

Short Bio of Derek Ireland: Updated Sept 2026

Dr. Derek Ireland has been a senior economist and manager in the Canadian public and private sectors for over five decades. He has a BA in Economics and Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia in 1968, and an MA in Economics from Carleton University, which he received in the mid-1970s. He returned to university in 2003 as a student in the PhD program in Public Policy at Carleton University in Ottawa Canada, and received his PhD in February 2009. His PhD research and dissertation was on the evolution of competition policy and law in India, and its interactions with the country's business community, especially its traditional business groups. Since 2009, Dr. Ireland has been operating his own policy consulting firm and has been a Lecturer and Fellow at the Arthur Kroeger College of Carleton University in Ottawa Canada.

His major area of specialization over the past three decades has been behavioural law and economics including: competition policy and law; consumer policy and consumer protection law; financial and other regulatory reform; regulatory impact analysis with particular attention to competition, consumer, and vulnerable actor impacts; trade policy, intellectual property and innovation policy; urban, regional, rural and infrastructure development; and public administration. This research has often applied a behavioral and complexity lens to these policy, regulatory and legal regimes.

Special attention has also been given to the positive and negative interactions between these different policy, legal and regulatory regimes; the challenges faced by emerging market, transition, and developing economies when they are introducing new laws or reforming and modernizing existing competition and other laws, regulations, and policies; and, the role of regional trade agreements and other forms of regional cooperation in promoting regulatory reform and modernization and enhancing the effectiveness of competition and other policies, laws and regulations in the "Global South."

His final positions in government were Senior Economist, and Director of Economics and International Affairs at the Canadian Competition Bureau from 1990 to 1995; and Director of Consumer Policy Research and Acting Director-General for the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) of Industry Canada from 1995 to 1998. His extensive international experience includes more than 30 major consulting assignments in China on urban and regional development, infrastructure development and financing, and regulatory reform for the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and local governments; as well as research, policy development and consulting work in several other developing countries including Mongolia, Nepal, Malaysia, Yemen, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, India, and Botswana. These assignments included the EU financed technical assistance in 2011, conducted for and with the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and its 15 member states, on the design and enforcement of their competition and consumer protection laws;

Over the same period, Dr. Ireland completed many consulting studies for the Government of Canada on: competition and consumer policy and law and the interactions between them; regulatory impact analysis; regulatory reform, modernization and cross-border cooperation; and the digital economy, competition and consumer including two studies on the on-demand consumer conducted with the Consumers Council of Canada.