

Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
SPRING 2015



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MEDEIROS



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AARON
VAN TASSEL



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Welcome to the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. On behalf of this year's interns, we invite you to explore the latest edition of the Queen's Park Insider, our bi-annual publication reviewing our many activities and adventures as OLIP Interns. This year has seen us work with two MPPs, travel to Yellowknife, NWT and Columbus, Ohio and meet with various stakeholders and sponsors. While our time with OLIP is coming to an end, we look forward to our remaining weeks as interns.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in November 1975. The Programme 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. The Programme 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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SEE ALL SPONSORS ON PAGE 26

We would like to welcome Ontario Power Generation as a Lead Sponsor. They have recently decided to increase their sponsorship of OLIP. If you are interested in sponsoring OLIP (or increasing your sponsorship level) please contact the OLIP office.

Please note that our email address has changed to ewhaley@ola.org

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) is now completing its 39th year and I am finishing up on my 11th year. For these 11 years I have been blessed with excellent Programme Coordinators and one great Programme Assistant. The success of OLIP over this period owes a great deal to the people in these positions. Currently the Programme Coordinators are Rick Sage, a Research Librarian with a legal degree and Will Short, a Committee Clerk.

I greatly value the support of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Each year 20 MPPs mentor the Programme's ten interns. Some Members have a great deal of experience doing this and others may only do this once or twice in their legislative careers. This year, eight MPPs are first-timers, six are serving at least their second year in a row while six have returned as Member-mentors after a gap of at least a year. What they all have in common is that they are backbench MPPs. Ineligible MPPs include party leaders, ministers and the Speaker.

The Speaker, the Honourable Dave Levac, is the Patron of the Programme. As I wrote in the Fall 2014 report, Dave was a great mentor to many interns in years past, but as Speaker, he now stands aside for backbench MPPs, the major benefactors of the Programme. I have had the pleasure of serving under four supportive Speakers. But they all had the same complaint; they are not allowed to have an intern work in their office.

One group of MPPs I have not specifically thanked in previous reports is the group that sits as members of the Board of Internal Economy (BOIE). I view this Board as our major granting agency. Every year, the Board gives OLIP major financial support. This year, the BOIE has given the Programme a grant of \$262,000. \$210,000 will go to the ten interns as their core stipends. \$10,000 will go to the interns for their reports of their year-long research on the legislative Assembly. The remaining funds are for OLIP administration, intern constituency visits and the Director's yearly honorarium of \$7,500. We are most thankful for the Board's strong sponsorship over the history of OLIP.

The richness of the educational experience of our interns is provided by our private sponsors. Every year they provide about \$140,000 so the interns can visit places such as the Northwest Territorial Legislature in Yellowknife, the Ohio State legislature in Columbus, Ohio, the Federal parliament in Ottawa, the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association and then finally at the end of June, the mother of all our parliaments, the Westminster Parliament in London, UK. We greatly appreciate the support of our private sponsors. It is the educational experience provided

by our outside sponsors that sets OLIP apart from all other provincial internship programmes.

I have also been remiss in past years by not thanking our parent organization, the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) for their guidance and support. The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is an educational charitable programme of the CPSA. This year I have continued to receive speedy service from the CPSA's longtime Administrator, Michelle Hopkins. Michelle keeps track of all of our revenues and expenses and provides all cheques we use for our financial obligations. I have also had guidance and help from the current CPSA President Professor Jill Vickers, President-Elect Professor William Cross and CPSA Executive Director Silvina Danesi. In addition I benefited from advice from the CPSA Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, previous CPSA presidents and on occasion, CPSA lawyers.

Of all the people I need to thank, the Programme Assistant, Eithne Whaley stands out the most. When things go well and people comment on favourable aspects of the programme, I get the thanks. But the accolades are usually misplaced. It is Eithne who deserves the praise. Every month of the year, her hard work and innovation make OLIP a more successful programme.

I could give a number of examples but at least two stand out in my mind. First, our website, www.olipinterns.ca, did not exist 11 years ago. I often receive unsolicited comments from prospective applicants, sponsors and alumni that make me proud of our great website. However, even a great website can be improved, please let me know about any changes you think we should make. Outside advice is always a good source of suggested improvements.

Second is the quality of our glossy magazine, Queen's Park Insider. Eithne is the design editor that has taken our former four page black and white newsletter through the transformation you are now holding in your hands. The interns write the text and take some of the photos in it but it is Eithne who puts the whole magazine together. At least one other internship has copied our design. As we know, imitation is the most sincere form of approval.

Finally, there are this year's interns. People often ask me how are this year's interns. I always say they are great. I enjoyed being around them all year long. They keep this old man young in spirit and I find it so enjoyable to see through their young adult eyes, the political process anew. I thank them and all the others who have made my last 11 years so enjoyable.

PLACEMENTS

CLARE DEVEREUX - CATHERINE FIFE & KATHRYN MCGARRY

CHRISTINE EAMER - MARIE-FRANCE LALONDE & STEVE CLARK

QPI PAGE 4

My time Catherine Fife's office kept me busy. From writing speeches to attending meetings and events, it always seems like Catherine and her Executive Assistant, Grant, are doing a million things at once! Over the four months in my first placement, I worked on a number of different items. Catherine's role as Critic for both Finance and Treasury Board means she has to keep abreast of both spending and saving. Her approach is always to follow the money in order to find cost savings. It was especially fascinating for me to assist with parts of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs pre-budget tour of Ontario. I heard from individuals and associations across the province, and learned what they believe should be the government's priority areas for the next provincial budget. As a former economics student and (secret) public finance nerd, it was great to have the experience to work on Catherine's critic portfolios. Catherine, Grant, Carly, Holli-Lynne, and all of the NDP caucus have contributed to making my first placement an incredibly rewarding learning experience. I thank them all for making these past months great!



For my second placement, I have the pleasure of working for Kathryn McGarry, the Parliamentary Assistant for the Minister of Transportation.

Kathryn is the MPP for Cambridge, which like my first placement, is a constituency in Waterloo region – I get the feeling I'll know more than I ever thought I would about that area of the province!

I have already had the opportunity to meet with various interest groups, write many speeches and statements, and to attend Ministry meetings to learn about what the Ministry of Transportation is currently doing. I've especially learnt a lot about the CycleON strategy, which promotes cycling in Ontario, and will hopefully contribute to healthier lifestyles, and more environmentally friendly commuters on the road! Kathryn has been nicknamed Kath-run, because she's always speeding off between the legislature and the Ministry. Since my placement began, I understand how she got the nickname; Kathryn's plate is always full, and Kathryn, her Legislative Assistant Leo, and her Executive Assistant Cassie have helped me to hit the ground running in my second placement!

Working in Ottawa-Orléans MPP Marie-France Lalonde's office taught me a lot about the way government really works. Helping Marie-France in her capacity as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister responsible for Francophonie Affairs, I had the chance to work on many exciting projects. I found it particularly interesting to be a part of the first Liberal French Caucus meetings as well as to have the chance to sit in on briefings at the ministry and meet with key stakeholders in the community. Another fascinating aspect of my placement with Marie-France has been working on her very first Private Member's Bill. From research to initial drafting and writing the remarks in collaboration with other office staff, I had the chance to really see the process from start to finish. Marie-France, as all other MPPs, lives a very fast paced life and her staff has to keep up. Some of my favourite moments came from last minute interviews, debates or statements. The pressure of creating quality briefing notes in order for her to carry out her role effectively was invigorating to me! It was a wonderful experience to work within her team and all of her staff at both the constituency and the legislature welcomed me with open arms.



