



Spring 2010
Queen's Park

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

Insider

Director's Report

This is my sixth year as Director of OLIP. Every year it seems as if the Programme adds new activities and new meetings with important public figures. To the Programme Assistant, Eithne Whaley, we owe a great deal. It is hard to imagine how the Programme could function without her. We also owe a great deal to the work of the onsite OLIP co-ordinators, 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 of Ontario is an important patron of the Programme. The Honourable Steve Peters has shown himself to be an enthusiastic supporter of the Programme. Together with the OLIP management team, Steve shows a great concern that all members of the Assembly appreciate the benefits of this Programme, now in its 34th year.

In addition to our close working relationship with the Speaker, we value our 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 help, especially in making time for personal interviews. We owe a special debt to the MPPs who welcome the interns into their offices each year. We regret that every year there are disappointed MPPs who hope for an intern but cannot be accommodated even though we now have ten interns.

As the ten month intern year proceeds, the amount of intern activity increases. The Legislative Assembly is in the Spring session and its activity and demands seem to become more intense in this period. The interns are working on their OLIP academic research papers which need to be finished in first draft form soon.

The intern year ends in June with a week long series of

meetings at the Westminster Parliament in London. As guests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the quality of the meetings is very rich indeed. Besides our own meetings with parliamentary officials, MPs, former cabinet ministers, and likely future cabinet ministers, our meetings with officials from the Northern Ireland Office, 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 Canadian High Commission, the office of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Globe and Mail's European Bureau Chief. Finally the interns are looking forward to celebrating Canada Day at Canada House and in the festivities in Trafalgar Square.

We are now in the process of welcoming our new interns for 2010-2011. I thank my fellow selection committee members, Paul Di Ianni (a current intern), Lorraine Luski, Anne Stokes and Catherine Frost, an Associate Professor of Political Science at McMaster University, for their hard work and help in this process. Lorraine was an intern in 1983-84 and Catherine, a more recent intern, 1990-91. We welcome as many qualified applicants as possible even though it causes

more work for the selection committee. Readers should know that our deadline for applications each year is February 28th and application forms are available on our website.

Every year it gives me great joy to watch the interns grow in knowledge and understanding over ten months. I like to observe that

in September, the new interns know virtually 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.



Working with MPP [France G  linas](#) is not only a pleasure, it is an extremely interesting and enlightening experience. France is the Member for the riding of Nickel Belt and has a background in Physiotherapy. As health critic for the NDP, she is constantly working hard to represent the concerns of Ontarians and, to this end, has introduced several private members bills. In addition to her work as a member of the Ontario New Democratic Party Caucus, France is also part of l'Association des Parlementaires Francophone (APF), an international organization which brings together French-speaking parliamentarians from around the globe. In this role France is very involved in the Women's Committee as well as in events overseas. France is an extremely active and hardworking Member who is constantly taking every opportunity to better represent the needs of her constituents through daily questions in the House, press releases, radio shows and columns. Since becoming an intern in her office, I have become much more knowledgeable on the health portfolio. I have truly enjoyed working with France during my second placement.

Maegan Baird

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Welland](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Shrimp in Niagara Chutney](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [The very dramatic and unique portrait of Hilary Weston by Brenda Bury, in the Lieutenant Governor's suite](#)

Most Likely To... [Become a country line dancing star](#)



I am so pleased to be working with [Mr. Phil McNeely](#) for the second half of my internship. Mr. McNeely's background as an engineer is certainly appropriate given his position as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. Even more appropriate is his environmentalist spirit! Mr. McNeely's commitment and passion to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to increasing awareness regarding climate change with the youth in his constituency is truly admirable. I feel honoured to have worked with him on two major events that happened in April. In early April, a symposium on climate change took place entitled "After the Arctic Ice Melts"/ "Apr  s la fonte de l'Arctique: que ferons-nous?". L'  v  nement a donn   l'occasion    les   tudiants des   coles secondaires pour approfondir leur connaissance environnementale, et aussi pour   chang   des points de vue avec des experts sur les changements climatique. Later on in April, a group of students from Mr. McNeely's constituency visited Queen's Park also as part of the Climate Change Challenge. Ca m'a fait plaisir de travailler

avec M. McNeely sur ces projets, et je m'en r  jouis    l'avance pour les semaines qui restent ici    Queen's Park.

Leslie de Meulles



If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Northern Development and Mines + Aboriginal Affairs \(double-header!\)](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Subury](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Jalapeno Poppers!](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [John Roberts' portrait \(because of who it depicts and also because of the story behind it!\)](#)

Most Likely To... [Put Sudbury on the map](#)

This term I have the pleasure of working in [Yasir Naqvi's](#) office, MPP for Ottawa Centre and President of the Ontario Liberal Party. Elected in the 2007 general election, Yasir has been an active force at Queen's Park and in his beloved hometown of Ottawa. This young, energetic and highly skilled lawyer rises daily in the House to speak about issues that are close to his heart and relevant to his community. From issues of community safety to praising Ottawa's Olympiads, rarely does a moment go by when Yasir is not speaking fondly about his community and the people that live in it. As Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Revenue, Yasir has been working closely on the Tax Reform Package that was recently announced by the Ontario Government. It was truly a wonderful sight when, during my first week in his office, I had the chance to see Yasir give an unscripted hour-long speech to a group of business executives in my hometown of Hamilton. The youthful aura that Yasir brings to his job makes for a great experience, for not only have I learned a lot about what it is like to be an MPP from him, but I have also learned that politics is also about interacting on a personal level with your fellow colleagues, your constituents, and most importantly, your family.

