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QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO
LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Director's Report

This is my fifth year as Director of OLIP. Every year it seems as if the Programme adds new activities and meetings with important public figures. To the Programme Assistant, Eithne Whaley, we all owe a great deal. It is hard to imagine how the Programme would function without her. We also owe a great deal to the efforts of the two OLIP coordinators, Lorraine Luski and Anne Stokes. In Ottawa, the Canadian Political Science Association's (CPSA) Administrator, Michelle Hopkins ensures that the financial affairs of OLIP remain in order.

Here at Queen's Park, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is an important patron of the Programme. The interns have developed a warm relationship with the Speaker, Mr. Steve Peters who has shown himself as an enthusiastic supporter of the Programme. Not only has Mr. Peters made himself available for numerous meetings in the Speaker's apartment, but on the evening of Halloween, he took them on a special Queen's Park ghost tour.

In addition to our relationship with the Speaker, we continue to enjoy excellent relations with all members of the Provincial Parliament from backbenchers to party leaders, cabinet ministers and the Premier himself. All of them treat the interns with a great deal of respect and give the interns a considerable amount of time and help. We owe a special debt to the MPPs who welcome the interns into their office each year. We regret there are more disappointed MPPs who hope for an intern than those who receive. This is true even though we increased the number of interns by two and placements by four thanks to an increase in our grant from the Board of Internal Economy of the Legislature.

As the ten month intern year proceeds, the amount of intern activity increases. The Legislative Assembly is in the Spring session and its activity seems more intense in this period. The interns are working on their OLIP academic research papers which must be finished by mid-May with oral presentations at the annual meeting

of the CPSA in late May. This year's interns are fortunate that the meeting this year is in Ottawa. The interns have set up a round of meetings with important government and public officials.

The intern year ends in June with a week long series of meetings at the Westminster Parliament and in London at the end of June. As guests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the quality of the meetings is very rich indeed. Besides our meetings with parliamentary officials, MPs and former cabinet ministers, our meetings with officials from the Northern Ireland Office, the Scotland Office and the Wales Office are peppered with comparisons with Canadian Federal-Provincial relations. Although the meetings are in London, Canadian content will include a visit to the High Commission of Canada and the office of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.



The interns, Dr Jacek and coordinator Anne Stokes at a meeting with the Law Society of Upper Canada, a sponsor

Now we are in the process of welcoming our new interns for 2009-2010. I want to thank my fellow selection committee members, Igor Delov (a current intern), Lorraine Luski, Anne Stokes and Dagmar Soennecken, an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration at York University, for their hard work and help in this process. Lorraine was an intern in 1983-1984 and Dagmar, a more

recent intern, 1998-1999. We welcome as many qualified applicants as possible. Readers should know that our deadline for applications each year is February 28th and application forms are available on our websites.

Every year it gives me great joy to watch the interns grow in knowledge and understanding over the ten months. I like to observe that in September, the new interns know nothing about the real workings of the Ontario Legislature yet by the end of June, they seem to know everything. Thus, as the legislative year progresses, the interns enrich my experience more and more. Finally, I am always proud as they go on to various rewarding careers. They give back to our common public life important contributions that have their foundation in the amazing opportunity and experiences of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Their ten month stay at Queen's Park enriches us all.

Dr. Henry Jacek

Tejas' Placements

I had first met then Finance Minister **Greg Sorbara** when I served him a carbonated drink at a sports facility. A few years later, I walked into his office as his intern. At both times, I was shaking with excitement.

So there I was, about to start working with the Liberal MPP from Vaughan who had turned around a political party, had left politics and returned, and had been a minister both times. The wealth of experience and insight that former ministers have is quite amazing. And over the past four months, I was enriched by the experience. From day one, Greg and his staff involved me in the workings of the office. Working on the Elections Committee was a great experience as I sat in



My second placement is with **Jim Wilson**, PC member for Simcoe-Grey. As a former minister, he has eight years of cabinet experience, something I looked forward to as my first placement was winding down.

Jim's assistant Dave got me involved in the office from day one, everything from writing letters to drafting a column for newspapers in the riding.

The strategy meetings in the morning are worth attending because I get a sense of happenings in the other ridings and issues people face.

Writing the weekly column and Jim's speeches is a treat. Saying so many things in very few words is a skill that comes with practice and I got plenty of that. I thought I knew everything because I majored in English at university, but the art of political communication has to be learnt within the heart of politics.

on, and participated in, the engagement with various stakeholders. It gave me a chance to see policy being developed and the push and pull that it goes through as it makes its way on to the legislative agenda.

The Tourism Competitiveness Study was another interesting experience. Along with stakeholder engagement, I saw politics interact with the bureaucracy, how recommendations and demands are accommodated, and how a report is prepared that will affect the government's agenda.