For my second placement, I am working with MPP Steve Clark, the Opposition House Leader in the Progressive Conservative Party. I have enjoyed learning more about the procedural aspects of the Legislature and gaining a better understanding of the role of the House Leader. As a bonus, Steve is from my hometown riding of Leeds - Grenville. It has been fun to work with him on issues

that are familiar to me as a constituent. On my first day, I was surprised to get to work on a portfolio that hit very close to home – the possibility of a new French school in the riding. I have also had the chance to contribute to the remarks he made at the Science Fair I used to participate in. Steve has had a lot of experience in public service and understands how important it is to have young people involved in politics. He started off his impressive career at 22 as the mayor of Brockville - the youngest in Canada! I will certainly learn quite a lot from him and I look forward to the rest of my placement - it will be especially fun to head back to my hometown and gain a new perspective on it.

PLACEMENTS

EMILY HEWITT - ELEANOR MCMAHON & CINDY FORSTER
JUSTIN KHORANA-MEDEIROS - HAN DONG & JAGMEET SINGH

QPI PAGE 5

Now that my placement with Eleanor McMahon, MPP for Burlington has come to an end I have had the chance to reflect upon my experiences. A highlight of my experience was collaborating with the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, the Canadian Automobile Association and MPPs from each party to create the All-Party Cycling Caucus of Ontario. Eleanor's knowledge of active transportation advocacy has given me a keen interest for urban planning and cycling tourism. Furthermore, it was exciting to support Eleanor's role as Parliamentary Assistant to Natural Resources and Forestry, with a focus in Conservation Authorities. Provincial-Municipal relations have always fascinated me, so it was exciting to be a part of the OGRA/ROMA Conference. I also got to visit the constituency which showed me the importance of communities to the political process. Meeting with groups on topics such as renewable energy, women's issues and palliative care, showed the diversity of issues MPPs must be able to communicate. Thank you to Eleanor, her Executive Assistant Steve and the ladies in the CO for these great opportunities.



This March, I started my placement in the office of Cindy Forster, MPP for Welland and Critic for Labour. Working in the historic main building of the Legislature every day is a surreal experience. Already Cindy and her Executive Assistant, Eiman, along with Mike and Marie in the constituency office, have been amazing mentors, teaching me the ropes

of the opposition. In my first week, I was responsible for preparing a press conference in the riding, which entailed policy research, speech writing, stakeholder and media consultation, and developing the press release. With Cindy's experience as a Registered Nurse and as a Labour Relations Officer for the Ontario Nurses Association, I have been learning a lot about health policy in the province. I have already gotten a taste of MPP Forster's role as the Critic for Labour by researching stakeholders and current events, and attending the Canadian Association of Women in Construction's Gala Dinner, where I learned about the rising role of women in the construction industry. As you can see, Cindy's office has been warm and welcoming, and I am excited for future opportunities, like visiting her constituency (where she used to be the Mayor!).

If I ever ran for office, it would have to be in my home riding of Trinity-Spadina. Having the chance to work alongside Han Dong, MPP for Trinity-Spadina, was therefore an amazing experience. Han took me along to countless stakeholder meetings and community events, giving me invaluable knowledge about the political landscape of my community. I can safely say I have a fairly good idea of what the life of an elected representative is like, and boy is it busy! Whether it was rolling out a grant program for seniors at a local community centre in concert with ministry representatives, or working the crowd at a Chinese New Year event, watching Han interact with constituents was a great pleasure and a real learning experience. To be successful in politics, one must be a hard worker and a great listener, among other things. Han was always willing to hear and take seriously constituent concerns, from the largest organizations and institutions down to the single citizen. And at Queen's Park, I had the opportunity to learn how a PMB is developed (and help develop one!), to sharpen my political content writing skills, and better understand how to conduct oneself in committee.



At the start of March I started my second placement with Jagmeet Singh, the NDP member from Bramalea-Gore-Malton. From the moment I entered the office and took part in a 3-step handshake and Zoolander-style photo shoot, I knew this placement would be special. Jagmeet is the Critic for Attorney General, and as one of

the OLIP Interns bound for law school, I'm particularly excited to support him in this capacity. Already I have done some fascinating analysis on both provincial and federal legislation, dealt with challenging legal casework, and even drafted letters to the Attorney General! MPP Singh is a major figure in the Sikh and broader South Asian community in Ontario, and already I have learned a lot about the history and culture of that particular group, which has been a real treat. The switch to Opposition has been very interesting as well, and I have enjoyed writing questions in a different style. Finally being able to wear my beloved 3-piece suits regularly without feeling overdressed is also a nice perk! For the future, I look forward to visiting Jagmeet's impressive constituency office.

PLACEMENTS

KRISTY MAY - LISA THOMPSON & SOO WONG

KRISTEN NEAGLE - CHERI DINOVO & JOHN FRASER

QPI PAGE 6

From Exeter to Port Elgin and from agriculture to nuclear energy, my experiences over the last four months with MPP Lisa Thompson have provided me with a real insight into her rural riding of Huron-Bruce. Lisa and her staff were extremely welcoming, including me in projects from day one. During my time in the office, we organized a variety of community events in the riding. As Critic for Environment and Climate Change, working with Lisa also allowed me to explore a variety of current environmental issues in Ontario, including soil contamination, pollinator health, renewable energy, Great Lakes, and climate change. Having studied environmental issues during my undergraduate degree, this placement provided me with the opportunity to understand such issues through a public policy lens, researching alternative legislation and interacting with a wide range of stakeholders. I'd like to thank Lisa and her team, Victoria, Diane, Janet, Lynne, and Sarah for an excellent first placement. Between local issues and Lisa's critic portfolio, this placement has not only enriched my understanding about environmental policy in Ontario, but also offered a fantastic insight into the unique and charming riding of Huron-Bruce!



For my second placement, I have the pleasure of working with Soo Wong, the MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt. As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services, her portfolio focuses on developmental and community services. Soo's high energy and dedication to local issues in her riding have been inspiring—and kept me busy from day one! I have

been to the riding multiple times, organizing or attending town hall meetings, information sessions, and local school events. One event worth noting was a resource fair for parents with children affected by autism spectrum disorders. Working with Soo's team to plan, organize, and facilitate the event has been a great learning experience. Another highlight in the office has been assisting with Soo's Private Member's Bill, The Terry Fox Day Act, which passed second reading with unanimous consent. Whether I am participating in a community event or writing a statement about one, community involvement seems to be a central theme in Soo's office. I would like to extend my thanks to her team, Jo-Anne, Blair, Fiona, June, Shaumya, Anita, and Sam for welcoming me aboard! I look forward to the rest of my placement.

In my first placement I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside Cheri DiNovo, the MPP representing Parkdale – High Park. Working with Cheri was an extremely hands-on experience. Cheri's brief absence during my first month meant that I was responsible for preparing, writing, and even presenting speeches on her behalf. In addition to day-to-day legislative tasks, I had the opportunity to oversee her Girls Government Program, attend meetings with Ministers to discuss the advancement of several Private Member's Bill initiatives, assist with Cheri's weekly radio show, and helped arrange a town-hall. A dedicated Member that is passionately committed to fighting for the causes that she believes in, Cheri's introduced the most tri-party sponsored bills and has passed more Private Member's Bill than any other opposition MPP. It was great to be a part of this work first-hand, with her most recent Private Member's Bill protecting LGBTQ youth from 'conversion' therapy just recently passing second reading with support from all three parties. I am thankful to have been able to work with her and her amazing staff: Bhutla, Andrea, Carly, and Lisa!