Paul Di Ianni



If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Hamilton East-Stoney Creek](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Roast Beef Sandwiches](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [Fathers Of Confederation at the top of the grand staircase](#)

Most Likely To... [Charm his way to Prime Minister](#)

I have taken the bus from Toronto to Vancouver and back three times. Not surprisingly, a great part of that 73-hour bus ride takes place crossing the long stretch that is Ontario. So although one might say I'm very familiar with the North Bay, Sault Ste-Marie, Wawa, Marathon, Thunder Bay, Fort Frances and Kenora bus stations—having visited each six times—I have never really visited North Eastern Ontario. This has now changed, since I visited NDP MPP [Gilles Bisson's](#) riding of Timmins-James Bay, this time thankfully by plane. MPP Bisson has been in the Legislature since 1990 when he entered the halls of Queen's Park and served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and Francophone Affairs. Some twenty years later and no longer in government, Gilles still emits a level of energy and knowledge that makes one realize the benefits of not

having term limits in our political system. From attending meetings with stakeholders, to organizing Press Conferences, researching Northern Ontario policy issues, to simply digging through MPP Bisson's memories, I know that the rest of my placement will continue just as it began.

Christiana Fizet



If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be? [Citizenship and Immigration](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Ottawa Centre](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Shrimp!](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... ["AB-1" Micheline Beauchemin](#)

Most Likely To... [Become a community organizer](#)

Working in the office of [Charles Sousa](#), MPP for Mississauga South, allows me to see what makes a great elected official. Charles is dynamic, energetic and engaged. He is constantly attending meetings, going to events, speaking in the House, and meticulously reading over his speeches, statements, and questions—just to make sure he gets them right. Charles is also very laid back and approachable, and relentlessly positive. On my first day in his office, the welcome that he and his assistants provided instantly put me at ease. He has surrounded himself with a fantastic staff and he treats them like a team—always open to their input. As a lifelong resident of his riding, Charles’ strong connection to the area that he represents is clear. He fondly speaks of how engaged his constituents

Matthew Gray



are and how they do not hesitate to mobilize if an important issue arises; and they can be certain that their elected Member will voice their views. Charles cares deeply about making Mississauga South realize its full potential, demonstrated through such initiatives as the revitalization of its waterfront and the reduction of air pollution, as well as an enthusiasm to keep his constituents constantly involved.

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be? [Education](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Vaughan](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Baked Brie](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [The original mace](#)

Most Likely To... [Bring a professional sports team to Vaughan](#)

After only three days in [Ernie Hardeman’s](#) office Tara, Ernie’s EA, told me that it felt as if I had been in the office for at least a month. And although I ran a little late on my second day—due to mistakenly heading to my first office—I actually experienced the same feeling. I am amazed at how smooth my transition was from the Government to the Opposition Progressive Conservative caucus. As a recent immigrant to Canada, for whom Toronto was... well... Canada until very recently, I knew from the beginning that choosing to work for an Oxford MPP focused primarily on rural issues was a bit outside of my comfort level. And it turned out to be the risk I am so fortunate to have taken. It is an enormous privilege to work for a former minister (Agriculture and Rural Affairs) and to observe the Member’s level of intelligence and knowledge, be it on the floor of the House, with stakeholders, or people from the community. I am so lucky to be learning about rural Ontario from a fourth-term MPP in his riding, which makes Ernie the longest consecutively-serving MPP in Oxford’s history! I have a feeling that Ernie knows every single constituent by name as virtually every day he brings some exciting stories from the great riding of Oxford, which I now can say I’ve had the pleasure of visiting!

Yuliya Khraplyva

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Training, Colleges and Universities](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Eglinton-Lawrence](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Vegetables](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [Granite walls with the former MPPs’ names](#)

Most Likely To... [Run a marathon](#)



MPP [Dave Levac](#) is a politician like no other; his enthusiasm and dedication towards his work in the Legislature is unrivalled. Dave was recently appointed as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, a position that has so far proven to be equally exciting and fascinating for both the Member and myself. Outside of Dave's Parliamentary Assistant duties, I am truly enjoying working in his office and learning about the unique

Chira Levy



issues facing the constituents of Brant and its First Nations communities. Whether it's writing press releases, statements, attending ministerial briefings or working on Dave's Private Member's Bill, his office is always bustling with energy. Of course, I am also obviously taking advantage of my bragging rights for the riding's most notable celebrity offspring – Wayne Gretzky! I am thrilled to add my name to the long list of eager interns that have worked in the office of Dave Levac, an experience that none of us will ever forget.

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Don Valley West](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [The warm pita](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building... [The bust of Agnes Macphail](#)

Most Likely To... [Become a private eye](#)

Working in Liberal MPP [Khalil Ramal's](#) office has been a whirlwind. The Member for London-Fanshawe is incredibly active both in his constituency and at Queen's Park, thus making my days filled with interesting and exciting work and activities. My daily routine in Mr. Ramal's office has been a balance between community and legislative duties, including researching and compiling a booklet of available government funding programs for Ontario's communities (which we sent out to various community centres), writing a plethora of Members' Statements -Mr. Ramal reads at least two Members' Statements a week- and helping to organize a media conference and reception for raising awareness on the need for tanning bed regulations in Ontario. As Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Ramal's schedule is often packed with meetings with representatives and stakeholders from ethnic communities across the province. Being able to sit in on these discussions and learn the important and complex issues that each community faces, has been "eye opening" to say the least. Mr. Ramal is the Chair of the Multicultural Caucus as well, and having the rare opportunity to observe the inner workings of this caucus has been a real treat. Needless to say, my days in Mr. Ramal's office are never ordinary, and it is has been an absolute pleasure to work with him and his special assistant, Neil.

Beesan Sanyal

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be?

[Education](#)

In which riding did you grow up? [Nepean-Carleton](#)

Best thing to eat at a reception... [Lake Ontario Rainbow Trout with Niagara Falls Fruit Chutney](#)

Favourite piece of art in the building...