What I cannot quantify is what I have accumulated. Just being in the office and listening and seeing gives one a chance to absorb institutional memory, amazing insights, and a great knowledge of how government really works. I am grateful to Greg, Sharon, Lorenzo, Rose,

Peter and Wendy for a really amazing four months.



Being the critic for Training, Colleges and Universities, Jim regularly meets with stakeholders to understand their issues. I am lucky enough to participate in these meetings. Being a recent

university graduate helps me understand their concerns much more easily.

Visiting the riding was an eye-opener. Having lived in Toronto all my life, visiting the land north of the 401 helped me appreciate the province Ontario is. Alex and Joy in the constituency offices are a pleasure to work with.

All in all, working in Jim Wilson's office is a great experience. I am thankful to Jim, Dave, Alex and Joy for making my time in Jim's office a memorable one.

Meghan's Placements

For my first term placement, I had the privilege of working with MPP **David Ramsay**, member for Timiskaming-Cochrane and PA to the Premier. As one of the longest serving MPPs at Queen's Park, David shared his knowledge and experience and supplied endless stories, insights, and lessons about Ontario politics.

One of the most rewarding experiences of my first placement was being a part of the creation and introduction of a Private Member's Bill, An Act to Amend the Energy Board Act, 1998, aimed at increasing consumer protection in regards to electricity retailers. The opportunity to witness this process firsthand from the wording of the bill to the press strategy showed me a part of the legislative process I knew little



For my opposition placement I was pleased to work with Progressive Conservative MPP **Norm Miller**

from the gorgeous riding of Parry Sound – Muskoka. In Norm's capacity as Chief Opposition Whip, and as Critic for Small Business, Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Mines, and Research and Innovation, there was never a shortage of work to go around the office! My days were filled with writing questions, press releases, member statements, speaking notes, attending stakeholder meetings, and keeping up with the day to day correspondence – mostly under very tight deadlines!

The vast range of issue areas provided multiple opportunities to learn something new and having someone as great as Norm to learn from made the experience all the more exciting. Working within the whip's office provides for a very unique experience. As the hub

about. In addition, as David is PA to the Premier, there was always lots of research to be done, letters to be written, and presentations to be made as to David's current issue project.

Although David often teased me about me being a southern Ontario girl (he tends to forget he grew up in Oakville!), he is a seasoned northerner who has opened my eyes to the challenges that face northern communities and the sitting members who represent them. My visit to the riding of Timiskaming-Cochrane allowed me to experience the realities of northern life and made me truly appreciate the hard work that MPPs do to represent their constituents.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thank you to David, Michael, and the Timiskaming-Cochrane constituency staff who welcomed me to the Ramsay Family with open arms.



for the party the office is always buzzing and you get lessons in parliamentary procedure on a daily basis. One of the many highlights was the opportunity to visit Norm's beautiful riding. The time Norm took to tour me around Parry Sound –

Muskoka and discuss the issues facing his constituency gave me a greater understanding about northern and rural ridings in Ontario, especially those that are largely dependent on tourism.

Lastly, I would like to thank Norm, Marcia, Inge, and the Parry Sound – Muskoka constituency staff who made working in this office a fantastic experience. With one of the most beautiful ridings in the province, I am sure I will be no stranger to Parry Sound – Muskoka in the future!

Meghan

Igor's Placements

From the moment I walked into MPP **Laurie Scott's** office, I felt right at home. Laurie's glowing personality and hard work ethic instantly inspired me to contribute to the team effort as we began to collaborate in fulfilling the tasks at hand.

Shadowing Laurie was no easy job, considering her tremendous energy and countless engagements. Attending morning strategy meetings, committee hearings, and discussions with stakeholders was a real treat – allowing me to observe how decisions are made in formal and informal settings. In the context of Laurie's role as Official Opposition critic for the Ministries of Health Promotion and Research and Innovation, it was interesting to be involved in the process of holding the government to account. I drafted questions, statements, and press releases, which

It is uncommon to see journalists making the transition from observers of public policy to shapers of it, yet **Laura Albanese** is an exception in this regard, earnestly following her political calling by seeking a seat and getting elected to Queen's Park as one of the newer members of the legislature. For years, I had grown up watching Laura as an anchor/reporter on OMNI news – Italian edition, so admittedly, getting the opportunity to work for her made me a little "star-struck."

But once we started talking and developing a plan on how I could best assist in her duties as MPP for York South-Weston and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Culture, Laura's caring and engaging personality signaled to me that I was in for a gratifying experience. Working on matters such as the air rail link, urban revitalization, and economic development has shown

afforded me the chance to become closely attuned to the political discourse of Queen's Park. Developing policy-critiques and recommendations encompassed a wide spectrum of issue areas from workers' insurance coverage and regulatory reform, to municipal property assessments.

