

Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
SPRING 2012



EVAN
AKRIOTIS



PATRICK
DEROCHIE



BELINDA
ELLSWORTH



LAUREN
HANNA



HUMERA
JABIR



SYLVIA
KIM



DIEGO
ORTIZ



SYLVIA
PENA



CRAIG
RUTTAN



MONIKA
WYRZYKOWSKA



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INTERN COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVANCEMENT

EVAN AKRIOTIS

ALUMNI

LAUREN HANNA

CHURCHILL SOCIETY REP

SYLVIA KIM

MEETINGS

BELINDA ELLSWORTH

RECEPTIONS

DIEGO ORTIZ

RECRUITMENT

SYLVIA PENA

RECORDS

PATRICK DEROCHE

SPONSORSHIP

MONIKA WYRZYKOWSKA

TRAVEL

CRAIG RUTTAN

MAGAZINE EDITOR

HUMERA JABIR

DESIGN

EITHNE WHALEY

CONTACT OLIP

1303A WHITNEY BLOCK

QUEEN'S PARK

TORONTO, ON M7A 1A2

TEL: 416-325-0040

WEB: WWW.OLIPINTERNS.CA

EITHNE_WHALEY@ONTLA.OLA.ORG

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Queen's Park Insider, the official magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). We have been busy over the last few months. In February, the Interns visited Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and in March, London, England, to take part in legislative comparative study tours. In mid-March, the Interns kicked off their second term placements with government and opposition Members of Provincial Parliament. We have enjoyed being a part of Ontario's 40th Legislature and look forward to sharing our experiences with you in the pages of this magazine.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in November 1975. It is administered by the Canadian Political Science Association and is supported by a substantial grant from the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The Programme is not associated with the Government of Ontario or with any political party. It is designed to provide backbench Members of the Legislative Assembly with highly qualified assistants while at the same time giving Interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. HENRY J. JACEK, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

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This is my eighth 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, I owe a great deal. It is hard to imagine how the Programme could function without her. I also owe a great deal to the work of our Programme Coordinators Lorraine Luski and Anne Stokes. In Ottawa, the Canadian Political Science Association's Administrator, Michelle Hopkins, ensures that the financial affairs of OLIP are in order. Here at Queen's Park we have welcomed a new Speaker, the Honourable Dave Levac. Dave has had on intern just about every year he has been a Member of the Legislative Assembly. However, now as Speaker, Dave will not be eligible to have an intern but he still remains an enthusiastic supporter of the Programme.

In addition to our close working relationship with the Speaker, we value our relations with all members of the Ontario 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 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 work increases. The Legislative Assembly is

in the spring session and its activity and demands seem to become more intense, especially once the budget is presented. This year is especially interesting since having a minority government creates a great deal of uncertainty and a few surprises.



Also this year has been unusual in that the interns went for their meeting at the Westminster Parliament in March, rather than in June, because of the London Summer Olympics. As guests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the quality of the meetings is very nice indeed. Besides having meetings with parliamentary officials and MPs, the interns also met with FCO Desk Officers for Canada and the UK, and noted British journalists.

Although the meetings are in London, Canadian content was present. The highlight was a visit to the Canadian High Commission at Donald House on Grosvenor Square. There, the interns had a full meeting with Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr. Gordon Campbell. They also met with Canadian Luke Skipper who is now Westminster Chief of Staff to the Scottish National Party.

We are now in the process of welcoming our new interns for 2012-2013. I thank my fellow selection committee members, Evan Akriotis (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 the process. Lorraine was an intern in 1983-1984 and Catherine, a more recent intern in 1990-1991. We welcome as many qualified applicants as possible even though it causes more work for our selection committee. Readers should know that our deadline for applications each year is the last day of February and application forms are available on our website.

Every year it gives me great pleasure to watch the interns grow in knowledge and understanding over the ten months. I like to observe that in September many interns know virtually nothing about the real workings of the Ontario Legislature yet by the end of the 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. From their foundation in the amazing opportunities and experiences of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, interns make important contributions to our public life. Their ten month stay at Queen's Park enriches us all.

Dr. Henry Jacek

THE 2012 INTERNS

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Patrick DeRochie grew up in the small town of Fonthill, Ontario. In 2008, he completed a BA in history and political science at the University of Guelph, and later an MA in International Affairs at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. While in Ottawa, Patrick interned at the Rideau Institute and monitored parliamentary committees for The Alpheus Group. He also worked as an Evaluation Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Evan Akriotis was born and raised in Toronto, but moved to Montreal to complete a BA (Joint Hons) in Canadian Studies and Political Science at McGill University. His research interests include the nature of political representation in Canada, the role of the media in politics (particularly entertainment media), and the politics of the north. Evan will be studying law at the University of Toronto next fall.



Belinda Ellsworth is originally from Stratford, Prince Edward Island. She graduated with distinction from Mount Allison University with a BA (Hons) in Political Science in 2009, and completed an MA in Political Studies at Queen's University in 2011. Her research interests include issue ownership in Canadian politics, intergovernmental relations, and gender politics. Though she is still weighing her options, Belinda is considering a career in public service.



Lauren Hanna is from Aurora, Ontario and recently completed her BA (Hons) in Political Science at Acadia University with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Beyond the classroom, Lauren co-founded Acadia's first women and gender society, and was involved in fundraising at a social service agency for young mothers in York Region. She developed an interest in law while working in the Student Programs department at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.



Humera Jabir is a recent graduate of McGill University where she completed a BA (Joint Hons) in Political Science and International Development Studies. Originally from Brampton, Ontario, she moved to Victoria, British Columbia to attend Lester B. Pearson United World College. Humera has worked internationally in the Netherlands, Japan, and Kenya. She has a long-standing interest in politics and communications, working as a news editor for the McGill Daily in 2009-2010. Humera will be returning to McGill to study law in the fall.





Diego Ortiz was born in Bogota, Colombia and raised in London, Ontario. He completed his BA (Hons) in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario with a minor in Global Development from the Centre for Global Studies at Huron University College. Diego has a particular interest in business-government relations and policy implementation. He has enjoyed sharing new experiences with his OLIP colleagues and is seeking a career in government relations upon completion of the internship.



Craig Ruttan was born in Kitchener, Ontario and raised in nearby Punkeydoodles Corners. He completed his BA (Hons) at Victoria College University of Toronto, specializing in Peace and Conflict Studies. This past year, Craig completed his MA in International Peace and Security at King's College London in the United Kingdom. His academic interests include justice issues, education policy, and political messaging. Craig anticipates working in the fields of government relations or policy-making.



Sylvia Kim was born in Sydney, grew up in Busan, South Korea and moved to Toronto at the age of eight. She graduated from McGill University with a BA in International Development Studies with a minor in Economics. Sylvia also participated in an exchange to Sciences Po Paris where she studied European Union fiscal and monetary policies. She co-founded SynesthASIA, a Montreal fashion show that celebrates art while raising funds for charities in Asia.