[Portraits of the former Speakers](#)

Most Likely To... [Start an NGO](#)



Norm Miller, the Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka has been a pleasure to work for. As the PC party whip and finance critic, there are always exciting projects to work on. Furthermore, his experience at Queen's Park is a great source of knowledge to draw from. Every morning presents a new challenge, and a new cup of Tim Horton's to start off the day. I have been given the rare opportunity to shadow Mr. Miller in a number of different meetings, and it has been a fast paced environment. I have been involved with a number of different areas of research, and participated in drafting correspondence as well as legislative materials. I have even given presentations on finance issues, a portfolio so diverse I feel as though I am just scratching the surface. I am pretty sure I wouldn't have been able to succeed without the help of Marcia and Inge, who I am constantly learning from, and going to for advice.

The last few months have been a wonderful experience, and I hope to make the most of the short time we have left.

If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be? **Health**
 In which riding did you grow up? **Etobicoke Centre**
 Best thing to eat at a reception... **Smoked Trout!**
 Favourite piece of art in the building... **St Michael. 3rd floor west wing**
 Most Likely To... **Uncover a conspiracy while mayor in a fallout shelter**

Jonathan Trentadue



I am pleased to say that I have the pleasure of working with Elizabeth Witmer, MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo for my second placement. Mrs. Witmer currently serves as the Official Opposition Critic for Both Education and Women's Issues. In addition to her current roles, Mrs. Witmer has an impressive amount of experience under her belt. She has long been involved in the field of education – Mrs. Witmer is a former secondary school teacher and also former trustee for the Waterloo Board of Education. In terms of her political experience, she has served as Ontario's Deputy Premier, as well as Minister of Labour, Environment, Education, and Health. And, despite her many responsibilities, she still finds time to stay physically active! I am honoured to be working with an individual who not only has a wealth of experience to share, but is someone who is widely recognized for her integrity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Witmer, along with Patrick, Marie, and Dan, who have all been so welcoming to me. I have already learned a great deal and am looking forward to the remainder of my second placement in her office.

Natalie Tutenzis



If you could be minister of any portfolio, which would it be? **I'll take Premier! But if I have to select a portfolio I would be Minister of Education.**

In which riding did you grow up? **Oak Ridges-Markham**
 Best thing to eat at a reception... **Cheese platter and spring rolls**
 Favourite piece of art in the building... **The architecture of the building itself**
 Most Likely To... **Have her own talk show – Chat with Nat**

Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario announced as OLIP's Lead Sponsor

As Sponsorship Committee Chair, I am pleased to announce that The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, a proud OLIP sponsor since 1996, has decided to take on the role of lead sponsor. The IBAO is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 10,000 independent insurance brokers across the Province. The IBAO is a politically active organization that represents their members at the Ontario Legislature, regulatory bodies, as well as industry commissions and associations. The IBAO also

ensures that the integrity and business

practices of their members are well regarded, thereby ensuring quality services for the consumers of Ontario. The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme would like to thank Brian Yetman, IBAO President, and Randy Carroll, IBAO CEO, for the association's continued support of our Internship Programme. Thank you to the IBAO and all of our sponsors. - Paul Di Ianni



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Honorary Intern: Arleigh Holder



of their introduction into the House, or helping locate much needed props for their magazine photo shoots. He always makes time to chat with us in the hallway or at receptions, and the interns always look forward to seeing him. Arleigh has earned a special place in the OLIP family, and it is a privilege to present him with the 2009-2010 Honourary Intern Award. - Beesan Sarrouh

While the Legislative interns are indeed a diverse and strong-willed bunch, selecting the Director of Broadcast and Recording Services, **Arleigh Holder**, as OLIP's 2009-2010 Honourary Intern was an easy decision. Arleigh's commitment to the program is strong, and his association with OLIP spans a number of years. Over the past several months Arleigh has gone out of his way to make the interns feel at home at the Legislature. In addition to his friendly demeanour, Arleigh has been incredibly generous with his time and resources to ensure the interns are well taken care of, whether it was surprising them with DVD copies

2010-2011 Interns

Bryan Bossin
Melissa Cernigoy
Natalie Desimini
Thomas Maidwell
Katherine Preiss
Erica Rayment
Michael Smith
Charles Thompson
Sasha Tregobov
Lisa Marie Williams

Meeting Sponsors

a beautiful building used to film multiple Hollywood movies, located at Yonge and Bloor in downtown Toronto. We met with several Chartered Accountants and others working for the Institute in various capacities, and learned about the CA disciplinary process, recruitment, training and the mechanics of the Institute. The interns eagerly asked questions about the changing nature of the profession and exactly what aspects of provincial politics are of interest to CA's. We also discussed the crucial role of integrity within the practice and the importance of being publicly trusted as a Chartered Accountant. The interns were even lucky enough to meet with the ICAO President, Rod Barr, and have a brief question and answer period with him. The afternoon ended with a delicious lunch and more discussion. We had a great time visiting the ICAO and OLIP is grateful for their continued support.

The interns had a great visit to the [Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario](#), one of OLIP's generous sponsors. The day started with a tour of the ICA offices,



Earlier this year the ten interns had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of the [Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario](#), one of OLIP's many sponsors. The meeting involved former intern Igor Delov as well as Patrick Dillon, current Business Manager and Secretary Treasurers of the Council. In addition to learning

about the history of the Council, we discussed some of the hardships unions have endured in Ontario and the commitment to the worker the Council has historically demonstrated, even under intense pressure. Mr. Dillon also enlightened us as to the Council's role of bringing the interests of construction and trade unions to the political bargaining table, and its devotion to maintaining safe working conditions and high standards for training. All the interns enjoyed the meeting and were especially thrilled to see an OLIPer from last year's crop working for such a highly regarded and hard-working organization. Thanks to Igor and Mr. Dillon for meeting with us and continuing to sponsor the programme.