For my second placement I am incredibly privileged to be working in the office of John Fraser, the Liberal MPP for Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Health). John's busy Parliamentary Assistant portfolio has allowed me to be involved in a number of compelling initiatives specifically related to palliative care and scope of practice. So far I have been

busy participating in ministry briefings, writing members' statements, carrying out research for Private Member's Bill and attending many stakeholder meetings. John's responsibilities as Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies have also allowed me to gain a more thorough understanding of the Committee process as I have been tasked with briefing him in advance of Committee meetings. Elected in a September 2013 by-election, John may be a relatively new member at Queen's Park, but there is certainly no shortage of political experience in his office. Prior to his current role as an MPP, John served as Dalton McGuinty's Executive Assistant for 14 years. John's Legislative Assistant, Elise Roiron, also brings with her a wealth of political knowledge that I am lucky to learn from, having similarly worked for the former Premier. I am very excited to be working with them both for the next few months!

PLACEMENTS

PATRICK SACKVILLE - TIM HUDAK & BAS BALKISSOON
JAKUB SIKORA - DAIENE VERNILE & JOHN YAKABUSKI

QPI PAGE 7

Looking back on the final days of my tour of duty with 'Team Hudak', it was a bitter-sweet moment in my OLIP career. During our time together we went from 'who's the new guy?' to 'I need you to quarterback this project!'—needless to say, it has been a fantastic ride. Working with Tim Hudak, I was pushed to learn and grow beyond my comfort-zone as a young professional, taking on significant policy research projects and interacting with some of Ontario's most influential stakeholders. It was in these stakeholder meetings that I got the best glimpse of Tim in action. As the consummate professional, Tim continues to advance the interests of the people of Ontario and build upon an already impressive legacy of intelligence, honesty, thoughtfulness, and integrity in public service. Having had the brief opportunity to meet Tim's family, it's easy to see where he gets these good values from! I want to sincerely thank Tim for taking me under his wing and giving me the opportunity to display my talents, enhance my skills, and foster connections with so many impressive people. I cannot imagine a more fulfilling and memorable experience than my first placement at Queen's Park.



Out of the Legislature and down the street, joining Bas Balkissoon's office has meant getting to know an all-new team, as well as a new experience interacting with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the wider Ontario Public Service. Within the first week I could already tell that this was going to be both an educational and enjoyable experience. Meeting Bas,

it was like seeing an old friend -- his optimism is contagious and you can't help but smile when he's around. With an impressive tenure as a MPP and years working for the city, Bas is widely respected for having a level of political acumen and unapologetic pragmatism that few members ever achieve during their time at Queen's Park. Joining Bas in policy briefings and stakeholder meetings, I am trying to pick up a thing or two! In the riding of Scarborough Rouge-River Bas fiercely supports his constituents, and our current and upcoming projects aim to make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of many other Ontarians. I am excited to join Mr. Balkissoon's team and keep a lookout for us in 2015; we are planning on making a big splash this spring!

Working for Daiene Vernile the MPP for Kitchener Centre in my first placement was a great learning experience. As the Parliamentary Assistant for the Ministry of Research and Innovation, Daiene is tasked with helping Minister Moridi with his portfolio. Having the chance to sit in on Ministry meetings with Daiene provided me with some great insights into the issues and objectives of the Ministry. Some other fascinating meetings that I had the chance to attend were with stakeholders relevant to Daiene's Private Member's Bill on student union funds. A lot of work went into preparing this Private Member's Bill, and it was nice to be a part of the process. Given Daiene's ambitious nature, I also did a lot of research reading through various legislation and articles for another idea she has for a Private Member's Bill after she introduces and passes her first one. Additionally, I wrote speeches, editorials, and members statements for her, and even had the privilege of going back to her great riding in Kitchener. My placement with Daiene is an experience that I will never forget.



My first few weeks in MPP John Yakabuski's office have been just as great as my first placement. John is a very animated and exciting personality to be around, and his incredible sense of humour always makes me laugh. John is the Energy Critic and Chief Whip for the Progressive Conservatives, which is essentially a recipe for an exceedingly busy office.

So far, I have had ample opportunities to work on the energy portfolio, whether it has entailed research, putting together briefing notes, writing order paper and question period questions, writing press releases or responding to constituent letters. The subject matter pertaining to my work runs the gamut from Hydro One and green energy to cap and trade among other things. This has been phenomenal given my enthrallment for energy and enthusiasm to continue to learn more about it. I have also had the chance to watch John do a few media scrums, and attend a few stakeholder meetings so far. I expect this auspicious placement to continue to cater towards my interests in energy, and I am excited to visit John's constituency of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in May.

PLACEMENTS

MATTHEW STANTON - ERNIE HARDEMAN & MIKE COLLE

AARON VAN TASSEL - YVAN BAKER & MICHAEL HARRIS

QPI PAGE 8

For my first placement I had the pleasure of working in the office of Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford and Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing. Working with Ernie and his Executive Assistant Tara was a fast-paced and exciting experience. Whether it was conducting research on issues related to Ernie's critic portfolio, or assisting with the drafting of his members' statements, business survey, and annual newsletter, Ernie and Tara included me in all aspects of the Queen's Park office. Several highlights were a fascinating luncheon with representatives from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, a memorable dinner held by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario, and preparing the PC caucus for the ROMA/OGRA conference. Ernie and I also embarked on several excursions to Oxford and other ridings across the province, primarily to promote carbon monoxide awareness. I thoroughly enjoyed these trips, as they allowed me to see how a veteran legislator such as Ernie provides assistance to constituents. While I miss working with Ernie and Tara, I am grateful to them for facilitating such an incredible first placement.



My second placement is with Mike Colle, MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence, Deputy Whip, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour. During my first week I became accustomed to Mike's constituency driven approach to politics. While this has required that I transition quickly from a rural to an urban lens, it has been fascinating to learn about the different challenges

facing urban Ontarians. One issue that I have researched is the Eglinton Crosstown transit file, through which I had the opportunity to attend a lively community meeting with stakeholders and representatives from Metrolinx. I have also assisted Mike's Legislative Assistant Ashley with the planning and preparation of Jewish Heritage Month. It has been a culturally enriching experience to meet with Jewish community leaders, and I have enjoyed planning roundtable events in the riding and the reception that will be held at Queen's Park. In the coming months I will be conducting research on Mike's Private Member's Bill and assembling materials relevant to his portfolio, specifically those related to workplace safety. Until then, I am looking forward to visiting the riding with Mike during the upcoming constituency week.

Working for Yvan Baker was an incredible experience. Throughout my time in Yvan's office I was inspired by his commitment to both serve his constituents and make meaningful contributions in the House and Committees. I also learned a lot about political communications from Yvan's Executive Assistant, Theresa. Before she began working for Yvan, Theresa worked at the Liberal Party head office where she had the opportunity to write for Prime Ministers and numerous provincial Cabinet Ministers. I spent most of my term developing Yvan's first Private Member's Bill. I am very proud of our work on this bill and I look forward to it being tabled in the house. Another highlight was the passing of Bill 8, the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, 2014. While working for Yvan I also had the opportunity to attend numerous events in his riding where I gained an appreciation for the unique aspects of Etobicoke Centre. I have never learned so much in such a short period of time and I am grateful to both Yvan and Theresa for their mentorship during my time in their office. Ultimately I could not have asked for a better first placement.