Sylvia Peña was born in Regina, Saskatchewan but was raised in Hamilton, Ontario. Sylvia completed her BA (Hons) in Political Science, with a minor in French, at McMaster University. After graduating from high school, Sylvia volunteered in Ukraine and Saskatchewan as a participant of Canada World Youth, and independently in Costa Rica. Her experiences abroad inspired Sylvia to learn more about the diverse cultural, regional and linguistic identities present in Canada. Sylvia will be moving to Lyon, France to teach English.



Monika Wyrzykowska has a BA in Economics and European Studies and an MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies from the University of Toronto. Her focus shifted to Canadian politics after spending five months living in Québec. Monika took part in a language immersion program in Trois-Rivières and completed a four-month internship at a ministry office in Québec City, sparking her interest in federalism and identity. Monika's involvement in the Polish-Canadian community has led to a greater interest in political decision-making, as well as multicultural issues.

PLACEMENTS

EVAN AKRIOTIS: KEVIN FLYNN & NORM MILLER

PATRICK DEROCHIE: VIC FEDELI & PHIL MCNEELY

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My first placement was in the office of [Kevin Flynn](#), MPP for Oakville. As the Parliamentary Assistant for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Kevin was placed in charge of the College of Trades, a nascent regulatory body

that places trades administration in the hands of tradespeople themselves. As with anything in politics, there were a bevy of competing interests at play, and these interests had to be managed. Kevin invited me into every one of his meetings with Minister Glen Murray and countless leading figures in the skilled trades, allowing me to observe these negotiations firsthand. Outside of the Ministry, I spent a lot of time in Kevin's riding of Oakville. From its charming waterfront (Toronto could learn a thing or two) to its lush ravines, and from its fabulous affluence to its vital manufacturing sector, Oakville has many faces, and I really appreciated having the opportunity to immerse myself in the community and its varied interests. Between issues local and ministerial, Kevin's office offered me something new every day. I am very grateful to both Kevin and his staff for the experience.

The time I have spent in [Norm Miller](#)'s office thus far has been a whirlwind. Moving out of the ministerial bubble and into the bustling legislative building has been a real treat. It seems as though there is always something exciting happening just outside our door.



Norm has afforded me every opportunity to involve myself in the workings of the office, and I have been keeping very busy. As the critic for Northern Development and Mines, Norm has me researching northern development initiatives in other provincial jurisdictions and identifying policies that may be applicable in Ontario. Keeping abreast of issues both in Norm's riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka and across Ontario's vast north is no small feat, but it is a challenge I am delighted to take on. Norm is also chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which has the daunting (but exhilarating) task of reviewing the Auditor General's Special Report on the Ornge Air Ambulance service. Working in the office of the PAC chair has been fascinating. During the constituency week break, I also had the chance to head up north to the riding. While there, I had the opportunity to go flying with Norm, and I gained a deeper understanding of a region that is much more than just crystalline lakes and summer retreats. - [Evan](#)

During my first placement, I worked in the office of [Vic Fedeli](#), MPP for Nipissing and PC Energy Critic. Vic also sits on the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs and is a vocal PC spokesperson for Northern Ontario. Vic's office offered me the

perfect opportunity to learn about Ontario's energy issues and to experience the fast-paced timetable of an up-and-coming Opposition critic. I spent the pre-session period researching energy issues, including provincial comparisons of energy production sources and electricity prices, feed-in-tariff programs, time-of-use electricity pricing in other jurisdictions, and methods for grid-scale electricity storage. I also had the opportunity to visit Nipissing before the legislative session began, where I learned the ropes in Vic's constituency office and had the chance to enjoy some winter activities in North Bay. I enjoyed working with Vic's EA, Clint Thomas, writing Member's Statements and preparing a summary of Nipissing's pre-budget consultations. My role in Vic's office was recorded in Hansard when he mentioned me in the introduction of his Private Member's Bill on Ontario Forestry Industry Revitalization. I worked closely with both Vic and Clint to prepare the bill over the course of my placement.



For my government placement, I am working in the office of [Phil McNeely](#), MPP for Ottawa-Orléans and PA to the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care. Mr. McNeely's portfolio is a fascinating one, particularly at a time when the Health Minister is en-

gaged with the Ornge Air Ambulance issue and the government is attempting to safeguard the health services that Ontarians cherish during a time of fiscal austerity. Mr. McNeely also sits as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, which has given me the opportunity to conduct research, prepare committee materials, and attend hearings. The main thrust of my work in Phil's office, however, has been to push forward initiatives on climate change mitigation, an issue I care about greatly. In concert with various stakeholders, including environmental organizations and academics, I am conducting background research on private member's legislation that seeks to commit Ontario to a zero-carbon future. I want to thank Phil and Melissa for making my placement a rewarding, educational and challenging one. - [Patrick](#)

PLACEMENTS

BELINDA ELLSWORTH: DONNA CANSFIELD & ROSARIO MARCHESE

LAUREN HANNA: LISA THOMPSON & TRACY MACCHARLES

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Working for Mrs. Cansfield, MPP for Etobicoke Centre, was a fantastic experience. Donna's genuine commitment to helping others is admirable, and this made working in her office very rewarding. Her poise and sincere efforts to work cooperatively with others have earned her the much-

deserved respect of her community and peers. Some of the highlights of my placement included research, assisting with her Private Member's Bill, completing various research projects, and meeting with stakeholders. Her assistants Rebecca and Katie included me in all aspects of the office, and I was able to see the tangible results of much of the work we were doing. Visiting Anne, Jan, and Charlotte in the constituency office afforded the opportunity to better understand the challenges facing people in Etobicoke Centre. One of my favourite experiences in this placement was being involved with the Girl's Government program hosted by two Etobicoke schools, and working with students to help them select an issue to on which to lobby the government. After assisting with the preparations for Mrs. Cansfield's Private Member's Bill calling for the creation of an Alzheimer Advisory Council, it was enormously gratifying to see the Alzheimer Advisory Council Act, 2012 introduced in the House.

My first few weeks in Mr. Marchese's office have been a whirlwind! Mr. Marchese is an extraordinarily gifted parliamentarian. It has been instructive to watch him work in the House, in Committees, and behind the scenes. Conversations with Mr. Marchese have been enlightening, and I am coming to understand precisely why he is such an effective advocate for his constituents in Trinity-Spadina. With two critic portfolios and an extremely active constituency, Mr. Marchese's office always has a lot on the go. Already I have had the opportunity to assist on private member's legislation, prepare materials for committee meetings, undertake a variety of research projects and much more. I am gaining exposure to a broad range of issues, from economic development to social policy. I am thankful for the trust that the Queen's Park and Constituency offices have placed in me, and appreciate the opportunities to take on independent projects and work as part of the team. Thus far, each day has been completely different from the last. I am looking forward to continuing to learn in this exciting placement! - Belinda



My first placement in the office of PC Green Energy Critic, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, was action-packed and full of lively debate over the future of rural Ontario. Lisa's critic portfolio has been high profile this session with the government's Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) review under way and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture favouring a moratorium on industrial wind development just weeks before the debate on Lisa's motion in the Legislature calling for a similar stoppage. Lisa had me working on issue briefs and talking points, attending stakeholder meetings and shadowing both her and fellow PC Energy critic Vic Fedeli on an energy tour. Thanks to this placement, I learned a great deal about rural issues, energy policy, and some of the challenges faced by our province as it struggles to shift from coal energy to coal-fired renewables. With new communication skills and policy knowledge in hand, I said a bittersweet goodbye to my first office. Staff members Lisa and Ashley had one request, namely, that I keep rural Ontario top of mind in the future.