Our "lunch and learn" with Matt Thornton of the [Ontario Real Estate Association \(OREA\)](#), one of OLIP's sponsors, was a great afternoon. After a lunch of salad, sandwiches and cookies the interns discussed some practical issues faced by realtors in Ontario and learned about realty in the province more generally. We asked questions



surrounding the housing bubble, mortgage rates, various policies affecting real estate, and how one goes about lobbying the government. As head of Government Relations for OREA, Matt gave us some great tips about how an association cultivates a good relationship with all political parties. He also addressed how one effectively represents an association's members and discussed the skills a GR person must develop. A former intern himself, we also talked briefly about the transition an intern goes through upon leaving Queen's Park and pursuing a career. We left the meeting with several valuable pieces of literature – including a practical guide to buying your first house – and some useful knowledge of Government Relations. Thanks to Matt and OREA not only for a great lunch and meeting, but also for supporting OLIP. - *Matthew Gray*

Other Meetings

Any OLIPer would agree instantly that our countless meetings will be missed greatly at the end of a ten-month journey. Who wouldn't enjoy cutting out an hour or so from sometimes-hectic days in the offices to chat with the most fascinating people. Take a Friday afternoon with John Tory for example. Generous with his time, Mr. Tory did not only tell us about his personal political path, but provided some life lessons – stand for what you believe, wherever life leads you.



Interns with John Tory

Although interns are becoming progressively more confident in our meetings with public figures and need virtually no time to think of good questions to pose, we do get those occasional butterflies in our stomachs before sitting down with some real icons. And who wouldn't, particularly if it is with legendary anchors Peter Mansbridge and Lloyd Robertson, who are normally looking at us from the other side of a TV screen. Within just 10 minutes into the meetings butterflies are gone and we are talking in a relaxed manner to these very special individuals who unselfishly share stories about their remarkable lives and encourage us to be active in ours.



Interns with Peter Mansbridge

We often discuss municipal politics in relation to provincial matters. So a trip to Toronto City Hall to meet with Mayor David Miller was filled with emotion, dynamic conversation, and all the questions we were dying to ask. Mayor Miller was no less excited to answer any question we threw at him: from TTC to city taxes to cultural festivals. Frontrunner mayoral candidates George Smitherman and Rocco Rossi also sat down with us in the middle of a rapidly accelerating mayoral race. Young and energetic TTC chair and Toronto councillor Adam Giambrone left us impressed by the vast amount of knowledge he has acquired in his youthful career.



Interns with David Miller



Interns with Michael Bryant

a real spark of encouragement for some aspiring politicians among the interns. And speaking of dynamic public figures, we also met with Michael Bryant—a champion of Private Member’s business. Bryant (a former Minister who held multiple portfolios) provided us with an optimistic perspective on how backbench MPPs can trigger some real transformations on both legislative and societal levels.

Meeting with current Health and Long-Term Care Minister Deb Matthews arrived as “icing on the cake” in the midst of a Liberal Cabinet shuffle. Minister Matthews candidly spoke to us about the challenges that a MPP carrying such a heavy portfolio faces on a daily basis.

OLIP interns will use every opportunity to meet up with people in virtually every field. Thus, lunch with Lynne Olson, a well known American author and the first woman correspondent in Soviet Moscow during 1970s, came as a rare treat for the interns among us who have an interest in journalism and international affairs.

Deeply into our second placements with the internship sadly approaching its home stretch, we continue to eagerly take in every minute of these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities—meetings that are not only educational and eye-opening, but also entertaining. A sampling of these include meetings with Andrew Coyne, Ernie Eves, Frances Lankin, Rex Murphy, and several Ministers and Deputy Ministers. We were also fortunate to take in a taping of the Rick Mercer Report, for example. What a perfect way to finish up a working day for an OLIP intern!

- Yuliya Khraplyva

Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Julian Fantino needs little in the way of introduction. He was happy to meet with us and spoke on a variety of topics ranging from his personal story of being a young immigrant to the most pressing issues facing the OPP today. While Mr. Fantino learned about the OLIP programme only recently, meeting with legendary former premiers of Ontario - Bill Davis, David Peterson, and Mike Harris – has become an annual OLIP tradition, which continues to provide interns with new insights about Ontario’s history and politics. Our reference to high-profile political meetings would not be complete without mentioning former MPP and Cabinet Minister, Sean Conway, who now teaches at Queen’s University. Elected at the tender age of 24 to serve his Renfrew constituents, Sean provided



Interns with Bill Davis

Denver, Colorado & Nashville, Tennessee



On a brisk Sunday morning in early February, the 2009-2010 interns set off on our first Study Tour. After months of discussing, debating, arm wrestling, mulling and finally reaching a consensus, our destinations of travel were the great mountain city of Denver, Colorado and the line dancing, Sothern-Belle Nashville, Tennessee. As we stepped onto the plane that early morning, we could not foresee how exciting the next seven days would be. So exciting in fact, that it was with much reluctance that we got back onto the plane some seven days later.

Colorado Treasurer Kennedy

We would spend the week visiting both legislatures and soaking up as much knowledge on the ins and outs of state politics as we could. Engaging with the different players in both states—from the Majority House Leader, Treasurer, and Speaker in Denver to the Governor, Black Caucus and Women's Caucus in Nashville—we returned to the Great White North with an understanding that Comparative Politics courses can only scrape at. What follows is a little taste of our experience.



Minority Leader May



The Colorado State Legislature: We spent the first two days learning about the Colorado state legislature and trying to wrap our heads around term limits, bicameral state legislatures, and the extremely low salaries representatives earn. While we soaked up essays-worth of differences between our system and that of Colorado, there were a few things in particular that need mentioning.

Senator Spence

The Colorado State Legislature is composed of 100 members; the House has 65 members and the Senate has 35 members. House members are elected for a two-year period and are limited to four consecutive terms in office. Senate members are elected for four-year terms and can hold office for two consecutive terms. Accordingly, no member in the House or Senate can hold office for more than eight years.