Later in my placement, I was fortunate enough to visit Laurie's scenic riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock where I got to delve more deeply into the local issues not uncommon to a rural riding; agricultural competitiveness, infrastructure renewal, and tourism.

I am sincerely thankful to Laurie and her staff for warmly welcoming me into her office. I would also like to especially thank Ray Dykstra whose political insights and candid humour kept me smiling throughout my placement and made every day a joy. It has been a truly thrilling and rewarding experience.



me the importance of generating and sustaining viable partnerships with people at multiple levels of government. I also had the opportunity to get involved in the community by meeting residents and working with them to address and resolve

local issues in my numerous visits to the riding.

In short, interning in Laura's office has been a tremendously insightful experience that has shown me the mechanics of governing, and I am humbly thankful to her for all the support and mentoring she has provided. I would also like to extend my thanks to Maya Gorham and Franca DiGiovanni for their endless assistance, patience and keen sense of humour. Grazie Mille à tutti!

David's Placements

In my first placement I had the pleasure of working for **Bob Bailey**, a new MPP for the riding of Sarnia-Lambton. Bob is certainly one of the most hard-working, down-to-earth and likeable members at Queen's Park. And after only minutes following a warm-welcome onto "Team Bailey", I quickly learned of Bob's own personal sense of pride and duty towards the people whom he represents.

Yet, despite the many issues facing Sarnia-Lambton, Bob's portfolio of Labour Critic quickly became a hot topic. From labour bills dealing with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario (WSIB) to a Temporary Workers bill, Bob had many opportunities to speak and debate, requiring



The opportunity to observe and participate in the day to day events of both the government and the opposition is of course a hallmark of the internship programme. So after having spent my first four months with the Official Opposition, the switch did not arrive without a bit of apprehension. However, all worries were quickly set aside when I was warmly welcomed into the office of **Phil McNeely**, MPP for Ottawa-Orléans.

As Parliamentary Assistant for the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Phil quickly immersed me into the government's new 'Green Energy Act' which, among other things, proposes to promote renewable energy sources within Ontario and permit their access to the electricity grid. The bill also incorporates his own Private Member's Bill on 'Home Energy Audits', which encourages the conservation of energy through awareness and home improvements. I quickly learned, through these acts and others, about the sheer amount of research,

much research, written work, and multiple stakeholder meetings. I also had the opportunity to spend time in Sarnia and Lambton County on several occasions, which became invaluable as local issues began to spill over into Bob's Queen's Park Office.

The threatened closure of a local coal-fired generating station and a hospital ER galvanized into action the full force of "Team Bailey" as both offices organized petitions, media advisories and all around support to Bob in his many engagements. These events along with a Private Member's Bill, a media studio event and an agricultural roundtable, rounded out my time in Queen's Park's North Wing. For this I must extend a special thanks to Bob and his Executive Assistant, John Cruickshank, for their understanding, guidance and patience in mentoring an inexperienced intern! It was a great pleasure to work with both of them.



and consultation with stakeholders, which is necessary to table legislation and carry it through the legislature's many hurdles!

While in Phil's office, I also had the opportunity to accompany him to his riding of Ottawa-Orléans. While visiting, I quickly began to get a sense of the issues faced by its largely suburban and bilingual population, such as the need for a local health centre, electricity issues, and the anxiety of a future inter-provincial bridge. A remarkable attribute is Phil's "can-do" spirit, likely due to his engineering background. He never loses sight of his goals. For these reasons, I must extend a special thanks to Phil McNeely, Rachel Stack and Brenden Johnstone for this great experience.

David

Angela's Placements

Of the many reasons why I value OLIP, a prominent one is that we as interns have a say in choosing the members we work for. To me, it was important to choose a member who focused on issues that I cared about, so **Ernie Hardeman**, the Progressive Conservative Critic for Agriculture and Food, was an obvious choice for me.

I knew that I could learn 'politics' working for any member, but I also wanted to increase my own awareness of agricultural issues in Ontario today. And I did; interspersed with the passing of a Private Member's Bill to promote Agricultural Signage, writing to stakeholders, helping constituents with petitions,



Having barely any time to pause between my first and second placements, I arrived in **Maria Van Bommel's** office in early March with a jittery skip in my step. Having grown perhaps too accustomed to life in the world of the PC caucus, I was anxious about the prospect of a new routine. Before long, I was thrown into the mix of the many and varied things that tend to keep Maria on the go!

As one might expect, I've seen a shift from an opposition point of view, to one of the government. It's been quite fun, actually, seeing how the parties differ in perspective, and it's extremely clear why, as interns, we are required to work on both sides of the house. It's a new way of thinking, and I'm catching on to the everyday routine of a government member.