For my second placement, I am working in MPP Michael Harris' office. Upon my arrival I immediately got to work on a press release and began preparing briefings for the Standing Committee on General Government. I also had the opportunity to draft amendments for Bill 31, the Making Ontario Roads Safer Act. Michael runs a very fast paced office. My days go by at a

blistering pace since we are constantly preparing for media interviews or meeting with stakeholders. Michael spends a significant time working on issues relating to his role as the Transportation Critic. He also remains active on numerous other files from health care to the environment. Michael's Legislative Assistant Rebecca and his Executive Assistant Rob also work tirelessly to ensure that no issue is forgotten or overlooked. Aside from being a very active Member in the Legislature Michael takes every opportunity possible to work in his riding. I have had the opportunity to attend a number of events with Michael from a Waterloo Chamber of Commerce to the famed Elmira Maple Syrup Festival. My time in Michael's office could not have been better and I am looking forward to what the next few months have in store.

This past October OLIP held its annual fall reception, recognizing the 38th year since the programme's first cohort of interns entered the doors of the Pink Palace. The event provided us with the opportunity to bring together many of our generous sponsors, alumni, MPPs, legislative staff, and others with whom we had been fortunate to meet over the course of our orientation.

In addition to dozens of former interns the reception welcomed former OLIP Director Graham White, former Speaker David Warner and current U.S. Consul General Jim Dickmeyer as well as Ontario Ombudsman André Marin, Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Gord Miller. It was our particular pleasure and a major highlight of the evening to have the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell, attend the event. The reception also featured speeches from our gracious host Speaker Dave Levac, Programme Director Dr. Henry Jacek and Reception Chair, Kristen Neagle.

Thank you again to all of those that were able to attend, and who continue to make OLIP the amazing program that it is. We are truly grateful to have support from such wonderful people and organizations, and look forward to catching up with everyone at next year's Fall reception!



Each year the OLIP interns are invited to attend an assortment of luncheons and dinners across Ontario, thanks to the generosity of our kind sponsors. As always, a highlight of the internship is the annual Churchill Society Dinner, an extravagant affair that celebrates an individual's contributions to the advancement of parliamentary democracy. Held at the Royal York Hotel, this year's award recipient was the Honourable Hugh Segal. Following his acceptance of the award, Mr. Segal captivated the audience by offering his perspective on a range of topics, including the recent election in Ontario, the important work conducted by the public service, and recent developments affecting Canada's foreign policy.



Another special event the interns attended was the Ontario Real Estate Association's (OREA) Political Affairs Conference at the Park Hyatt Hotel. A feature of the conference was the luncheon, which allowed real estate professionals from across the province to sit down with their local MPP and discuss emerging issues in the field. The luncheon speaker was Steve Paikin, host of TVO's "The Agenda". He began his remarks by introducing his new book "Paikin and the Premiers", and then gave a humorous speech that commented on the life cycle of political leaders. The interns thoroughly enjoyed both events, and we thank the Churchill Society and OREA for inviting us.

OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

SO MANY ALUMNI, SO LITTLE TIME

QPI PAGE 10

Once our first term placements began, we did not have quite as many opportunities to meet with our broad range of fascinating alumni. Nonetheless, we were still able to meet with several former interns working in different areas around the province, and they taught us a lot about their careers after OLIP.



In November we met with Paul Di Ianni, who works in external relations for the Ontario College of Teachers and, until recently, was the head of tour for Premier Kathleen Wynne. Paul entertained us with examples of 'when tour goes wrong,' and how unfortunate photos of politicians can end up in the media. Attention to detail is key, folks!



In December we met with Patrick DeRochie, who was working in government relations for SEIU Healthcare, but has since moved to Environmental Defense. Patrick spoke to us about SEIU's political strategy, and labour relations in this province. He also showed us the myriad ways in which the experiences and knowledge garnered during an OLIP year can help you in your later career in politics, public affairs, communications, and other fields.



In the new year we met with both Lisa Clements, an intern from 1994 to 1995, and Rob Nicol, an intern from 1993 to 1994.

Lisa currently works at the Art Gallery of Ontario, as Director of Corporate and Public Affairs. The AGO was not the usual backdrop for a meeting with alums, and we were excited to hear how Lisa's start in politics had led her down the path to one of our country's greatest museums. She also told us about her tumultuous and exciting year as an intern (1995-96), reminding us how each OLIP year marks an important epoch in the history of our province.



When we met with Rob Nicol in January, he was working in government relations for our sponsor, Canadian Tire. We were fascinated to learn about the company's far-reaching influence, the general communications strategy of such a notable Canadian brand, and the challenges of operating in different provinces.

Since then, he has moved on to a new position, Director of Communications for Prime Minister Stephen Harper. We want to congratulate Rob on his new position, and hope to reconnect with him in Ottawa!

OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

POLITICAL BIGWIGS TEACH THE INTERNS A THING OR TWO!

QPI PAGE 11

We grew up seeing these politicians on TV and in the newspaper, never imagining that we would have the chance to meet them in person!

David Peterson was the first former Premier of Ontario we had the pleasure of meeting. He is currently the Chair of the Toronto 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games Organizing Committee, so it was exciting to get an inside scoop on the future event! Sitting around a board room table at his current employer Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, we asked questions about everything from Canada's constitution and the devolution of the NWT, to House decorum and Peterson's own attempt to liberalize the alcohol market in the 1980s.

We also had a meeting with former Ontario Premier and Interim Leader of the Federal Liberal Party Bob Rae, at his new place of work, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP, where he specializes in Aboriginal law. It was fascinating to discuss the evolution of Canadian politics since the late 1970s and Provincial-Federal relations with a veteran of both sides, as well as electoral reform and corporatism.

Ernie Eves was his usual charismatic and mirthful self, and had the interns laughing more than a few times! Talking to a former Premier and Finance Minister is quite an event for young politics junkies like ourselves, and we enjoyed discussing infrastructure financing, asset optimization, the conservative brand in Ontario, and alternative medicines, among other topics.

Minister Naqvi gave us many great insights into the portfolio of Public Safety and Correctional Services as it adapts to the needs of modern society, in areas such as equity, mental health and rehabilitation. He also spoke passionately about his dedication to serving the people of his riding in Ottawa Centre.

Olivia Chow, former MP and city councilor of Toronto, played her new professorial role well in our meeting at Ryerson University by challenging us to become leaders of change in our communities and speaking of her own experience working with refugees from Vietnam.

Meeting 2-term Premier Mike Harris was a special one for the interns, as he was first premier some of us had our own memories of growing up! We got to ask him about all those newspaper headlines from our youth: educational reform, infrastructure privatization, and the Common Sense Revolution. But we also chatted about the politics of the day, and his current work at Fasken-Martineau.

We are very excited for our next planned meeting with a former First Minister: Paul Martin!



OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

THOSE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

QPI PAGE 12

At the start of our OLIP year, we never imagined we would have the opportunity to visit Bruce Power. Our trusted tour guides and hosts, Rob Liddle and Christine John gave us a “behind-the-scenes” tour of how nuclear power is generated at the station. Once we rid ourselves of our working boots and hard hats, Lynda Cain from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) gave us a presentation on nuclear waste management and the important role nuclear has for meeting Ontario’s energy needs. An unforgettable day!