Institutional knowledge and memory play a big role in our parliamentary system. Many members in the Ontario Legislature have been here for over twenty years, and I would argue bring a certain wisdom to the process, thus ensuring a level of stability. Interestingly, both the Senators and Representatives with whom we met echoed our own thoughts. However, they also made it clear that no government would even tempt to quash term limits.



Majority House Leader Weissmann



Governor Bredesen

bodies in the Colorado legislature (all desks facing the Speaker as opposed to one another) made for a much more convivial environment. Meeting with the Majority House Leader on the floor of the House or walking into the Senate Chamber to speak with the only female Republican Senator during session (something that would never be allowed in Canada) reinforced this idea of a Citizen's Legislature.

The Tennessee State Legislature Pleased with our experience in Denver, we hopped on a flight Tuesday night to venture further south to Nashville, Tennessee. Wednesday morning we were greeted by 100 Tennessee interns who come from across the state to work for Representatives, Senators and lobbyists for the four-month session. We jumped into the next days' activities head first, meeting with the Governor of Tennessee, Phil Bredesen on the centre steps of the capitol building. What followed were a number of meetings with Senators, Representatives, and Research Librarians where we discovered that Canada is Tennessee's largest trading partner and as a result we were greeted with unconditional warmth.



Senator Norris

Although all of the meetings were extremely interesting, our meeting with the Tennessee Black Caucus, made up of both Senators and Representatives from the Democratic Party was unequivocally the most memorable. Although many people place the Civil Rights Movement in the United States in the mid-1950s, peaking in the 1960s, black Tennesseans like Ida Wells and James Napier were working for the cause of civil rights for African Americans generations before the 1960s. Seventy years before Rosa Parks made national news for refusing to sit at the back of a bus, Ida Wells was forcibly removed from the first-class ladies coach on a railroad and sued the railroad as a result. She later conducted a writing campaign to draw public attention to the crime of lynching.



Speaker Carroll

Many of the older members of the Black Caucus, one the former President of the Tennessee chapter of the NAACP, had been very active in the Civil Rights movement and shared with us recollections of the March on Washington and other seminal events that we had only read about. Following our meeting we visited the a Civil Rights exhibit at the State museum and found one of the Black Caucus members in one of the photographs taken in the 1960s of a sit-in.

It would be unfair to leave readers with only a taste of our daily activities. Our evenings proved to be just as eventful—ranging from some of us going to a Colorado Avalanche hockey game while others bowled, to dancing at the Tennessee Bankers’ Association reception and sharing our good old Canadian karaoke passion with some Southern folk, to line-dancing, and debating the merits of universal health care with our fellow American interns. The nights were as memorable as the days!

All in all, our first Study Tour of the Colorado and Tennessee State Legislatures was a wonderful educational experience in more ways than one. From learning about the politics and history of the two states, to learning how to travel in a big bunch, we all came out of the trip more knowledgeable and closer as learners and friends.



Interns at the top of the dome in the Colorado Legislature

Upcoming Visits to Montreal and London

Montreal

In June, 2010, the interns will travel to Montreal, Quebec, for this year's annual Canadian Political Science (CPSA) conference. As this is the first academic conference for many of us, we are very much looking forward to discussing our papers with notable professors in the field. We're excited for the feedback on our research and attending the larger conference run by the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada.

We have been working hard on our papers and many members now recognize us around Queen's Park as the interns as a whole have interviewed nearly every MPP! As well, the interns have been taking turns discussing our paper progress at the weekly Friday meetings. Though our topics cover a wide range, our distinct themes together represent our fascination for and excitement towards working at Queen's Park.

I know I speak for all the interns when I say that we are thrilled to attend the upcoming CPSA conference. Also, who wouldn't love visiting Montreal in the spring?

Academic Paper Titles

Maegan Baird : An Expectation of Consultation? Understanding Changes in Policy-Formation and Implementation through Ontario's Member's of Provincial Parliament

Leslie de Meulles : Provincial Unity Amidst a Diminishing Press Gallery

Paul Di Ianni : Lame-Duck or Martyr: Ministerial Resignations in the Province of Ontario

Christiana Fizet : Pandora's Box: Reopening the Discussion on the Use of 'The Lord's Prayer' in the Ontario Legislature

Matthew Gray : Assent Against the Odds: Understanding what Makes a Private Members Bill Successful

Yuliya Khraplyva : How different are they? Comparison of Standing and Select Committees

Aviva Levy : At a Disadvantage? An Analysis of the Orientation for Newly Elected MPPs in Ontario's By-Elections

Beesan Sarrouh : Analysing the differing Public Relations Strategies of Ontario's Auditor General and Ombudsman

Jonathan Trentadue : Scrutiny, Responsibility, and the Evolving Role of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario

Natalie Tutunzis : Provincial-International Relations: Exploring the Involvement of the Ontario Legislature in International Affairs

London

At the end of June until the beginning of July 2010, OLIP will finish with the ultimate trip: visiting the UK Parliament. As a General Election will be held on May 6, we are all the more excited to visit with notable politicians, media figures, non-governmental organizations, and many others. Our visit is being organized by the British Consulate, one of our gracious sponsors. They ensure we make the best use of our short time in London and help plan our meetings and extra-curricular tourist activities.

The only unfortunate part about this upcoming trip is that it signals the end of an incredible year for the ten of us; a year where we were exposed to people and places to which we may never again have access. Despite all the incredible trips we've taken, former interns always speak incredibly highly of the trip to the UK. I know that together with the British Consulate and Eithne, our Programme Assistant, the interns will plan an action-packed trip filled with memories for years to come.

- Aviva Levy

Ottawa and Quebec City Visit



Megan Leslie

American-Canadian relations, but we were also given a tour of the beautiful building.

Back at “the Hill” interns had the opportunity to meet with John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (and no, we are not related). He answered our questions and provided candid responses as to his previous and current portfolios. We then met with long-time political staffer Keith Beardsley. As individuals who are all interested in politics and only beginning our careers, we found his past experiences to be extremely enlightening and humorous. We then met



Justin Trudeau

his experiences from before and after becoming the Sergeant-at-Arms. We were then able to meet with a member of the Bloc Québécois, MP Melli Faille. Though the meeting was brief, she was informative and graciously shared her experiences on the Hill with us.