Since I've been in this placement I have inevitably experienced a renewed interest in Question Period as well, a place where opposing points of view meet and square off.

and researching, I saw a side of the political table that isn't always at the forefront in the Legislature, or in the political media. These things, balanced with daily duties of statements, speeches, letter writing, committee hearings, roundtables, visits to the riding and even the emergency sitting of the Legislature, have set me well on my way to seeing the whole gamut of Ontario politics from the Opposition side. Was it eye-opening? Absolutely!

Overall, it has been an extremely positive and enriching experience! Ernie, and his EA, Tara Barry, encouraged me to learn and experiment. They both showed incredible patience with my never-ending questions, and involved me in just about everything – I was definitely part of the team. Everyday was busy, but it was all balanced with a healthy dose of fun. Looking back on it all, I know that I made an excellent choice!



I took a quick day trip up to Maria's riding of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex in March to attend a meeting with some members of one of the communities, and I've been trying to wrap my brain

around some of the deeply involved issues that exist there. I hope to head up there again in May or June for a longer stay, and have a change of pace from the daily routine of Queen's Park life. It's been a great time so far, and I'm sure there is lots more to come!

Angela

Kimlan's Placements

My experience in the office of **France Gélinas**, the NDP critic for Health and Long-Term Care has been incredibly informative, exciting and unpredictable. Beyond research, writing and attending lively morning strategy meetings, many days in the office were peppered with interesting tasks such as visiting a breast-feeding clinic, meeting with stakeholders and helping to research for the first Co-sponsored Private Member's Bill to be passed into law.

Perhaps the most revelatory part my first placement was my trip to the Greater Sudbury area. As a dyed-in-the-wool Torontonians with little knowledge of



It was with much curiosity and excitement that I began my second placement with **Carol Mitchell**, Liberal caucus chair and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Having been very active during my opposition placement, I couldn't help feeling like a turncoat before making the move to government.

However these feelings gave way almost instantly on my first day in the office when I received a warm welcome and was put to work drafting members' statements, researching a Private Member's Bill and following up on meetings with stakeholders. A shrewd politician, Carol always has her finger on the pulse of imminent political developments and as a result I have learnt a great deal about the inner workings of both government and political parties.

Due to Carol's role as a PA I have had the opportunity to learn more about the Ontario Public Service and to observe the interplay between government and bureaucracy. Also, as both a city dweller and urban enthusiast it has been fascinating to learn more about the excit-

ing and critical field of Municipal Affairs and Housing while simultaneously exploring the unique character of Carol's rural riding of Huron-Bruce.

Northern Ontario I was happy to broaden my perspective by visiting this region of the province. While in Nickel Belt I traveled with France to the far-flung communities of her riding to meet with constituents and attend Remembrance Day celebrations. I also became acquainted with newly elected NDP MP Claude Gravelle and former NDP MPP Eli Martel who provided me with further insights into the unique character of Northern Ontario.

As worthwhile as these activities have been, the most edifying aspect of this placement has come from France Gélinas herself, whose hard work, commitment, open-mindedness, compassion and mentorship will no doubt be a lasting source of personal inspiration. On a parting note I would like to thank the entire NDP team for their warm welcome.



All in all, it has been a true delight to work with such an energetic and engaged member and I look forward to the rest of my time with Team Mitchell. Finally I would like to thank Carol and her wonderful staff, Kevin and Devin, for making this a truly memorable experience.

Waqas' Placements

My placement with NDP Finance Critic **Michael Prue** (Beaches-East York) has been a rewarding experience. Indeed, my time with him confirmed why our politicians deserve far more respect than what society dispenses when lumping them into the cauldron of other supposedly undesirable professions.

However, I hesitate to employ a series of unqualified flatteries to illustrate my term with Michael—he wouldn't want that. None of this "Oh, everyone was so wonderful!" "Politics is so interesting and cool" and the proverbial, "Now, I wanna be a politician and help poor people when I grow up!" We all



What can I say, it is good to be in power. After making the transition in March from opposition to government, I saw very quickly the sharp contrast between the two sides in terms of infrastructure, human capital, fiscal resources, and public "legitimacy." This has nothing to do with the parties, however, as I am certain the disparity would be similar no matter who was in power. But experiencing the gap firsthand reveals why the day-to-day battles that manifest in Question Period, media scrums, legislative debates and other outlets are fought so fiercely—in many ways akin to a Jean-Claude Van Damme flick.