Children's aid societies, obesity, justice, and poverty reduction - these are just a few of the issues top of mind in the office of newly-elected MPP Tracy MacCharles, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children and Youth Services. My

placement with Tracy, MPP for Pickering-Scarborough East, began with a lively reception for the Ontario Association of Children's Rehab Centers and a fundraiser for the Sunshine Foundation, which showcased a mashed potato bar and candy buffet. Tracy's EA Scott Maxwell has been showing me the ropes, teaching me valuable lessons from his seven years on Parliament Hill with former Liberal MP Dan McTeague. Tracy brings an extensive HR background to Queen's Park, as well as management experience and the wisdom of a mother who has been busy raising a twin son and daughter. Tracy sits on the Liberal Women's Caucus and chairs the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, Education and Health—a fitting appointment given her own personal and public endeavors. Tracy and Scott keep me on my toes and often make me laugh. There are daily challenges to work through, laughter to be shared, and life lessons that I will carry with me wherever I go. Thank you, Tracy and Scott! - Lauren

PLACEMENTS

HUMERA JABIR: SOO WONG & JAGMEET SINGH

SYLVIA KIM: TERESA PIRUZZA, ELIZABETH WITMER & LAURIE SCOTT

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In my first placement, I worked with [Soo Wong](#), MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt. Soo is a newly-elected Liberal Member, currently serving as the Parliamentary Assistant for Community Safety and Correctional Services. Soo is well-known for her work

as a Toronto District School Board trustee, as well as her years working as a nursing professional. Soo's longstanding interest in the health and education sectors allowed me to gain important insights into these provincial responsibilities. I assisted Soo's office with a private member's resolution on childhood obesity awareness, attending meetings with researchers at the Hospital for Sick Children and organizing student roundtables on childhood obesity in elementary and secondary schools. I also enjoyed working on constituent files, helping individuals navigate the labyrinth of government ministries and find answers to their policy concerns. Most importantly, I want to thank Soo and the office staff, Executive Assistant Joanne Linton and Legislative Assistant David Gordon for their guidance, which has allowed me to better understand the workings of a government office. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with a busy and motivated group of people and benefitted greatly from Soo's mentorship.

During my second placement, I have been working with [Jagmeet Singh](#), MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton, which just happens to be my home riding. Jagmeet is the NDP Critic to the Attorney General and Critic for Consumer Services. As a criminal lawyer, Jagmeet brings a unique perspective to the Legislature, in particular a concern for the protection of individual and human rights. I worked with Jagmeet on committee work related to the justice portfolio, connecting with stakeholders in the area of civil liberties protection across the legal profession. On the consumer protection side, I have been able to sit in on discussions relating to Bill 45, Jagmeet's proposed legislation on auto insurance reform, and worked on a petition calling on the Legislature to take action on this issue. Working for an MPP in my home riding has allowed me to learn more about the issues that shape my own constituency—from high auto insurance rates to the impact of temporary job agencies. I have also learned a great deal from Executive Assistant Melissa Bruno, who formerly worked for Jack Layton in Toronto-Danforth. I am excited to learn much more from my new office in the months ahead. - [Humera](#)



My first placement with MPP for Windsor-West, [Teresa Piruzza](#), gave me a glimpse into the start-up world of a new MPP. As the former Executive Director of Employment and Social Services for the City of Windsor, Teresa has worked closely with immigrants, helping to train and connect them to employment. Jobs and economic growth are Teresa's long-time passion and vocation, and her Member's Statements and questions in the House reflect this admirably. I had the opportunity to job shadow Teresa in the riding, which coincided with visits from the Ministers of Health, Finance, and Training, Colleges, and Universities. Before traveling to Windsor, I organized a meeting for community leaders engaged in youth initiatives in the riding. We held a session to brainstorm ideas on how to help youth stay in the region. As a recent graduate myself, I was fascinated with what the meeting brought forth: ideas on entrepreneurship, urban planning, and communication. Teresa may be new to Queen's Park, but her ability to mobilize people, get them talking and take action is a testament to her strong abilities.



My second placement is with MPP [Elizabeth Witmer](#). As the former Deputy Premier and Minister of major portfolios, Mrs. Witmer has a great deal of knowledge and experience to share. As I have witnessed in recent meetings, it is Mrs. Witmer's ability to listen and understand the issues of stakeholders, respond to constituents' needs, and to work long hours if need be that have made this placement both stimulating and rigorous. I am excited to have worked in her office and thrilled to learn from Mrs. Witmer—not only as an MPP, but also as a woman in politics. In only my second week on the job, I was able to assist on Mrs. Witmer's Private Member's Bill 14, Anti-Bullying Act, 2011, watching as it passed second reading in the Legislature. I assisted Mrs. Witmer in various stakeholder meetings, drafted remarks, and prepared briefing notes. I also want to thank the dynamic and welcoming staff in her office, Dan Powers and Marie Gauthier, for always being so supportive! Due to Mrs. Witmer's resignation, I will be placed with [Ms. Laurie Scott](#), MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, for the remainder of my second placement. I look forward to working for Ms. Scott who is currently the PC Critic for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Women's Issues. As a Registered Nurse by profession, I also hope to learn more about health care from an MPP with firsthand experience in the field. - [Sylvia](#)



PLACEMENTS

DIEGO ORTIZ: ROD JACKSON & DR. HELENA JACZEK
SYLVIA PENA: MICHAEL PRUE & GREG SORBARA

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I was very fortunate to be placed in the office of [Rod Jackson](#), PC Member for Barrie, for my first term placement. I enjoyed the time I spent working with Rod and his Legislative Assistant, Jane Kovarikova. As a new intern, I felt welcomed into the office and was able to take part in many of Rod's activities, including a meeting with Minister Charles Sousa on the Pan/Parapan American Games. Working for the PC Critic for Accountability and the Pan/Parapan American Games afforded me the opportunity to conduct research on the Games and their significance for southern Ontario. The placement allowed me to develop a broad skill set, briefing the member on current issues regarding the Games, and attending frequent meetings with stakeholders and officials from various levels of government. I also had the pleasure of working closely with the outstanding constituency staff in Barrie: Kelly, Sue, and Chris. I was able to gain a better understanding of the issues facing Barrie and the concerns expressed by constituents. I would like to extend a big thank you to Rod and his dedicated team for giving me a memorable first impression of Queen's Park.