Minister Peter MacKay

Nearly every year the Ontario Legislature Interns travel to Ottawa and Québec City to visit the Parliament of Canada and Quebec’s National Assembly. While I have visited these places many times, never have I had the opportunity to meet such incredible political and media figures and experience these two cities so fully. Thanks to the coordination of our travel committee as well as the Parliamentary Interns in Ottawa and the Québec Interns, we had the opportunity to meet with a variety of individuals who shared their experiences and knowledge with us. Our meetings in Ottawa began with a briefing from Eric Benjaminson of the United States Embassy. We not only had an interesting

discussion on



Bob Rae

with the Prime Minister’s spokesperson, Mr. Dimitri Soudas who provided us with an overview of communications on the Hill. We finished off the day in a meeting with MP Justin Trudeau. His concern and commitment to the environment, youth, and his riding was extremely heartfelt and it was a perfect note on which to end the day!

Our second day began in a meeting with former Ontario Premier Bob Rae. He is an extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable MP and shared his perspective on the relationship between Queen’s Park and Parliament Hill with us. Next, we met with the Sergeant-at-Arms Mr. Kevin Vickers. He was sincere and personable and we all enjoyed hearing





A meeting with current NDP MP Megan Leslie was next. She shared her unique ideas for the future of the environment as well as her views on poverty in Canada. We also met with former OLIP intern and current Professor of Journalism, Chris Waddell. As someone who has been covering politics since 1981, it was a very special opportunity for us to learn about his extensive career and experiences in media. We then met with Minister of Defense, Peter MacKay, who answered our questions on security issues facing Canadians.

Don Newman

Our next meeting was with Don Newman, long time political broadcast journalist. Since many of us are very interested in communications and media, it was a great opportunity to meet with such a newsroom legend! The final meeting of the day was with the Deputy Clerk, Marc Bosc, who provided us with some insight on Canadian politics and parliamentary procedure. On our very last day in Ottawa we were unexpectedly fortunate to meet with Madame Justice Rosalie Abella. She spoke to us about her current role as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada as well as her earlier career, including her report on Employment Equity in Canada.



Marc Cloutier



Minister Arcand

The first half of our trip was off to a great start and Québec proved to be just as informative and interesting. We all got to practice our French and the Québec interns were perfect hosts and hostesses! Our first meeting was with MNA Jacques Chagnon, member of the Québec Liberal Party. He was very personable and helped give us an overview of l'Assemblée. Our next meeting was with Alexandre Cloutier, also a member of l'Assemblée who represents his riding under the Parti Québécois. It was interesting to hear his perspective on some of the issues facing Québec politics both in l'Assemblée and in his riding.

We then met with Agnès Maltais, an MNA who offered her insight on the gender divide in politics and also on her background in theatre. We also had a chance to meet with a Minister, M. Pierre Arcand, Ministre des Relations Internationales et Ministre responsable de la Francophonie. This was an extremely informative meeting on Quebec's role on the international scene.



MNA Chagnon

Next, we met with Mme Ariane Mignolet, Adjointe du secrétaire général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et à la procédure. She gave us an overview of procedure in l'Assemblée and of some of the main issues that have arisen over the last few years. Our last meeting of the trip was with Rhéal Séguin a journalist with the Globe and Mail. As someone who has had experience reporting politics in both Ontario and Québec, he had a lot of interesting stories to share with us. Overall, the trip was a definite success. It was interesting, well-organized and fun, and we are very thankful to have had the opportunity to visit these two fascinating legislatures. - Maegan Baird



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Sponsor Spotlight

OLIP relies heavily on the generous support of our sponsors. This year we are proud to announce a new sponsor: MEDEC. MEDEC is the national association representing the medical technology industry in Canada. MEDEC is the primary source for advocacy, information and education on the medical

technology industry. Its more than 150 industry members are committed to providing safe and innovative medical technologies that enhance quality patient care and advance patient outcomes. The medical technology industry in Canada employs over 35,000 Canadians in close to 1,500 corporate facilities, and has sales of nearly \$7 billion per annum. MEDEC is committed to ensuring that Canada has a strong and vibrant medical technology industry in Canada. For more information see the association's website at <http://www.medec.org/>. OLIP greatly appreciates the support of MEDEC to our programme and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them for years to come.

Meghan Warby, from Intern to Social Media Guru

After experiencing the exciting, high-stakes environment of Question Period (which went from writing pointed queries on the inadequacies of government to fawning softballs lobbed to my MPP's caucus colleagues) as a legislative intern, I was excited to keep up my political writing, reading and engagement outside of the Pink Palace. Thanks to the many long days, tight-deadlines and wonderful mentors at the Park, making the transition to non-partisan writing on political subjects, such as advocacy work for government relations clients, and blogging on the subject of provincial and federal elections, went smoothly.

The interwebs have always been good to me, whether it was staying up to the wee hours in music-related chat rooms throughout high school, learning HTML for the Austin Music Foundation's website and e-newsletters, or having an opportunity to speak to the cream of the geek crop at South by Southwest's Interactive Conference this spring. The most important lesson from the Queen's Park internship, which continues to assist me while developing social media strategies, digital communications pieces and blogger outreach campaigns for clients at Argyle Communications, was the constant emphasis on managing multiple projects, stakeholders, and maintaining consistent messages across all platforms.



It's very exciting and fulfilling as a former intern and enthusiastic nerd to see each year's crop of OLIP recruits using more social media, blogging and online components in their work with Ontario's MPPs. Hopefully their increasing sophistication in this space will leave a lasting impression on how our province communicates with its citizens.