In November, we attended an Awards Gala hosted by Canada’s Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D). Rx&D collaborated with the Health Research Foundation (HRF), Prix Galien Canada and Research Canada to recognize Dr. Robert Young, Dr. Charles Tator, and many others for their innovation, hard work, and contributions to Canadian health science. From The Honourable Eric Hoskin’s droll opening speech, through the wonderful musical interludes between awards, to the closing remarks, it was a fantastic evening. Thanks again to our sponsor for the invitation!

We had the pleasure of visiting the Investment Funds Institute of Canada (IFIC) to learn about the organization. We learned about the Canadian market for mutual funds and the astronomical growth of the industry in the last few years. Jan, Joanne and Ralph discussed various public policy interests that IFIC is pursuing, and stressed the importance of increasing financial literacy among Canadians. We left the meeting knowing so much more about IFIC’s mandate and the important work it does, and are very grateful for IFIC’s continued sponsorship of OLIP.

Upon arrival to the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario we were greeted by Chris May, Director of Government Affairs, and given a quick tour of the gorgeous storied building. The tour ended in the Council Chambers, where we got an extensive overview of the issues that Chris May deals with when liaising with the Ontario Provincial Legislature. We were also pleased to meet Brian Leader, the VP of Learning, CEO Carol Wilding, and Paul Farley, Senior Council of the Professional Conduct Committee. We learned about the paths that aspiring Chartered Accountants can take, the challenges of uniting the new organization and creating the CPA designation, and how disciplinary issues unfold. After our fascinating meetings, we were treated by our great sponsors to a delicious lunch!



OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

MEETING OLIP'S SPONSORS & LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE

QPI PAGE 13



Our meeting with the British Consul General in Toronto, Kevin McGurgan, was great fun. After giving us the highlights of his storied career (which has seen him serve tours in Russia, Brussels, Sweden, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria!), we talked about his work representing the UK government and dealing with consular, visa and trade activities in Toronto. We compared European and Canadian federalisms, social cleavages in the UK vs. Ontario, and discussed the impending free trade agreement. Kevin also offered some interesting facts about British politics and his thoughts on the upcoming election, as well as the global issue of climate change which Britain is working both nationally and internationally to address. Finally, we discussed a topic of vital importance: the cultural significance of James Bond and Kevin's own favourite Bond actor. Unfortunately, the latter is strictly classified...

We thank Kevin for taking the time to meet with us, and would also like to thank the British Consulate for helping us in organizing our trip to London!

OLIP and Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) share a number of close personal ties; our very own Programme Director Dr. Jacek used to be the President, while OCUFA's Government Relations Manager, Erica Rayment, is a former OLIP intern. Our meeting with Erica and Graeme Stewart (Communications Director) was very interesting, not the least because all of us are recent university graduates, meaning the issues truly resonated with us. Broadly, OCUFA seeks to maintain and improve the quality of higher education in Ontario. Their mandate is to promote the professional and economic interests of teachers, researchers, and librarians in Ontario universities, to advocate, and when required, to collectively bargain. This means, for instance, working to ameliorate the precarious working conditions for adjunct professors and the job shortage for PhD students. OCUFA strives to communicate the views of its member associations not only to government policy makers, but also to the public. We thank Erica and Graeme for their time and for OCUFA's sponsorship.

Canadian Invasion: OLIP Goes to London

The interns are very keen on the annual parliamentary study trip to London, United Kingdom. With more than one Anglophile in the group, we can't wait to meet the bevy of interesting political and legislative figures we have lined up, as well as to see many famous British cultural and political institutions up close! From Canada House on Trafalgar Square to the British House of Parliament and beyond, it looks to be the perfect way to end our OLIP year, as sad as that will be. A special thanks to the staff of the British Consulate here in Toronto for all their help in organizing the study tour!

Canadian Political Science Association

On the theme of national capitals, the interns are headed to Canada's for the annual CPSA conference this year at the University of Ottawa. For some, this will be a return to old stomping grounds (like our very own Emily Hewitt, who was a tour guide at Parliament in her previous life!). Others are terribly excited to see the Supreme Court, the Canadian War Museum, and countless other parts of our national heritage.

OH THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

QPI PAGE 14

Our meeting with Bob Peter (CEO of LCBO), Bill Kennedy (Executive Director of Corporate Communications) and Ian Loadman (Acting Director of Corporate Affairs) was the inaugural OLIP meeting with the LCBO. We got a comprehensive overview of the LCBO's relation with the Ontario Provincial Legislature, particularly with the Ministry of Finance. We also learned about how the LCBO manages the beverage alcohol retail market, how it ensures high-quality service to the public, fiscal prudence, advertising standards, and how it approaches business development. Finally, we got the organization's thoughts on extending liquor sales to grocery and convenience stores. We truly had a great time meeting with Bob, Bill, and Ian to discuss these various topics, and highly recommend the meeting to next year's interns!

Much like our fall term, the interns enjoyed a series of meetings with some of Ontario's best-known journalists. First up was Martin Regg Cohn, a QP veteran. He may have spent 11 years abroad reporting in 40 countries, but we made him focus on his original beat here in Ontario. We talked of PC leadership race hopefuls, political jargon, school board trustees, and of course the ubiquitous and irresistible topic of beverage alcohol sales in Ontario. Martin was a great source of wit and insights, living up to his tri-weekly columns.

One of the highlights of every OLIP year is the annual trip down to TVO's studio to hang out with Steve Paikin on the set of *The Agenda*, and our year was no different. Steve was in full moderator mode, guiding and directing an excellent conversation on Ontario politics, but we managed to turn the tables more than once and throw some questions his way. Though journalists might not agree, sometimes a conversation, particularly a political one, can be more fun off the record than on! Whether it was election predictions, electoral reform, or energy prices, we appreciate hearing such candid and insightful commentary from one of political scene's most knowledgeable veterans. A big thank you to Mr. Paikin and the TVO crew for a very special meeting.

Another fantastic evening was the Speaker's Open House and Toy Drive in December. It felt surreal to be at a reception in the beautiful main hall as a rock band made up of employees at the legislature played on the grand staircase. What an excellent way to catch up with colleagues before the holidays and to come together for an important cause!



A first for all of us was going to a political party convention. Going to the NDP convention of Fall 2014 was quite an experience, having everything one expects from such an event: excitement, that indescribable buzz in the air, and many a rousing speech. Every community and group associated under the NDP sent delegates, giving the interns the chance to see a snapshot of the ‘whole party’, which was very interesting. MPP Cindy Forster, no stranger to chairing committees, did an excellent job MCing, and we managed to learn a lot about the procedural aspect of these conventions. Andrea Horwath kicked off the event with a powerful oration about the past and future of the party, former MPP Jonah Schein gave a very entertaining presentation about fundraising (including a telephone call to his own mother!), and Michael Balagus, MPP Horwath’s new Chief of Staff, rounded off the evening with discourse on tactics and strategy. All in all the interns had a great time and would like to thank the party for allowing us to take part in their convention; we hope to have the opportunity to attend the PC and Liberal conventions in the coming months!