I began my second internship placement on the government side the day after returning from our study tour to London, England. To be perfectly honest, I was still somewhat jet-lagged as I tried to put my best foot forward. I walked into the office of [Dr. Helena Jaczek](#), MPP for Oak Ridges-Markham, in the Ministry of the Environment building and was greeted by Cristina, Executive Assistant, and Lesley, Legislative Assistant. I consider myself very privileged to have Dr. Jaczek as my mentor for the second half of my internship. She is an experienced parliamentarian and very knowledgeable on a wide range of issues. I admire the clarity with which Dr. Jaczek communicates her ideas and makes others feel comfortable enough to do the same. I have had the opportunity to research a wide spectrum of topics, and to compile briefing notes and speaking notes, as Dr. Jaczek often addresses the House on a number of subjects. As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Dr. Jaczek has asked me to work on Ministry projects focusing on the Great Lakes. I look forward to continuing my placement with Dr. Jaczek and her team, learning, and gaining more insight into the workings of a government office. - [Diego](#)



For my first placement, I had the opportunity to work for [Michael Prue](#), MPP for Beaches-East York. Michael is the NDP Critic for Finance and Critic for Citizenship and Immigration, two very interesting portfolios. I assisted with some of the preparatory work for Michael's pre-budget conversations tour and attended a few of the meetings held near Toronto. The tour attracted people from all walks of life and led to a great deal of debate on what should be included in Budget 2012. Another memorable experience was the day of the Drummond Report's release. I attended the report "lockup" with Michael and watched as NDP Members questioned Don Drummond himself. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of my first placement was the great people that I was fortunate to meet and work with. Whether it is the M&Ms or Michael's delicious homemade maple pecan pie, the office is a stopover for MPPs, their staff, and even legislative pages. I enjoyed meeting the hard-working constituency office staff: Andrew, Harold, Laurie, and Curtis. I want to thank Michael and Executive Assistant Laurie Orrett for making my first OLIP placement a memorable one.



For my second placement, I have the pleasure of working in the office of [Greg Sorbara](#), Liberal MPP for Vaughan. I feel incredibly privileged to have the opportunity to work with Greg and his Executive Assistant, Sharon Laredo. I am excited to learn as much as I can from them during my placement, and am working on many exciting projects. I am currently writing a newsletter, organizing a Queen's Diamond Jubilee ceremony at Queen's Park for constituents recognized for their community involvement, and planning a Constituency Day. Both Greg and Sharon have been supportive by including me in the office activities. I attended the budget lockup, watched the scrum in front of the House on budget day, and attended a post-budget breakfast with Greg in Vaughan. One aspect of my second placement that I enjoy most is the opportunity to view the same portfolio from different lenses, and to hear various perspectives on the issues that affect Ontarians so directly. In my last placement, I worked for the NDP Finance Critic, and now I have the opportunity to work for the former Minister of Finance. I look forward to working with Greg and Sharon, their constituency staff Lorenzo and Rose, and interacting with constituents and stakeholders in the next few months. - [Sylvia](#)

PLACEMENTS

CRAIG RUTTAN: MIKE COLLE & JOHN YAKABUSKI

MONIKA WYRZYKOWSKA: MONTE McNAUGHTON & LAURA ALBANESE

QPI PAGE 10



With the riding of Eglinton-Lawrence a convenient subway ride away, I was able to observe MPP Mike Colle hard at work in his constituency. Whether he was visiting Little Jamaica, organizing a massively attended Black History Month feast and presentation, or filling potholes - literally -

everyone seemed to know Mike and appreciate his work in the Eglinton-Lawrence community. Over the course of my placement, I had the chance to work on Mike's Private Member's Bill to recognize May as Jewish Heritage Month in Ontario. Working with his Executive Assistant Dustin Cohen, I helped assemble background information on the bill in order to document the contributions of Jewish Ontarians to the province. I enjoyed organizing a meeting with Jewish community leaders, coordinating a press conference with NDP and PC co-sponsors, and helping draft Mike's speech for the second reading of the bill. It was an exhilarating moment to watch the House grant unanimous consent to second and third reading, passing the bill in one day! I also enjoyed working on the Eglinton Crosstown transit file, as well as assisting with constituents' files and tasks related to the Ministry of Natural Resources portfolio. Thanks to Mike, Dustin, and everyone in the constituency for a great first placement.

For my second placement, I have the privilege of working with John Yakabuski, PC Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Chief Opposition Whip, and Critic for Community Safety. It has been an incredible opportunity to be at the center of the opposition activity, as the Whip's office opens up to the PC Member's Lounge and boardroom. To date, I have assisted with John's Private Member's Bill on gas tax fairness for rural municipalities, conducted research on rural issues that affect Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke constituents, and have worked to address some of these concerns. More than anything, it has been exciting to watch a Whip's office in action - PC MPPs and staff constantly on the run - and to be able to ask questions along the way. It has been fantastic working in the office with John's EA Julian Warrick and Alex Beduz from PC Legislative Affairs, and learning their insights on legislative strategy. I am also looking forward to visiting the (by all accounts) beautiful riding in May, and getting to experience eastern Ontario at its finest. Until then, I am sure there will be no shortage of excitement - especially as I help research songs for John's third charity CD! - Craig



Working in the office of Monte McNaughton was a great experience. His energetic attitude towards his duties and his commitment to the riding of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex meant I was exposed to both the inner workings of Queen's Park and to issues arising in the constituency. While there, I

visited the main office in Strathroy, in addition to the 'part-time', rotating offices in Wallaceburg and Glencoe. Monte's approach to his constituency offices is one that puts 'customer service' first. It's quite evident that he brings the principles learned from his small business background to the job at Queen's Park. In the riding, I enjoyed attending several events in the riding - a Chamber of Commerce breakfast, stakeholder meetings, and a discussion with the Mayor of Glencoe (former MPP and OLIP-host Doug Reycraft). Back at Queen's Park, other memorable moments included observing a news conference and rally in support of the horse racing industry and sitting in on a lobby day. I enjoyed learning from both Monte and his staff: Rachel Strong, who previously worked in the PC Leader's Office, and Joshua Workman, an experienced PC strategist. I am grateful to Monte and all his team for providing me with such a superb opportunity.



Working in the office of MPP Laura Albanese feels like I have come full circle. I spent my formative years in Rexdale, next door to her riding of York South-Weston. These neighbourhoods share many of the same issues and challenges - poverty, integration of new immigrants, and gang culture. She regularly attends and organizes meetings in the community concerning safety, healthcare, and transportation and immigration issues. The riding needs a hands-on, grassroots MPP like Laura. As a former news anchor on OMNI TV's Italian language programming, Laura covered numerous elections and many of the issues affecting her constituents. Her background in journalism means that Laura is very thorough when it comes to research and crafting her statements. Laura is PA to the Minister of Labour, Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, and a Member of the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to learning more about Laura's committee responsibilities and assisting her in these roles. Of course, I have been able to dive into the routine work of an MPP's office, drafting statements and speaking notes, and researching issues. As in my previous placement, I have been learning a lot from my Member's staff. They have been a delight to get to know and to work with. I only wish I could pick up some Italian while here! - Monika



OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

MEETING THE LEADERS

QPI PAGE 11

Some of our meetings occurred at opportune moments, allowing us to converse with decision makers whose actions make the headlines. We were afforded the opportunity to chat with Premier Dalton McGuinty on Budget Day, which led to a fascinating discussion on the tough decisions contained therein and the qualities needed for effective leadership.