I am fortunate in being able circumvent these more gruesome elements of political life through my placement with MPP **Kevin Flynn** (Oakville). I say this because having a boss who everybody seems to like, and who pursues his responsibilities as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, and as Chair of the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions with such sincerity, goodwill, and integrity, allows progress to be made much more easily.

know politics is a messy business. Wasn't it Bismark who said something about laws and sausages? Our representatives are more often confounded with hues of gray than with the clarity of black and white. Making decisions without aggravating anyone is like winning the lottery. However, MPPs like Michael sacrifice any semblance of a normal life to do the job well.

Over the months, Michael has taught me what it takes beyond the shallowness of press coverage to represent your constituents with sincerity; what it takes to pierce through ideological dogma in search of creative solutions to the problems we face and, most important, what it takes to be a good man—a man who realizes that he is nothing without his wife, his family, and his unwavering sense of what is good and right.



Mr. Flynn and his staff welcomed me into the fold in a seamless and encouraging manner, allowing me to work on a number of projects from both the Ministry

and the Select Committee. Watching the committee process unfold, as Ontario moves towards rectifying decades-old injustice in the way society treats those with mental health/addiction issues, I have witnessed how robust, despite its flaws, our political system is. Being on the ground floor, watching new policies take shape over time has been thoroughly rewarding. I know that after completing my MA I could have taken on a more lucrative position than this internship. Looking at both placements in hindsight, however, I couldn't possibly put a dollar value on this year. It has indeed been priceless.

Thank you Michael. Thank you Kevin.

Waqas

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Chelsea's Placements

Having grown up as a small town northern girl, I was really excited for my first placement with Torontonians MPP **Mike Colle**. Intrigued by the opportunity to learn about parliamentary procedure up close from the Eglington-Lawrence member and chief government whip, little did I know how much I would learn about the city I now call home!

With extensive knowledge of Toronto's history, places and faces, Mike has opened my eyes to the quirky and diverse city, and it became easily apparent why he is so loved by his constituents. From the printer in his early 20th century shop, to the server in Kensington Market, his ability to strike up a conversation with someone new and make lasting friendships across the city ensured that I met people from all walks of life.

Mike has a friendly



When applying to be an intern with OLIP, I stated that my goal was to throw myself into an office so completely that by the time I came up for air, I would wonder where the time had gone. I'm happy to report that this has been my experience during my placement with Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP, and candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party, **Tim Hudak**.

Working in Tim's office has been eye-opening and challenging, but it's also been fun. I was given complete responsibility for shepherding Tim's co-sponsored Private Member's Bill, "An Act to Protect the Feeder Lands of the Eramosa Karst," which those in Tim's office will tell you, I loved every minute of!

Tim's position as critic for Finance gave me the opportunity to sit in on budget preparation and briefing meet-

ings, research material for questions during Question Period, and learn about Ontario's economy. Needless to say, given the current tumultuous state of economies globally this year, it's been an interesting experience.

and patient demeanor that not only enables him to relate to, and help constituents, but makes him a great teacher under which to learn about democracy in Ontario. I enjoyed an education on a wide variety of legislative issues in Mike's office, from writing members statements to reaching out to Ontarians in regards to his Private Member's Bill honouring Onondagan athlete, Tom Longboat. In addition, I was fortunate to gain an in-depth knowledge of the duties of the Whip. Sitting in on strategy meetings, fielding questions from MPPs and their staff, and ensuring quorum in the house, life in the office of Mr. Colle was never dull! I cherished working in the "Liberal hub" where members constantly came through during their busy days of serving Ontario.

I want to thank Mike, Carol, Nancy, and Vittoria for taking the time to teach me, and all of the Liberal members and staff for making me feel so welcome at Queen's Park.



Finally, no write-up about Tim's office would be complete without mentioning his amazing staff Trish, Joel, Omar, Bob, Sus and Mike. I have to thank them, as well as Tim, for taking an interest and helping me learn. I appreciate their efforts to make me feel part of the team from day one. The staff and I even teamed up as the "Bayside Tigers" and plan to run a 10km race together on May 3rd. Go Bayside!!

Chelsea

Emma's Placements

Mention the name “**Dave Levac**” to anyone at Queen’s Park and you will quickly learn that this Liberal MPP from Brant is highly respected across political parties and well-known for his strong work ethic. Based on this reputation, I knew Mr. Levac would be a great MPP to work with, but my experience in his office surpassed every expectation I had.

Mr. Levac’s warm personality immediately made me feel welcome in his office, and he always took the time to draw the many nuances of the political world to my attention. Mr. Levac exposed me to many aspects of legislative life, including assisting with writing speeches, spending time working in his



Although I am only a few weeks into my second placement, I feel truly fortunate to be working in the office of Progressive Conservative MPP **Elizabeth Witmer**. Representing the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo for over eighteen years and having served as Minister for various portfolios such as Labour, Health, Education and the Environment, as well as Deputy Premier under the Mike Harris and Ernie Eves governments, Mrs. Witmer offers an experienced perspective which, as a newcomer to provincial politics, I value highly.