Meghan Warby 2005-2006 is a Senior Consultant at Argyle Communications and Vice Chair of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy

Another Stroll Down OLIP Memory Lane

In late January the press reported that Bob Runciman, the Member for Leeds-Grenville—and the third-longest sitting Member of the Ontario Legislature—would be named by the Prime Minister for appointment to the Senate of Canada. The news brought back memories.



As an OLIP intern in the class of 1983-84, I worked for the Conservative Government backbencher during my second OLIP placement—my first having been with (then) Liberal Opposition backbencher, Jim Bradley. Among my most memorable assignments while “interning” for Bob was an invitation to the Member’s riding of Leeds-Grenville. Concerned about the economic and social challenges facing Eastern Ontario and the lack of regional representation in Cabinet, Bob had scheduled a meeting of concerned stakeholders to try to form a consensus around common strategies. The goal was to get his Government to respond.

The meeting was held at City Hall and Brockville’s youthful 24-year-old Mayor, Steve Clark, was in attendance. So was the press. A reporter, Martin Seemungal (now award-winning journalist and foreign correspondent reporting for numerous networks including CBC, CBS, and ABC), took video “photo ops” of the local worthies before heading off to his next assignment. The meeting generated local news coverage and notice by Queen’s Park thus raising the profile of the issue and the Member.



Steve Clark

Flash forward to 2010. Following a remarkable 29-year legislative career—including countless memberships on Standing and Select Committees, various Cabinet posts and several stints as interim Conservative leader—Bob Runciman was named as one of the two Ontario Senate appointments by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on January 29, 2010. The other appointments hailed from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Quebec. With Runciman’s Leeds-Grenville seat now vacant, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a by-election for Thursday March 4. Contesting the seat were candidates from five parties: the New Democrats (Steve Armstrong), the Ontario Libertarian Party (Anthony Giles), the Green Party (Neil Kudrinko), the Ontario Liberal Party (Stephen Mazurek), and the Progressive Conservative Party (Steve Clark).

In press coverage leading up to the by-election, Conservative candidate Steve Clark referred to Bob Runciman as a “mentor” and said that if successful in the by-election he would take to heart Bob’s advice: “put your constituents first.” It then dawned on me that Conservative candidate, Steve Clarke, was the same Steve Clarke that I met 26 years earlier at the Brockville Meeting—duh! Steve went on to win the March 4 by-election with 66 % of the votes. Despite his success, I suspect that the newly-elected Member for Leeds-Grenville knows that he has very big shoes to fill.

Ontario Senate seat – Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes: According to the press, one of Bob’s first actions as a new senator was to seek a change to his designation: “Senator from Ontario” to “Senator from Ontario-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes,” to better remind him of the people “to whom I owe everything.” Bob also serves on two prominent Senate Committees—Legal and Constitutional Affairs, and National Finance.

On behalf of OLIP and all the interns who have worked for Bob Runciman over the years, I wish him the very best on his recent appointment. Having followed Mr. Runciman’s remarkable legislative career since 1984, and well aware of the impact he had while serving at the Legislature, I expect that the Canadian Senate will never be the same! - Lorraine Luski

Annual Dinner of the Churchill Society for Parliamentary Democracy

This year, the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, an OLIP sponsor, celebrated its 26th annual Churchill Society Dinner. Each year, a distinguished parliamentarian is honoured by the Society, and is given an award to celebrate their contribution to furthering parliamentary democracy and their dedication to democratic principles. This year saw the Honourable Herb Gray as its winner—and he is certainly a very distinguished parliamentarian, being the longest serving member of parliament for 39 years. Mr. Gray previously served eight years as the Canadian Chairman of the International Joint Commission. His term expired in early January of this year.

Although the presentation of the award and the speech by its recipient is the focal point of the evening, there were many other events throughout the night, such as the silent auction, that made it exciting and enjoyable. Lynne Olson, the first woman foreign correspondent for the Associated Press, and Washington correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, also spoke that evening about her book,

Troublesome Young Men. In this book, Ms. Olson tells the tale of the young men who helped to bring Churchill to power during the second world war, and how their efforts in bringing Churchill in arguably shaped the outcome of the war not only for Britain, but for the world. Ms. Olson spoke eloquently and certainly enticed us to read



not only Troublesome Young Men but also her latest book, just released Citizens of London.



The morning of the Churchill Society Dinner, the Toronto Star predicted

that the “guests at the charitable event will include a who's who of Canada's elite politicians, thinkers and business leaders” and they were correct. Many notable guests were in attendance that evening including Maclean's editor Andrew Coyne, the current Finance Minister, the Honourable

Dwight Duncan, who introduced the Hon. Herb Gray, a handful of current Cabinet Ministers in the Liberal government, and president Duncan Hobbs of Charton and Hobbs. The evening's imbibing was facilitated by Charton Hobbs and, as a special surprise during the dinner, Mr. Hobbs conducted a spontaneous live auction of two giant bottles of their wine—both which were obtained with generous and competitive offers!

The evening went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by all—especially the interns. We thank the Churchill Society for sponsoring our attendance. As a new board member, I eagerly anticipate next year's event!

- Leslie de Meulles





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Founded in 1950, with offices in Burlington and Toronto, the Ontario Community Newspapers Association is a non-profit industry association comprising more than 270 member newspapers located throughout the province. We are dedicated to helping member community newspapers prosper.

OCUFA seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of higher education in Ontario, and to advance the professional and economic interests of teachers, researchers, and librarians in Ontario universities. OCUFA is made up of 23 faculty associations across Ontario representing some 15,000 professors and librarians.

Recognizing our uniqueness as teachers in Catholic schools, we are an association committed to the advancement of Catholic education. As teacher advocates we provide professional services, support, protection and leadership.



The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) represents the political, clinical and economic interests of the province's medical profession. Practicing physicians, residents, and students enrolled in any of the five Ontario faculties of medicine are eligible for OMA membership.

The Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) was formed in October 1997 as a result of two former provincial Associations uniting into one strong Association under the International Association of Fire Fighters, representing professional fire fighters in the province.



The Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) is the voice of over 100 road building contractors who build and maintain the majority of the provincial highway system and Ontario's municipal roads and bridges. The Association also represents almost 80 Associate Members who manufacture, distribute and/or supply products, equipment and services to the road building industry.

Alumni Spotlights

While we try to maintain a relationship with our alumni, some have gone on to work for our sponsors after their internship and we have the pleasure of dealing with them more often than some others. Highlighted here are three of these interns; John Wright 1980-81, a Senior Vice President with Ipsos Canada, Igor Delov 2008-9, an Executive Assistant with Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario and Matthew Thornton, 2007-08, Manager of Government Relations with the Ontario Real Estate Association.

John Wright is Senior Vice President and Managing Director of the Ipsos North American Public Opinion Polling Division and an OLIP intern from the Class of 1980-81. John has been their media polling partner architect and spokesperson since he arrived at the company in 1989. Ipsos is the second largest market and opinion research company in the world. In the decade before joining Ipsos, John was Vice President for an advertising and public relations firm and served in both the political and corporate worlds in government relations. In all, he has worked for almost 30 years in Public Affairs for a diversity of clients.

John also holds an Honourary Appointment with the Canadian Forces as Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel of The Ontario Regiment, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, and is on the boards of the Hincks Dellcrest Children's Mental Health Centre, the Canadian Journalism Foundation, The Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, Canada Company, the Historica-Dominion Institute and Cancer Care Ontario. He is also an Arbor award recipient from the University of Toronto.



As a former OLIP intern working at Ipsos, John Wright serves as an example of interns who go on to distinguished and illustrious private sector careers that began not so long ago at Queen's Park. Ipsos is a long-time sponsor of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, and each year the interns have the pleasure of visiting Ipsos' offices and meeting with Mr. Wright. It's an invaluable experience to visit the location where so much integral polling takes place. Furthermore, discussing current events with John Wright is a meeting that sets the tone for the year, as he provides interns with insights into what is possible from the experiences gained as an intern.

Ipsos Canada

CANADA'S MARKET INTELLIGENCE LEADER

John loves to tell the interns stories of his time back at Queen's Park. He explained that once, in the early 1980's, a night session of the Legislature was sitting. It was a minority government under Bill Davis' Conservatives and the Deputy Premier was

Hon. Bob Welch, formerly from the Niagara Region. In those days the night session was signalled externally by the light being on in the middle glass window at the front of the Legislature that illuminated a star carved window and glistened brightly down University Avenue. Originally placed there many, many years ago, it was meant to signal the MPP's staying at the Royal York that the House was in session. And so, one night Mr. Welch was seen running furiously up the steps of the Legislature, a full sweaty mop upon his head looking very distressed. Someone called out: "What's wrong, what's wrong?" to which he replied: "I'm going up to the House, the Government has fallen!" Actually, it hadn't. The bulb in the light had burned out and it had looked like the night session had ended abruptly.

- Jonathan Trentadue



We are very proud to be adding the [Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario](#) as our newest sponsor. We are prouder still, that one of our own alumni, [Igor Delov \(2008-09\)](#) was recently hired as an Executive Assistant, working closely with the Council's Business Manager and Secretary Treasurer Patrick Dillon.

After completing his graduate degree in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario, Igor began his internship year working for MPP Laurie Scott (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), followed by his placement with MPP Laura Albanese (York South-Weston). The invaluable insights gained from working on both sides of the House, mixed with Igor's strong interest in labour relations and economic policy have made the transition to his new post virtually seamless.

Founded in 1957, the Council consists of 13 building trades unions representing 150,000 construction workers in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors of Ontario's economy. Not only does the Council speak on behalf of its members and their families, it also works closely with employers and owner-clients to uphold the collective bargaining process and ensure a stable labour market supply for the thousands of construction projects across our province. Igor's duties include coordinating industry research, helping injured workers, and influencing public policy at all levels of government to make sure that occupational health and safety standards are protected and improved as business practices and technologies evolve. We salute Igor's accomplishments and wish him success in the future. - *Leslie de Meulles*

As a current intern it is always great to hear about success stories of past interns. It is an awesome reminder of the well-established and great reputation that OLIP has, as well as its history of turning great interns into even better contributors to society. [Matt Thornton](#) is one of those success stories that make OLIP great. Matt was an intern in 2007-8 and loved every minute of it. His first placement was with Jim Wilson (PC) MPP for Simcoe-Grey, and his second placement was with Dave Levac (Lib) MPP for Brant. Matt obviously loved his time at Queen's Park, and that is because his face lights up when he talks of his experiences here. One of the great aspects of the internship is the ability to meet organizations that work in and around Queen's Park. Thus it is no surprise that a talented intern, such as Matt, ended up working for the [Ontario Real Estate Association \(OREA\)](#), a current and long time sponsor of OLIP.

Matt started with OREA in July 2008 and is now the Manager of Government Relations. At OREA, Matt provides policy analysis, research support and works closely with the Director of Government Relations to develop strategies on tackling the issues that affect OREA. Matt is also in charge of MPP liaisons, which includes regular meetings with Ministers, Opposition Critics and monthly updates on the state of housing markets in specific ridings. Matt is also responsible for OREA's online media presence and also helps plan OREA's annual Political Affairs Conference. Matt is also in the process of completing his Canadian Association Executive designation. Looking at his job description it is abundantly apparent that Matt Thornton has gone on to achieve a high level of success at OREA. One last thing about Matt Thornton. He is getting married to a wonderful woman named Angela Lyons; their wedding is set for July 10, 2010.

Congratulations Matt on all your success; OLIP will be following your career very closely! - *Paul Di Ianni*





The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) is a trade union representing almost 60,000 members. The union works to protect its diverse membership which is represented in 140 bargaining units across the province.

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