Soon after the release of the 2012 Budget, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath met us for a candid conversation about her party's approach to minority government and the challenges she has faced as Party Leader.

We're looking forward to chatting with PC Leader, Tim Hudak later in the spring.



OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

QPI PAGE 12



Interns with the Honourable Bill Davis

The individuals who meet with legislative interns throughout the year continue to inform and inspire us. A range of experts in politics, journalism, and industry patiently sat with us, answered our questions with candour and openness, and gave us the inside scoop on their role in Ontario's public life. Interestingly, truth is often stranger than fiction, so these private exchanges have been entertaining as well as educational.

The former Premiers with whom we have met thus far have offered astute commentary on current past and developments in Ontario politics. The [Honourable Bill Davis](#) explained how his government navigated a minority. The [Honourable Ernie Eves](#) drew parallels between the current fiscal situation and the challenges Ontario faced during his leadership. Our meeting with The [Honourable David Peterson](#) was extremely candid, he discussed politics past and present while demonstrating astute political instincts.

A number of people have offered mentoring advice. [Angie Brennand](#) from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce provided counsel on how to launch our post-internship careers. OLIP alumni [Matt Thornton](#) and [Yuliya Khraplyva](#) spoke about their work at the Ontario Real Estate Association, demonstrating effective strategies for government relations first hand. Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research, [Lisa Freedman](#), sought to make us more effective interns by instructing us on parliamentary procedure.

A joint meeting with [Chris Pepper](#) (Fidelity Investments) and [Darcy McNeill](#) (Director of Communications for the Minister of Finance) taught us everything we had always wanted to know about political communications but were too afraid to ask. We also had the chance to sit down with Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs [Paul Genest](#), who provided us with important insights on the balancing act that is federal-provincial relations.

Visiting with [Jeff Ryan](#) at Labatt Breweries gave us new perspective on the beverage industry in Canada. His presentation allowed us to better understand how government relations and communications impact competitive markets



Interns with the Honourable Ernie Eves



Interns with the Honourable David Peterson



Interns with Chris Pepper & Darcy McNeill



Interns with Paul Genest



Interns with Steve Paikin

Spending a day at the Institute of Chartered Accountants with [Chris May](#) opened our eyes to new ideas and career opportunities in a field that is anything but dull

We heard some fascinating stories from journalists. [Judy Rebick](#) shared stories from her life as a political activist. [Christina Blizzard](#) of the *Toronto Sun* gave us an insider's take on the Queen's Park Press Gallery. [Steve Paikin](#) helped us to understand a different side of the Leaders' Debates that he has hosted, provincially and federally. We chatted with [Peter Mansbridge](#) about his career trajectory, and some of his most memorable interviews. [Robert Benzie](#) of the *Toronto Star* gave us a crash course on journalism at Queen's Park, and gave us great background on the current dynamics in the legislature.

[Dr. Donna Dasko](#) from Equal Voice provided an engaging presentation on her organization's accomplishments and challenges in advancing the status of women in politics. [Kristopher Stevens](#) from the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association presented on community-led renewable energy opportunities. [Professor Peter Hogg](#), Canada's leading constitutional law scholar, offered us a rare opportunity to dive into the Constitution, and learn about related matters from an expert. [Dr. Graham White](#) briefed us on politics in the Far North in preparation for our study tour to Yellowknife, while [Deputy Consul Ashley Prime](#) and [Claire Hastings](#) from the British Consulate prepared us for our program in London.



Interns with Peter Mansbridge



Interns with at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario



Sylvia meets Finance Minister Jim Flaherty



Interns with Monika Turner, AMO Policy Director



Interns with Professor Peter Hogg

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

QPI PAGE 14

On the cover of this issue of the Queen's Park Insider, you will find the Interns posing on frozen Frame Lake in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. We are each wearing a high-quality expedition parka, generously donated by Canada Goose. The company became our clothing sponsor for the NWT trip, outfitting each of us with parkas perfectly suited for Yellowknife at 40 below. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our friends at Canada Goose for keeping us warm, dry and stylish over the course of our winter travels.

February saw us pack our bags, don our warmest winter wear and leave "balmy" Toronto for Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT) to embark upon a comparative study tour.

To say we were treated like "royalty" may seem a stretch, but we saw the pictures from Prince William and Kate's summer 2011 visit to Yellowknife and we were treated comparably well. From the Premier, to the Mayor, to the Speaker, to the Commissioner (the territorial equivalent of the Lieutenant Governor), it seemed as though everyone in town was willing to take time out of their busy schedules to meet with us and make us feel welcome.

Accommodating 11 official languages, the NWT is something of a patchwork of treaty agreements and self-government, all in various stages of development and growth. It is a political reality unlike any other in Canada, and it was fascinating to hear from all sides. [Alan Cash](#), Secretary to Cabinet, gave us an extensive and illuminating crash course on Aboriginal politics from a government perspective. While some First Nations refuse to acknowledge the territorial government, others engage with it actively. We also spoke to [George Cleary](#), Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the Deline First Nation, and heard first hand an Aboriginal perspective on these issues. Similarly, we had a deeply moving meeting with [Commissioner George Tuccaro](#).

Speaker Jackie Jacobson, Premier Bob McLeod, and Clerk [Tim Mercer](#) each discussed the unusual system of consensus government in the NWT, wherein no MLA represents a political party. The Premier and Cabinet are selected by the members of the Assembly, and cooperation is a fact of political life. We learned about the opportunities and challenges of consensus government, and had our eyes opened to a fascinating incarnation of Westminster Parliament.

The different insights and perspectives to which we had access are almost too numerous to mention. [Kevin Lewis](#) from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, [Malcolm Robb](#) of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and [Cathie Bolstad](#) of De Beers discussed resource development interests and issues. Chief Electoral Officer [David Brock](#) described the electoral demands of this unique political reality. Yellowknife Mayor [Gordon Tighem](#) and [Regina Pfeifer](#) of the Local Government Administrators gave us the NWT municipal perspective. Human Rights Commissioner [Thérèse](#)

[Boullard](#) discussed some of the current human rights issues. Minister of Environment [Michael Miltenberger](#) and [Dawn Tremblay](#) of Ecology North addressed the environmental concerns in the Far North. The breadth, depth, and quality of our meetings in Yellowknife was incredible.

Of course, we could not travel to the North without having a bit of fun. Between dogsledding, snowmobiling, hiking, art shopping, skiing, northern lights viewing, and noshing on Bullock's famous fish and chips, we had no trouble keeping ourselves busy between meetings. In a year that has been full of highlights, our trip to Yellowknife was a stand out! Many thanks to Gail Bennett, Principal Clerk of Operations, for organizing such a great programme.



Interns with The Honourable Jackie Jacobson



Interns with The Honourable Bob McLeod



Interns with George Cleary

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

QPI PAGE 15



Interns with The Honourable George Tuccaro



Interns with Gordon Tighem



Interns with Gail Bennett



Interns at Javaroma Cafe



Interns in a Government of NWT Committee Room



Interns at Buffalo Airways



Yellowknife Sunset



Snowmobiling on Great Slave Lake

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

LONDON, ENGLAND

QPI PAGE 16

For legislative interns working within the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, it doesn't get more exciting than visiting the system's birthplace, the Palace of Westminster, which is more thrilling than it sounds.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) put together an impressive visit program, enabling us to compare and contrast our system with theirs.