Mrs. Witmer’s role as the Progressive Conservative Health Critic has also enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of a major policy area which is of significant concern to all Ontarians. My internship involvement in the Health Critic portfolio has exposed me to important issues ranging from the challenges posed by Ontario’s aging population to the necessity for a provincial electronic health registry to reforms in the laws surrounding the practice of cosmetic surgeries.

constituency office and attending meetings with Ministers and stakeholders. I also became involved in a co-sponsored Private Member’s Bill (Bill 124) which, as an extension of the Smoke Free Ontario Act, bans the sale of flavoured and individually-sold cigarillos. Furthermore, Mr. Levac’s role as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services enabled me to learn about the inner-workings of a government ministry, and expanded the scope of the tasks with which I became involved. My time with Mr. Levac taught me invaluable lessons about politics and paired my academic knowledge of public policy with many practical insights.

My experience in his office left a lasting impression on me, and I have Dave and his staff, as well as the staff at the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, to thank for making this placement so enriching.



Furthermore, Mrs. Witmer’s perspectives as House Leader on the recent Standing Order reforms have been instrumental to the OLIP research paper I am writing.

Her role as House Leader has also exposed me to the important processes and decisions which underlie the general workings of the Legislature, which I find to be a fascinating yet often ignored topic.

Above all, I have enjoyed participating in one of the core components of a parliamentary democracy - the scrutiny of government by opposition. This experience, combined with my earlier government placement, has given me a deeper understanding of legislative and political processes, that promises to be even more rewarding as the placement continues on.

Rosanne's Placements

From day one of my placement with **Dr. Helena Jaczek**, it was clear that the Member for Oak Ridges - Markham was an excellent choice. Her staff members were immediately welcoming, and Helena sat down with me to discuss what I hoped to get out of the placement. Looking back, I am able to appreciate just how much effort she made in ensuring that I had the best experience possible.

I was given various responsibilities and projects to work on, all of which helped me to better understand the workings of the Ontario legislature. I helped prepare briefings on the bills being debated in the house, conducted research into various issues, communicated with government officials, stakeholders, and the public, wrote member's statements, and assisted on Helena's



In my second placement, I immediately jumped into work in the busy office of **Paul Miller**, the NDP MPP for Hamilton East – Stoney Creek.

In my first week, the announcement of shutdown and layoffs at Stelco - U.S. Steel shook Ontario, and had a direct impact on Paul, who had worked there for 32 years. While observing the many radio, newspaper, and television interviews that followed, I quickly became aware of how committed Paul is to his constituents.

I gained a deeper understanding of that dedication when I visited his constituency office. Paul took me on an extensive tour of the riding, and introduced me to its diverse physical and economic landscape, encompassing farms and wineries, light and heavy industry, and rural, suburban and high-density areas. Along the way Paul introduced me to many individuals with whom he has worked over the years as a union member, a city councilor, and more recently, as an MPP.

Private Member's Bill, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Child Passengers on Motorcycles), 2008.

In addition to these responsibilities, I particularly enjoyed the many meetings and events that I attended with Helena at Queen's Park, in Toronto, and in the riding. Throughout these meetings with constituents, local politicians and officials, stakeholders, government members and others, I was always grateful for Helena's willingness to include me, and her eagerness to introduce me to everyone that we met. Whether it was a mayor from her riding, or the Premier, I was always part of the conversation.

I wish to thank Helena, her Executive Assistant Valerie, her Legislative Assistant Frank, as well as Vera, Dan and Kate in her constituency office, for always making me feel like part of the team, and for offering me a first-hand look at life in and around Queen's Park.



At Queen's Park, the fast paced work includes attending morning strategy meetings, preparing questions for Question Period, and writing media releases. There are also long-term projects, including researching pension

policy, and working on Private Member's Bill research.

Throughout this placement, I can always count on Paul and his Executive Assistant Margo to keep me busy and learning, and also to keep me smiling with their friendly demeanors and ready senses of humour. I want to thank both of them, as well as Todd and Shirley in the constituency office for making my opposition placement in their office so enjoyable, and so beneficial.

Rosanne

Churchill Society Dinner

Each year an intern is chosen to sit on the board of directors of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, which among other things culminates with the Annual Churchill Society Dinner. I (David) was lucky enough to have been chosen for the 2008-2009 year.

The night we had been waiting for finally arrived on November 20th as the OLIP team met up at the Four Seasons' Hotel. We had been eagerly anticipating the night ever since we heard some of the names who would be in attendance. While we all knew that we were invited to work, not just to "rub-elbows," still we knew we were in for a treat!