In April the interns got a very special treat: a debate on parliamentary reform amongst three very bright imaginative MPs: Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills) Craig Scott (Toronto-Danforth) and Adam Vaughn (Trinity-Spadina). The event, sponsored and coordinated by the Churchill Society, took place at the Munk School for Global Affairs in the heart of the University of Toronto, and was incredibly engaging for a group of policy wonks and political junkies like the 2014-2015 OLIP interns!

Another unforgettable evening took place at Archeo restaurant in Toronto’s beautiful Distillery District:

The 2015 Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs Gala. CIBC, a long-time supporter of the OLIP program, was kind enough to provide us tickets to the institute’s signature fundraising event. Watching not one, not two, but three(!) former premiers of Ontario give speeches and trade (playful) barbs was quite entertaining. Each table had a ‘host’, and the interns had a great time discussing the function and role of art in the public space with our host Jane Farrow, noted community organizer and activist. Finally, we’d like to congratulate once again the Hon. William G. Davis, PC, CC, OOnt, QC, who received this year’s 2015 Couchiching Award for Public Policy Leadership for his for his inspirational and principled leadership. It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Davis and we hope to have the change to do so again soon!

An amazing improvement in women’s representation in politics happened with the last Ontarian election but a lot of work still needs to be done. Luckily, organizations like Samara and Equal Voice Toronto, team up hosting great events such as the “She Did, You Can” series. In April, we saw MPP Catherine Fife speak about her political journey as a woman, and both the obstacles and positive support she has had along the way.



THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

THE INTERNS VISIT YELLOWKNIFE

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Despite the bitter cold, we were excited to head to the Great White North in February (otherwise known as the dead of winter)! It was enlightening to observe the unique style of government in the North West Territories. As students of politics in the “south”, we were fascinated to observe how consensus style government works in practice and how the non-partisan nature of the legislature impacts decision-making. Of course it has been a highlight of our year so far to experience enrichment through cultural exchanges in Yellowknife!

We were warmly welcomed at the Legislature by Gail Bennett the Principal Clerk, Corporate and Interparliamentary Affairs. Thanks to Gail, we had many wonderful meetings and had the chance to get to know a fascinating part of our own country in a meaningful way.

Kaitlyn, the Public Affairs and Communications Intern, started our trip off strong by giving us a very interesting tour of the Legislative Assembly. The building is filled with symbolism and reflects the values of the territory. The windows, flooding each room with beautiful light, reflect transparency and the chamber is organized in a circle to promote team work and cooperation.

We had the opportunity to watch question period, and though we expected it to be very different because of the consensus style government, we found it to be similar as the debate was lively and at times relatively contentious! The debate however seemed to be quite constructive. It was enlightening to hear about the unique northern issues raised by the MLAs. We were able to gain an even better understanding of these after having lunch with the members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning as well as a breakfast with Northern and Rural members.

Our schedule was quite packed and we had the opportunity to meet with many different people at the Legislative Assembly. We had a great line up including Premier Bob McLeod, Speaker Jackie Jacobson, Commissioner George Tuccaro, Clerk Tim Mercer, Minister of Finance and Environment/Government House Leader Minister Miltenberger, Deputy Minister to Cabinet Alan Cash, Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Martin Goldney, Chief Electoral Officer Nicole Latour, the Research, Library and Information Services staff and the Law Clerks.



THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

THE INTERNS VISIT YELLOWKNIFE

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One of the highlights of our trip was our time spent with the former Premier Stephen Kakfwi. He has been a key player in promoting the political, economic and constitutional rights of indigenous people in the North West Territories through his work as President of the Dene Nation, at the Legislative Assembly and more recently as a founder of the organization Canadians for a New Partnership. This meeting was one of the most powerful of the year and began with a song accompanied by Stephen's skilful Dene drum playing, representing the spirit world. As Mr. Kakfwi is a survivor of the residential school system, it was inspiring to hear him speak of the promising future for Canada's aboriginal people.

Another interaction that we found to be very enriching was with Scott McQueen. Scott works at Fur Marketing and Traditional Economy in the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. He taught us about the unique challenges of living in the North West Territories and told us stories of his time on the land. He explained the origins of the economy in the North West Territories, which consisted of the trade in furs and pelts to Europeans for Western goods like guns, flour, and kettles. We also spoke of the shift from the traditional economy of hunting, trapping and fishing to the wage economy. One of the government's current initiatives is an attempt to incentivize a return to some parts of the traditional economy, given the remoteness and small size of certain communities. He had quite a few furs caught in old-fashioned traps to show us as well as interesting land based decorations such as dyed moose hair and porcupine quills.

During our week in Yellowknife we also met with individuals and groups outside the territorial legislature including the Deputy Mayor Linda Bussey and her team at City Hall as well as CanNOR, the Regulatory Manager at the Giant Mine Remediation Project, Buffalo Airways, the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, Alternatives North and the Northwest Territories Literacy Council.

The Northwest Territories Literacy Council facilitates opportunities for communities in the territory to support literacy and essential skills programs. Part of the Literacy Council's job is to promote the idea that everyone has a right to literacy, a skill that encourages active participation in social, economic and political life.

Some of the fun things we did that were less political included eating bison burgers, checking out the famous fish and chips at Bullocks, hanging out in an igloo, making dream catchers, dog sledding, attending a Northern play, and braving the cold to watch the Northern Lights.



HEADING SOUTH

NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS, PARTNERS INTERNS VISIT COLUMBUS, OHIO

QPI PAGE 18

This year, thanks to the support of Dickinson Wright and the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, the interns were able to visit Columbus Ohio for another insightful comparative study trip. In early March we packed up our rented Yukons and off we went!

On our first day, we were welcomed by Mark Flanders, Director with the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC), and Tynita White, LSC Fellowship Coordinator. A non-partisan agency, the LSC provides support to the Ohio General Assembly through research, bill drafting, budget and fiscal analysis, and a variety of other services. As we learned most American states don't have an entity like LSC, and instead rely solely on party staffing. Next we had an engaging discussion with Tynita on how a bill becomes a law in the Ohio system. According to Mark and Tynita, during every two-year session at least 1000 bills are passed, and this number used to be double in the past!

Our first glimpse into the Ohio Statehouse was a visit to Speaker of the House, Cliff Rosenberger's office. This was followed by a tour of the House Chamber itself. It was great to be able to walk around on the floor of the House!

After lunch, we met with our intern counterparts—the fellows of the Ohio Fellowship Program. Housed within the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC), the fellowship is a thirteen-month position designed to provide 23-24 university graduates practical experience in legislative processes. Differing from OLIP, the Fellows are assigned to work with only one of the parties, or with LSC staff or Ohio Government Telecommunications. It was great to compare not only our programs, but also our legislative experiences. Our day ended with a comprehensive tour of the Statehouse.

Our second day in Ohio began with LSC Research Associate, Kathy Luikart, who provided an organizational overview of the legislative branch and the committee system. Following this, we had the opportunity to speak with Representative Robert Cupp, who sits in the Ohio Statehouse as a Republican. Formerly a representative in the Ohio Senate and Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court, Representative Cupp answered our many questions about term limits, the process of electing justices, and the unique relationship between Ontario and Ohio.

We were also fortunate enough to be able to attend a House Session on our second day in Columbus. It was interesting to watch and compare the way that Ohio's legislature operates in comparison with our own in Ontario. We were even lucky enough to meet Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger on his way in!