Monday morning started off with a tour of the Palace of Westminster, where we visited the House of Lords followed by the House of Commons. Afterwards, we travelled to University College London to attend an academic seminar on Scottish independence led by [Professor Robert Hazell](#) and others. This was good preparation for our meeting with [Luke Skipper](#), the Chief of Staff for the federal wing of the Scottish National Party in Westminster. Originally from the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Mr. Skipper provided insights into the goal of Scottish independence and the SNP's path forward. The topic of Scottish independence also came up in our discussion with the [Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael](#), a Liberal Democrat MP from Scotland and the Deputy Chief Government Whip (and Chief Whip for the 'Lib Dems'). In addition to meeting with Mr. Carmichael, we had the opportunity to sit down with the [Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin](#), a Conservative MP and the Chief Government Whip, and his Principal Private Secretary, [Roy Stone](#). It was fascinating to hear about the challenges of maintaining party discipline and government stability in the British Parliament's first coalition government outside of wartime. But, despite the challenges of keeping each party's malcontents onside, and ensuring that policy is carried through the House of Commons, the coalition partnership between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats seems to have worked better than anyone expected.

Early in our visit we were delighted to meet [Robert Rogers](#), the 49th Clerk of the House, who wears multiple hats: constitutional advisor, accounting officer, corporate officer and legal owner of the Parliamentary Estate (among other roles!). We also met Conservative MPs [Andrew Stephenson](#) and [Andrew Percy](#), who spoke about Canada-UK relations and life in the Coalition. [Graham](#)

[Brady](#), a Conservative MP and Chair of the 1922 Committee spoke about the role and significance of this committee of backbenchers within the Conservative Party. Canadian High Commissioner [Gordon Campbell](#) spoke eloquently about his transition from provincial politics to one of Canada's most coveted foreign service positions, providing a helpful outsider's eye to the UK.



For the media's perspective, we met [Andrew Sparrow](#), Senior Political Correspondent at the *Guardian*, who shared with us how the newly evolving digital landscape is changing the look and feel of political news reporting. [Ric Bailey](#), Chief Political Correspondent, who advises the BBC on political independence and neutrality, described the era of his career during which he hosted the BBC program Question Time before a live television audience. To round out this exhaustive programme, we also heard from [David Henderson](#), who worked at No. 10 Downing Street (aka the Prime Minister's Office) on the civil service side as a policy advisor to Gordon Brown and, subsequently, David Cameron.

Not only were the meetings interesting and informative, but so were London's sights and attractions. We took in art and history at the British Museum, Tate Modern, and the National Gallery, among others. We explored Borough Market and Portobello Road. Some of us took in West End theatre, while others watched a football match between Fulham FC and Swansea City FC. We walked across Abbey Road and took in the sights along the Thames. And of course, what trip to London is complete without experiencing some of the city's finest pubs such as Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese on Fleet Street, where novelist Charles Dickens is said to have raised a pint or two.

A group of interns were fortunate to have glimpsed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Phillip, Prince Charles, and the Duchess of Cornwall, thanks to a fortuitous walk past Westminster Abbey on Commonwealth Day!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our trip possible: [Claire Hastings](#) at the British Consulate in Toronto, [Emma Vernalls](#), Visits Officer and [Nigel Harland](#), Liaison Officer from the FCO in London, as well as the Foreign Office staff who put together such a worthwhile and successful visitor's program.

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

LONDON, ENGLAND

QPI PAGE 17



Interns with Luke Skipper



Interns with the Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael



Interns with the Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin



Interns with Robert Rogers



Interns with MP Graham Brady



Interns with High Commissioner Gordon Campbell



Interns with David Henderson



Interns at 10 Downing Street

As part of the Programme's academic component, the interns work on a research paper of their choice that relates to their time at Queen's Park, be it some aspect of the Legislative Assembly, the legislative process, or Ontario public affairs. Each year, Interns attend the Canadian Political Science Association's annual conference to present their research.

The 10 Interns and the Academic Director, Dr. Henry Jacek, will travel to Edmonton in June to attend this year's conference hosted by the University of Alberta. We have been working on our papers throughout the year, and presenting our preliminary ideas and findings during our weekly OLIP meetings.

Evan: The Effect of Cameras on the Quality of Legislative Debate. Declining decorum and debased debate are frequent laments of those who follow or work in politics. Routinely, the blame falls upon television cameras in the Legislature. The evidence of the impact of cameras as a factor in declining civility in the House is largely anecdotal and observational. My paper will attempt to quantify the camera's effects in the Ontario Legislature using a content analysis of Hansard.

Patrick: "Switching Teams": An Analysis of Floor Crossing in Ontario Political History. Inspired by media speculation of an MPP defection that would shift the balance of power from "major minority" to a majority government after the October 2011 election, as well as recent defections in both Ottawa and Victoria, I have decided to focus my research on cases of floor-crossing in Ontario political history.

Belinda: It Happened One Night: The Use of Personal Anecdotes and First-Hand Accounts in the Ontario Legislative Assembly. For my research paper, I will investigate the use of personal anecdotes during debate and statements in the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The final paper will assess the intent behind the usage of first-hand accounts and personal narratives, as well as the ultimate impact these rhetorical devices have on the quality of debate.

Lauren: Independent and Influential: Exploring the role of Legislative Officers in Ontario's political process. Have you ever thought about the pace of change in the world today and the ability of our governments to "keep up"? This question fascinated me towards the end of my university degree and it is the starting point for my research paper looking into the role of Ontario's independent officers in the policy development process. I will speak with the Legislature's independent officers to gain insights into independence, innovation and policy influence.

Humera: Visible Minorities and Substantive Representation in the Legislature. My research paper seeks to assess the substantive nature of visible minority

representation provided by MPPs elected in Ontario's urban ridings. Through interviews with MPPs, my paper will explore the interaction of legislators with the visible minority communities they represent or are assigned to represent in order to determine the value and quality of diverse representation at Queen's Park.

Sylvia Kim: House Leaders: Minority-maker or breaker. With our internship taking place during a minority government and the fate of our current placements balancing upon a game of "chicken" between the three parties, I am intrigued by "what makes or breaks a minority parliament" My paper seeks to find out how important house leaders are in a minority setting, and what makes them effective in their role, given the importance of House Leaders to intra-party negotiations.

Diego: Urban vs. Rural: where do parties find a balance in Ontario? I was intrigued by the record-low voter-turnout in the last general election in Ontario this past fall, particularly in rural areas. I've decided to look further into why rural Ontario appears to have disengaged from provincial politics. My research will evaluate party platforms, time in government, and policy development to determine if parties in Ontario tend to favour urban over rural Ontario, and why.