As the night progressed we managed the silent auction and enjoyed a fantastic meal chatting with guests at our table. I was fortunate enough to sit beside Professor Peter Russell, a fellow Churchill Society board member, who is also a renowned scholar on the Canadian constitution and Canadian politics. While the Churchill Society annually provides the interns with a grand night out, the Society's primary mandate is more serious, as it is dedicated to promoting and informing Canadians about how parliamentary democracy works in Canada.

Following the dinner, we listened to the three eminent speakers, Robert O'Brien (Churchill Society Chairman), Celia Sandys (Winston Churchill's Granddaughter) and the Right Honourable Kim Campbell (Canada's only female Prime Minister) all speak on the subject of 'Women in Politics'.

I know I speak for all ten of us when I say that the evening of November 20 was a memorable night and we look forward to the Society's future events!

David

What the Future Holds...

At the end of May, the interns will take part in a key academic component of OLIP: we will present our research papers at the Canadian Political Science Association's Annual Conference. Held this year in Ottawa, we look forward to the opportunity to present our essays that we have all been researching and writing over the course of the year. The conference's location will also offer us the chance to meet with various important political figures in our nation's capital.

2009 Intern Paper Topics:

Tejas: Pork-Barrel Politics at Queen's Park

Meghan: Do Constituents Suffer when Their Representative is the Speaker?

Igor: Legislative Committees: Instruments for Change or Mere Talking Shops?

David: The Evolution of Canada's Vice-Regal Offices

Angela: Affecting Environmental Decision Making Through the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and the Environmental Registry

Kim: Dollars and Sense: The Evolution of MPP Compensation in Ontario

Waqas: Welcome to the Family Business: Familial Relationships and Ontario's 39th Parliament

Chelsea: The Life and Challenges of Northern MPPs

Emma: The New Standing Orders at the Ontario Legislature: The Process of Reform and Perceived Effects

Rosanne: The Relationship Between Provincial and Federal Political Parties



Intern Travels: The Northwest Territories & Washington State

The opportunity to visit other legislatures in North America is a highlight of the OLIP experience. Our February trip, which took us to Canada's north and to America's west coast, introduced us to two very different parts of North America, and helped us learn more about their unique histories, and the nature of their contemporary legislative systems.

In Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, we met with a myriad of officials from both the territorial and federal levels, such as the Commissioner of the NWT. These meetings afforded us with an understanding of the similarities and differences between provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada. Meetings with the Clerk, MLAs, Ministers, and the Premier, in addition to the opportunity to observe a legislative session, helped us to better understand the unique system of consensus government that is found there.

In Olympia, the capital of Washington State, there is a large internship program. Their program participants introduced us to their bicameral legislature, and helped us to draw comparisons with Ontario's system on key issues, such as the powers of the Speaker, and the roles

and influence of committees. An opportunity to shadow individual interns gave us a better understanding of their daily operations, while meetings with individual Representatives and Senators familiarized us with their unique stories, and with the current issues facing their state.

After traveling thousands of kilometers, and experiencing legislative life while surrounded by the stunning artwork of the Northwest Territories, not to mention standing under the impressive dome of the Washington State capital, there is no doubt that we ten Ontario interns all have a better understanding of other legislatures, and thus through a comparative analysis, of our own legislature at Queen's Park.

We are grateful to the many people who met with us, answered all our questions, and contributed to our educational experience over the course of this trip. We wish to offer a special thank you to Gail Bennett in Yellowknife, and Samantha Barrera in Olympia, who helped coordinate our visits. Finally, thank you to our sponsors, without whom this amazing experience would not have been possible.



Interns with Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland

Interns watch a session of the Washington State Legislature





Northwest Territories Speaker Paul Delorey



Northwest Territories Clerk Tim Mercer



Washington State Rep. Richard DeBolt and Rep. Larry Springer



Interns dogsledding



Northwest Territories Commissioner Anthony W. J. Whitford

Washington State Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen



Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed



Meetings

Interns meet with Premier
Dalton McGuinty



Premier McGuinty is surrounded by OLIP Interns and visiting interns from the Quebec National Assembly: Marie-Astrid Ospina, Pierre-Luc Turgeon, Olivier Bégin-Caouette, Pierre-Olivier Legault Tremblay and Marc-André Turcotte.

