Club, it's also important to support the corner store.

If you could make one overnight change in government, what would it be?

While government works amazingly well, I would like to us to be sure that spending is, in every instance, used in the most effective way possible to the benefit of all citizens.