Sylvia Pena: From Government Ministry to Independent Officer of Parliament: The Office of the Provincial Child and Youth Advocate. My paper is centered on the process by which the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth was created. Prior to becoming an Independent Officer of Parliament in 2007, the Advocate was part of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This paper hopes to explore some of the challenges that have marked this transition and how they have or could be overcome.

Craig: Constructing solidarity: Caucus-Whip relations in a minority. My academic paper examines the role of the Whip in a minority legislature. I plan to explore the working relationship between the MPP serving as Whip and the political staff assisting him/her, as well as the strategies employed to maintain caucus discipline and strategic effectiveness. I look forward to drawing on the existing literature, interviews with current and former Whips and staffers, and my personal experience interning in the PC Whip's office.

Monika: Ambition, Public Opinion Polls and Policy: Legislative Careers and Linkages. After working at Ipsos, I began to consider the influence of polls on politicians. I am exploring the decisions of Progressive Conservative candidates to stand for office had they but known that their chances of forming government were not as great as projected.

INTERNS' FAVOURITE MOMENTS

QPI PAGE 19



Intern Media Scrum (thanks CTV!)



Interns at the Churchill Society Annual Dinner



Dogsledding in Yellowknife



Global TV on Election Night



Along the Thames in London



OLIP in the Snow



Walking Abbey Road



Visiting the Olympic Site in London

ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS

RECENT ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS & UPDATES

QPI PAGE 20

Michael Acedo (2003-2004), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Toronto

Nick Ametrano (1994-1995), Vice-President, MonsterMortgage.ca, Toronto

Karim Bardeesy (2001-2002), Director of Policy & Research, Office of the Premier, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Melodie Barnett (1995-1996), Managing Partner, Pivot Communications, Toronto

Bryan Bossin (2010-2011), Assistant Consultant, Hill & Knowlton Strategies, Toronto

Philip Bousquet (1993-1994), Senior Program Director, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Toronto

Melissa Cernigoy (2010-2011), Research Consultant, Ottawa

Ryan Cookson (2007-2008), Articling Student, Goodmans LLP, Toronto

Natalie Desimini (2010-2011), Administrative Assistant, Writer/Researcher, Offices of Communications and Government Relations, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Toronto

Robert J. Donelson (1981-1982), Vice-President, Development and Alumni Relations, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo

David Donovan (2009-2010), Executive Assistant, Bob Bailey, MPP (Sarnia-Lambton), Toronto

Julie Dorsch (1992-1993), Chief of Staff to the Chair of Cabinet, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Laura Dougan (2006-2007), J.D. Candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto

Graham Erion (2002-2003), Norton Rose Barristers and Solicitors, Toronto

Karli Farrow (1998-1999), Executive Project Director, Partnering for Patients, Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga

Jon Feairs (2005-2006), Senior Policy Advisor, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Ted Flett (2000-2001), Public Relations/ Communications Manager (Canada), Visit Britain, Toronto

Melanie I. Francis (2003-2004), Blaney McMurty Barristers & Solicitors LLP, Toronto

Marianne Goodwin (1989-1990), Director of Strategic Communications and Parliamentary Affairs, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada, Ottawa

Rebecca Gosevitz (2000-2001), Davis LLP, Toronto

Laurie Leduc (1997-1998), Executive Assistant to Randy Pettapiece, MPP (Perth-Wellington), Toronto

Dan O'Brien (2005-2006), Communications Specialist, Motion Picture Association of Canada, Toronto

Yuliya Khraplyva (2009-2010), Government Relations Associate, Ontario Real Estate Association, Toronto

Jason Lagerquist (2006-2007), Special Assistant, Northern Affairs, Office of the Premier, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Thomas Maidwell (2010-2011), Vice-President (Operations), Lende & Associates, Toronto

Chelsea Peet (2008-2009), Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cabinet Office, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Katherine Preiss (2010-2011), Legislative Assistant to Donna Cansfield, MPP (Etobicoke Centre), Toronto

Erica Rayment (2010-2011), Policy Analyst, Government and Community Relations, Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, Toronto

Chris Shantz (2003-2004), Senior Policy Analyst, Renewable Energy Facilitation Office, Ministry of Energy, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Sarah Roberts (2002-2003), Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Katie Robb (2007-2008), Senior Consultant, Fleishman-Hillard, Vancouver

Rose Sottile (1995-1996), Marketing and Communications Consultant, Toronto

Rachel Stack (2006-2007), J.D. Candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto

Lauren Starr (2006-2007), Academic Counsellor and Scholars Program Coordinator, Western University, London, Ontario

Aamir Taiyeb (2007-2008), Analyst, Postsecondary Education, Education Data and Research, Council of Ministers of Education Canada, Toronto

Eleni Tsoutsias (2006-2007), Economic Specialist, Ministry of Finance, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Monika Turner (1985-1986), Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Toronto

Natalie Tutunzis (2009-2010), Assistant Consultant, Hill & Knowlton Strategies, Toronto

Grant Wedge (1977-1978), Legal Director, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of the Attorney General and Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Ontario, Toronto



One of the high points on the interns' social calendars this year was the OLIP Alumni Dinner, held January 19, 2012.

A tremendous turnout of former interns gathered in the Legislative Dining Room for an evening to reminisce, reconnect, and celebrate OLIP's collective and individual accomplishments. It was a great opportunity to mingle with friends old and new, and to hear what exciting and novel endeavours OLIP alumni are pursuing today.

As the year has progressed, this year's interns have been giving more thought to planning their next career steps. The alumni dinner held early in the New Year was a great way to kick start our brainstorming and networking!

Beyond the delicious food and stimulating conversation was one of the evening's highlights -- a candid speech by former Attorney General, Michael Bryant. While he could not offer a sneak peek from his book, which is due out this fall, Mr. Bryant did charm the crowd with his insights into the economic challenges our province faces today. We also appreciated his reflections on inequality and poverty as some of the most pressing issues facing Ontario.

Mr. Bryant's speech was made special and personal by the attendance of Graham Erion, one of his former interns. Today, Graham practices law in Toronto with Norton Rose Canada LLP. Mr. Bryant enhanced a memorable evening, and we are very grateful that he and Graham Erion were able to join us.

To all the OLIP alumni, thank you for your continued support of the Programme. Every time we meet alumni, it is so inspiring and encouraging to see your success, regardless of what career path you have followed. It is further evidence of how lucky we are to be a part of this Programme. Seeing how happy you were to reunite with your former OLIP colleagues, whether from two decades ago or two years ago, also reminds us just how meaningful the friendships we formed this year will continue to be in the future. It was wonderful to meet or reconnect with you, and we look forward to joining you as alumni next year! We have big shoes to fill!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS

OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

AstraZeneca is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. As a research-

oriented company, we believe that curiosity is the best way to express our commitment to the health of Canadians. Looking beyond the obvious and solving problems in innovative ways drives the researchers we support and our scientists toward the discovery of new and better treatments for medical conditions and diseases.



Bruce Power is Canada's first private nuclear generator. Bruce Power's 2,300-acre site on the shores of Lake Huron

houses the Bruce A and B generating stations, which each hold four CANDU reactors. Six of those units are currently operational and produce more than 4,700 megawatts, which is enough to power one in five hospitals, homes and schools in Ontario.