Interns meet Justin Trudeau at an event hosted
by The Economic Club in Toronto



Interns meet with CBC's Rick Mercer

Interns with Former Premier Hon. Ernie Eves



Interns with Howard Hampton



The Interns meet with Hon. Michael Bryant



The Interns meet with former Premier Hon. Bob Rae



The Interns meet with Toronto Mayor David Miller



The Interns meet with Peter Mansbridge



The Interns meet with Hon. Donald S. Macdonald



The Interns meet with Andrew Coyne



The Interns meet with Susan Ormiston



The Interns meet with Warren Kinsella

Meeting Sponsors



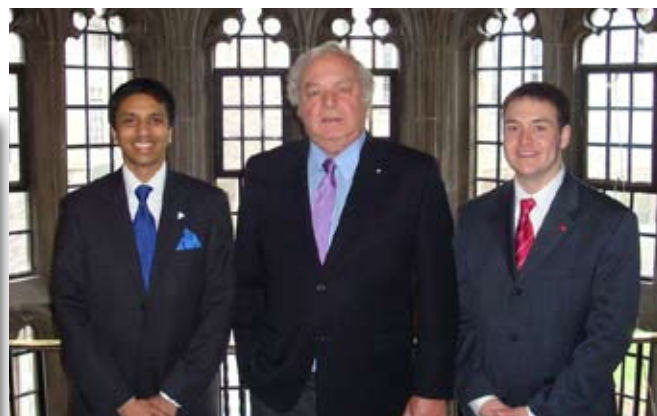
Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations



Jannsen-Ortho



Ontario Real Estate Association



Tejas, David & Former Governor-General Ed Schreyer at the Churchill Society's Hart House Debate

Alumni Updates

Sarah Baker (03-04) Chief of Staff to the Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield MPP

Philip Bousquet (93-94) Senior Program Director, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Toronto.

Chris Charlton (89-90) Re-elected as Member of the Federal House of Commons, Hamilton Mountain.

Louise Comeau (82-83) Policy and Stakeholder Relations, Climate Change Secretariat, The Cabinet Office, Toronto.

Robert Donelson (81-82) Vice-President, Development and Alumni Relations, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

Karli Farrow (98-99) Director, Courtyard Group, Toronto

Ted Flett (00-01) Marketing and Media Relations Coordinator, Tourism Hamilton

Tyler Langlois (00-01) Policy Advisor, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Youth Government Services, Government of Ontario.

Kayla Monteiro (07-08) Senior Policy Advisor, Economic Development Policy Branch, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Government of Ontario.

Celine Mulhern (97-98) Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of Ontario.

Dan O'Brien (05-06) Policy / Research Analyst, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), Toronto.

Sponsor Spotlights



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario is the qualifying and regulatory body of Ontario's more

than 33,000 CAs and 5,000 CA students. Since 1879, the Institute has protected the public interest through the CA profession's internationally recognized standards of qualification and conduct. A wide range of organizations and individuals count on Ontario CAs to provide trustworthy and strategic insight, business leadership and financial guidance. The Institute's

website is: www.icao.on.ca and the student website is www.guidetorulingtheworld.ca.



The interns and Dr Jacek meet with representatives from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is a research-based pharmaceutical company devoted to discovering and developing new and innovative medicines, vaccines and health-care products for Canadians and people around the world. The company's key products target major disease areas – respiratory illnesses, diabetes, viral control, infections, central nervous system disorders and cancer. GSK offers the broadest portfolio of vaccines to satisfy government-run universal mass vaccination programs for all Canadians.

As Canada's leading influenza vaccine researcher, developer and manufacturer, GSK currently supplies 75 per cent of Canadian government seasonal influenza vaccine requirements. In 2007 GSK's Laval facility was recognized as the company's North American vaccines research and development hub. This announcement, along with an injection of \$250 million in its Quebec-based biopharmaceutical activities over the past two years, has put the company at the forefront of influenza vaccine development and production.



GSK has been recognized as one of the 50 Best Employers in Canada for the last eight consecutive years and is a top 15 Canadian investor in research and

development, contributing more than \$178 million in Canada in 2007 alone.

GSK has also been designated a Caring Company by Imagine Canada, contributing more than one per cent of pre-tax profits annually through The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and other channels to initiatives in health, science education and local community organizations.

This year, GSK's new initiatives support an on-going commitment to help fight disease in the world's poorest countries. By increasing flexibility with intellectual property, capping the prices of patented medicines and reinvesting 20 per cent of profits made in the least-developed countries to help build infrastructure, GSK is determined to lower the incidence of disease in the developing world.

Every day, GSK employees strive to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. For more information, please visit www.gsk.ca

The participants of this year's Ontario Legislature Internship Programme are proud to have GlaxoSmithKline as one of our sponsors. As interns, we hope that we can reach the high standards of excellence demonstrated by the company.

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Our Sponsors are an integral part of the Programme and without their help, the Programme could not function. We would like to thank our sponsors for all the help they have given us and for helping make the Programme as successful as it is today. OLIP has always been supported by a substantial annual grant from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario through the Board of Internal Economy. Corporate donations are an important element in OLIP and are used to fund exchange visits and related educational activities.