HEADING SOUTH

NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS, PARTNERS
INTERNS VISIT COLUMBUS, OHIO

QPI PAGE 19

In the afternoon, we received a tour of the Ohio Judicial Centre and Supreme Court Chamber from our guide Paul. A former lawyer by trade, Paul discussed the various ways that Ohio's Supreme Court differs from our own back home. Our day ended with a meeting with Fred Strahorn, who spoke to us about his role as the House Minority Leader, and how important compromises and inter-party relationships are to influencing the legislative process.

Wednesday, our third day in Ohio, began with a captivating meeting with Senator Cecil Thomas. A former police officer and city councilor in Cincinnati, Senator Thomas shared with us his passion to address crime and improve police/public relations. Next, former Fellow, James Sheppard gave us an overview of the Governor's Office. As Legislative Liaison for Governor Kasich, James was as close as we could get to understand the inner workings of the Governor's office without shadowing the Governor himself.

After lunch, we met with Council of State Government (CSG) Representatives Laura Tomaka and Mike McCabe. A non-partisan association for legislators and other state officials, CSG promotes interstate exchange and collaboration on a variety of public policy issues. Of particular interest to our group was the Midwest Canada Committee, which connects legislators on both sides of the border to facilitate discussion on inter-jurisdictional issues. In the afternoon we were invited to sit in on a Senate session. We thank Senate President Faber for the warm introduction. Our time at the Statehouse ended with an afternoon of legislative shadowing, accompanying the Fellows to their respective offices, press conferences, or other afternoon happenings in the Statehouse.

On our last day we headed to Ohio State University. There, we met OSU Professors Jason Seligman and Beth-Anne Schuelke-Leech, and our sponsor of the trip Dan Ujcz. Together, we spent the morning having a comparative discussion about legislative processes in Ontario and Ohio. After a tour of campus, the trip ended with Dan treating us to a wonderful lunch.

Thank you to our Trip Sponsor: Dickinson Wright!

Dickinson Wright has been a mainstay in Toronto since 2008 and recently expanded in 2011. Their office is home to over 40 attorneys who practice in a range of legal areas including automotive, bankruptcy & insolvency, corporate, cross-border transactions, gaming, real estate, and more. Their attorneys are recognized as leaders in their field by Best Lawyers in Canada, Chambers USA, and Lexpert.

From Dickinson Wright, our thanks goes out to Daniel D. Ujcz, of Counsel.



DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
global leaders in law.

Dan is an international trade and customs lawyer who specializes in Canada-United States matters. He regularly assists businesses that are entering and navigating cross-border markets. Dan also provides public policy counsel to government officials and industry leaders on matters relating to Canada-US regulatory cooperation, border security and management, trade and investment attraction initiatives, government procurement, and public-private-partnerships. A US-trained lawyer, Dan previously served as an officer in the Canadian government where he was responsible for coordinating a network of government departments and Canada-US industry associations toward improving North America's borders and ports-of-entry. Dan also served as a liaison between government officials in Canada and the US, as well as routinely assisted companies in dealings with Canada-US regulatory agencies.

Dan was instrumental in supporting our travels to Columbus and in coordinating the high quality of our meetings. As President of the newly founded Ohio-Canada Business Association, his efforts made our comparative research possible. We look forward to formalizing this experience for future OLIP classes and extend the relationship for the Ohio Fellows to come to Queen's Park!

Thank you to our co-sponsor: Columbus 2020!

Columbus 2020 has the ambitious goals to create 150,000 net new jobs, add capital investment and raise per capita income. Central to their aims is a commitment to sustainable economic growth.

COLUMBUS
2020

THE ACADEMIC SIDE

THE INTERN'S ACADEMIC PAPERS

QPI PAGE 20

Clare Devereux: *Personality and Politics in the Pink Palace.* My academic paper focuses on personality and politics. Specifically, I am interested in exploring how psychological traits correlate with political positioning. I have attempted to measure this with a survey of Members of Provincial Parliament.

Christine Eamer: *Parlez-vous français?: A Discussion of Perceptions of the Importance of French Language in Legislative Affairs.* Our country's history is deeply rooted in its bilingual origins and it is often stated that French language has an important role to play in Ontario, yet French is seldom heard in the Chamber. I've been wondering to myself over the course of the year - Pourquoi? My paper attempts to identify the motivation for members to use French and will discuss patterns of responses, should they emerge, based on geographic area, level of fluency, party affiliation or role within the legislative process.

Emily Hewitt: *Renewable Energy and Local Support in Ontario: Gone with the Wind?* As political and general public support for renewable energy increases, how can "NIMBYism" directed at local installations be overcome? Very strong opposition has surfaced in a number of localities, especially in rural areas of Ontario. Can provincial representatives and industry play a role in finding a way to community acceptance of renewable energy projects?

Justin Khorana-Medeiros: *No Thirst for Policy Change: Regulating Beverage Alcohol in Ontario.* Travel the world and one thing you'll quickly notice is that nearly everyone does beverage alcohol differently than Ontario. Furthermore, the system has survived attacks from all three political parties, free trade deals, and threatened reforms time and time again. Why so exceptional, why so resilient? My paper examines these questions through historical analysis, academic theory, and most fun of all, extensive MPP interviews.

Kristy May: *Legislative Officers and the Role of Backbench MPPs: a Competing, Complementing or Helping Relationship?* Over the last decade, Canadian legislatures have seen an increase in the number of legislative officers reporting directly to parliamentary legislative bodies. Some critics suggest these officers are usurping the role of the legislators themselves, while others insist they represent a new and separate line of accountability. My paper seeks to explore the impetus behind the rise of Ontario's legislative officers, their working relationships with MPPs, and their role in accountability processes.

Kristen Neagle: *Breaking Barriers: Women in the Ontario Legislature.* The last provincial election saw a record num-

ber of women - and Ontario's first female Premier - elected to the Legislature. Although we've seen a considerable increase in women's political representation across Ontario, a notable gender gap persists. My research hopes to highlight the gendered barriers that female candidates face in order to provide a better understanding of where we are on the road to gender parity in provincial politics.

Patrick Sackville: *Double Jeopardy: Investigating the Influence of Third-Party Campaign Financing & Political Advertising in Ontario.* My paper aims to explore the increasingly contentious and significant role that third-party actors play in influencing political outcomes in Ontario, with specific attention to the lead-up to the 2014 General Election. Is Ontario truly the 'Big Money Wild West' of campaign financing restrictions, or is it in fact a 'Lone Ranger' in promoting a freer, more open, and fair democracy within the Canadian Confederation?

Jakub Sikora: *The Political Implications of Nuclear Energy and Waste Management in Ontario.* My research paper looks at the role of nuclear energy in Ontario's economy through a political lens by ascertaining the perspectives of MPPs with energy and the environment portfolios. Going further, I am also interested in presenting the convictions of these MPPs on nuclear waste management, which is particularly relevant considering the ongoing development of a deep geological repository as a means of permanently dealing with our nuclear waste.

Matthew Stanton: *Receptions at Queen's Park: Backbench MPPs and the Politics of Lobbying.* My research paper will assess the views of MPPs regarding lobbyists and the receptions they host at Queen's Park. Many different stakeholders and interest groups hold events for MPPs and their staff, ostensibly to meet with legislators and to advocate for a particular issue. My paper will attempt to determine whether these lavish and well-attended events allow lobbyists to better influence the development of public policy. I hope as well to clarify the role of interest groups in Ontario government and politics.