The Co-operators' greatest fundamental strengths are its co-operative structure and community-based approach. The co-operative spirit which inspired their founders almost 60 years ago continues to guide the organization today and into the future.



At CIBC, we are in business to help our clients, employees, and shareholders achieve what matters to them. Our ability to create value for all CIBC stakeholders is driven by a business culture based on common values: Trust, Teamwork and Accountability.

GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (GSK) is a world leading research-based pharmaceutical company devoted to discovering and developing new and innovative medicines and vaccines for Canadians and people around the world. Every day, our employees strive to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.



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The Investment Funds Institute of Canada: IFIC is the voice of Canada's investment funds industry, including fund

managers, distributors and industry service organizations. IFIC proactively influences and advances industry issues within the regulatory framework, members' efficiencies, knowledge and proficiency. IFIC provides a consistently high level of service to enable dealer and manager members to work together in a cooperative forum to enhance the integrity and growth of the industry and strengthen investor confidence.

Power Workers Union: The roots of the Power Workers' Union go back to 1944, with the formation of the Employees' Association at Ontario Hydro. Eleven years later, in 1955, the Association became the Ontario Hydro Employees' Union and joined the National Union of Public Service Employees, which merged with the National Union of Public Employees in 1963 to form the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Canada's largest union. Our present name - the Power Workers' Union was adopted in 1993.



Shoppers Drug Mart Corporation is the licensor of full-service retail drug stores operating

under the name Shoppers Drug Mart® (Pharmaprix® in Québec). Founded in 1962 by Toronto pharmacist Murray Koffler, the Company has grown to a network of more than 1,198 conveniently located stores which are owned and operated by the Company's licensed Associate-owners who have helped build a brand that is synonymous with exceptional service, value and trust.



TD Bank Financial Group: Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, with more than 85,000 employees in offices around the world, The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its subsidiaries are collectively known as TD Bank Group (TD). TD offers a full range of financial products and services to approximately 21.5 million customers worldwide through four key business lines: Canadian Personal and Commercial Banking, Wealth and Insurance, Wholesale Banking and U.S. Personal and Commercial Banking.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS

ONTARIO REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION NOW A LEAD SPONSOR

TIM HORTONS & ONTARIO NURSES' ASSOCIATION

QPI PAGE 23

OLIP is pleased to announce that the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), a long-time sponsor, has agreed to sponsor us at Lead Sponsor level.



**Ontario Real Estate
Association**

An OLIP sponsor for over 20 years, OREA is now happy to expand its support as one of the programme's Lead Sponsors.

OREA is one of Ontario's largest professional associations. Founded in 1922, OREA represents 56,000 REALTORS® and 42 local real estate boards and associations. It serves its members through a variety of publications, educational programs and brings a united voice to the Ontario Legislature on behalf of REALTORS®. OREA works to promote a legislative and regulatory environment favourable to Ontario's REALTORS® and real estate.



Committed to education and professionalism, OREA takes a special pride in helping nurture young people's interest in government and creating tomorrow's leaders of Ontario and Canada.

OLIP welcomes Tim Hortons as a Major Sponsor.

The Tim Hortons chain was founded in 1964 in Hamilton, Ontario. The chain's focus on top quality, always fresh product, value, great service and community leadership has allowed it to grow into the largest quick service restaurant chain in Canada specializing in always fresh coffee, baked goods and homestyle lunches.



The first Tim Hortons restaurants offered only two products - coffee and donuts. The selection of donuts was highlighted by two original Tim Hortons creations, the Apple Fritter and the Dutchie. They became the most popular donut choices in the 60's, and remain two of the most popular today.

The chain's biggest drawing card remains its legendary Tim Hortons coffee. As of January 1st, 2012, Tim Hortons had 4,014 systemwide restaurants, including 3,295 in Canada, 714 in the United States and 5 in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Tim Hortons is proud to support local community initiatives that make a difference, and sponsors popular programs such as free swimming and skating sessions, and Timbits minor sports. As guests of the Tim Horton Children's Foundation, deserving children from the various communities in which Tim Hortons restaurants operate, participate in a 10-day summer session at one of the Children's Foundation's six camps.

The Ontario Nurses' Association is one of OLIP's newest sponsors.



The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONa) is the union representing 59,000 front-line Registered Nurses and allied health professionals and more than 13,000 nursing student affiliates providing care in Ontario hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health, the community, industry and clinics.

Founded nearly 40 years ago, ONa is the largest nurses union in Canada, a union that believes strongly that you can be both a professional and union member.

ONa's President is Linda Haslam-Stroud, RN, a long-time nursing leader, political activist and nursing advocate, who is currently serving her fifth term as President.

ONa is a non-partisan organization, committed to quality patient care in Ontario, and sees the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme as a very positive and constructive way to get young people immersed in the reality that is government and politics in the province. Our own commitment to more than 13,000 nursing students is testimony to our belief that engaging the nurses (and leaders) of tomorrow is a priority.

We look forward to being a part of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme.

Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario became OLIP's first Lead Sponsor in 2010. We would like to thank them for their continued support over the years.

Since 1996, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO) has

been a proud sponsor of OLIP and in 2010 the association took on the role of lead sponsor.

IBAO is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 12,000 independent insurance brokers across the province. The organization is a politically active group that represents their members at the Ontario Legislature, regulatory bodies, as well as industry commissions and associations.

IBAO member brokers play an active role in their communities with strong vested interest in serving consumers across the province. They volunteer at many local events and participate in many career fairs at high schools, colleges and universities, supporting and encouraging young Ontarians to build solid futures in this province.

Home, car or small business...

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You have the right to **Choose**. You have the right to **Personal Attention**. You have the right to **Perfect Fit Coverage**. You have the right to **Local Support**. You have the right to **Expert Advice** you can Trust.

As an Ontario insurance consumer, you have rights and under the Insurance Act, related laws and regulations, your rights include:

- You have the right to be treated fairly by your insurance company.
- You have the right to change or cancel your insurance policy at any time.
- You have the right to prompt and fair handling of claims.
- You have the right to dispute your insurance company's refusal to pay benefits.
- You have the right to register a complaint about your insurance company.

If you have questions about your insurance rights or responsibilities, contact the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO), the government's regulator of auto insurance at: www.fSCO.gov.on.ca or 1-800-668-0128.

To find a Broker near you, visit



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OUR LEAD SPONSORS

Vale became one of OLIP's lead sponsors three years ago and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued generosity.

Vale is a global leader in sustainable mining and one of the world's largest producers of nickel, copper, cobalt and precious metals, with its Base Metals head office in Toronto.

Vale is proud of its long history and continued commitment within Ontario. Within this province alone, we employ 4,600 employees and have pledged more than \$3 Million towards community investment projects and programs annually.

We are proud to support the OLIP as it is in alignment with our commitment to enhancing education and supporting the leaders of tomorrow. The OLIP is providing a first class educational experience to the next generation of policy and decision makers in Ontario. Vale is keen to watch the program grow over the next several years and wishes much success to the class of 2012!



Vale is proud
to continue our
support of the
Ontario Legislature
Internship
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