Aaron Van Tassel: *The Role of MPPs in Ontario's Annual Budget Process.* My research will focus on the influence of MPPs in the budgetary process. There are numerous actors who shape the annual budget from the Ministry of Finance to Treasury Board and the Premier's Office, however, very little has been written about the influence of MPPs in the development of the annual budget. I hope to not only fill a gap in the academic literature on budget making, but also make a case for the importance of MPPs in the budget process.

HONORARY INTERNS

ANNE STOKES & GORD MILLER

QPI PAGE 21



Though our year never had the pleasure of working alongside **Anne Stokes**, we did get thankfully a chance to meet her. It was easy to see what all the hoopla was about; Anne is a font of knowledge about Ontario politics and legislative procedure. Her dedication to and affection for the OLIP program is well-known and was clear to see. Anne's hard work has left an indelible mark on generations of OLIPers, and as such we are happy to present her with an honorary internship. Please enjoy this interview with Anne Stokes by a member of one of those generations, Emma Stanley-Cochrane.

When Anne Stokes retires from the Ontario Legislative Assembly as a Senior Clerk in June 2015, a distinguished career in public service spanning over three decades will come to a close. Having always been

interested in politics, but never wanting to "be political," Anne got her start at the Ontario Legislature in 1998 by responding to a newspaper ad, after years working for the Federal Government. It was almost 10 years later, in 2007, that Anne joined OLIP as a program coordinator, a period that she looks back on very fondly, and during which she left a lasting impression on the interns she mentored.

When asked about the highlights of her 7 years with OLIP, Anne fondly recalls the year she attended the interns' educational trip to London, England and how fortunate she was to participate in discussions with such a broad range of public figures and decision-makers there. But Anne is quick to point out that it's not just the trip to Westminster that will stay with her as a highlight. Each year, she felt fortunate to get to know a diverse group of interns, and to see their remarkable growth and maturity over the course of the internship. And at the end of each year, Anne has loved seeing interns go on to pursue the opportunities that open up once they leave the program.

I know I speak for other interns when I say that Anne was valued immensely as a source of reasoned, thoughtful advice, and who was instrumental to interns' knowledge of the ins and outs of how the legislature works. She encouraged us to see the big picture, and to truly experience both sides of the legislature through our government and opposition placements. Our OLIP years were all greatly enhanced by Anne's involvement. In terms of retirement plans, at this point Anne is just looking forward to not having to set an alarm, and having the freedom to spend her time however she wishes. She is an avid reader, and already has stacks of books she plans to work her way through. Anne's one message to interns is to really take advantage of the opportunity, and know that you will be using what you learn in this experience for the rest of your life. On behalf of OLIP, Anne, we wish you all the best for this exciting new phase and hope you stay in touch with the programme!

After 15 long and impactful years of service, **Gord Miller**, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, is stepping down. Gord has served as the Environmental Commissioner since 2000 and was reappointed to this position in 2010 for a third five-year term. We had the opportunity to meet with Gord last year, where we learned so much about his duties and the integral role that he plays as the province's independent environmental watchdog. Gord's responsibilities have revolved around monitoring and reporting on compliance with the Environmental Bill of Rights. Gord was also tasked with the responsibility of upholding the Ontario provincial government's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to strive for greater energy conservation. On top of climate change and many other environmental issues, Gord has been a long-time advocate for the preservation of the world's largest fresh water basin, namely the Great Lakes. His concerns regarding fresh water pollution and the importance of water quality monitoring was one of the major points of discussion when we met with him. Additionally, Gord also expressed his solicitude for the issues that emerged last year around neonicotinoid pesticides, which have significantly reduced the amount of honeybee colonies along with other pollinators in Ontario. Having the opportunity to meet with Gord was an unforgettable experience. He will always be remembered for his relentless and inspiring hard work. With that said, we are delighted to give an honorary internship to Gord Miller, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



INTERN HIGHLIGHTS

QPI PAGE 22



“Chillin’” in an Igloo



Future OLIP lawyers in Action



Christine’s Epic Frozen Eyelashes



Churchill Society Dinner was Very Cool



Meeting the Inspiring Nigel Fisher



Party at the US Consulate



Dogsledding on a Frozen Lake



A Regal Occasion: LG Installation 2014

INTERN HIGHLIGHTS

QPI PAGE 23



Aaron meets Harper on Budget Day



Public Policy Forum With OPG



Lisa Thompson's Four Generations of Interns



Former Premier Mike Harris



All Pop & No Fizzle: Coca-Cola



The Ohio Channel



Hosting the Manitoba Interns



Buffalo Airways in Yellowknife

ALUMNI UPDATES

RECENT ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS & UPDATES

QPI PAGE 24

Tejas Aivalli (2008-09) Policy Analyst, Physical Resources bureau at Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development, Government of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

Sarah Baker (2003-04) Director of Energy and Lead Strategic Outreach, Housing Services Corporation, Toronto

Jessica Behnke (2013-14) Communications Officer, Neighbourhood Pharmacy Corporation of Canada, Toronto

Bryan Bossin (2010-11) Senior Advisor Press and Communications, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Jennifer Bowman (1986-87) Vice-President, Clinical Support Services & Stakeholder Relations, North York General Hospital, North York, Ontario

Meghan Buckham (2008-09) Senior Advisor, First Nations Relations, Government of British Columbia, Fort St. John, British Columbia

Ryan Cookson (2007-08) Litigation Associate, Goodmans LLP, Toronto

Aaron Denhartog (2013-14) Program Manager, Government Relations – Ontario, Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada, Toronto

Patrick DeRochie (2011-12) Campaign Coordinator, Ontario Climate Change and Clean Economy Program, Environmental Defence, Toronto

Patrick Fafard (1985-86) Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Nicole Goodman (2005-06) Research Director, Centre for e-Democracy and Assistant Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

Lauren Hanna (2011-12) Strategic Planning Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the Auditor General of Ontario, Toronto

Leanna Katz (2012-13) Summer Student, McCarthy Tetrault LLP, Toronto.

Aviva Levy (2009-10) Social Housing Consultant, City of Toronto

Taylor Lew (2013-14) M.Sc. Accounting Candidate 2015, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom

Diego Ortiz (2011-12) Vice-President, Analytical Communications, OMX, Toronto

Katherine Preiss (2010-11) Consultant, Natural Resources and the Environment, Global Public Affairs, Ottawa

Craig Ruttan (2011-12) Special Assistant (Policy), Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli, Government of Ontario

Suzanne Schwenger (1989-90) Manager Health Nexus, Toronto

Rebecca Scott (2004-05) Regional Director, Extendicare Assistant at Extendicare Health Services Inc., Toronto

Hibah Sidat (2012-13) Administrative Assistant, Infrastructure Ontario, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Emma Stanley-Cochrane (2008-09) Senior Policy Advisor, Deputy Minister's Office, Treasury Board Secretariat, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Priya Suagh (1999-2000) Senior Strategic Communications Advisor, Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, Government of Ontario, Toronto

David Taras (1976-77) Ralph Klein Chair in Media Studies, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta and author *Digital Mosaic: Media, Power and Identity in Canada*, University of Toronto Press 2015

Eleni Tsoutsias (2006-07) Project Implementation and Team Lead, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Meghan Warby (2005-06) Senior Policy Advisor, Open Government Office, Government of Ontario, Toronto

Monika Wyrzykowska (2011-12) Executive Assistant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation, Government of Ontario, Toronto.

Alumni

Please let us know when you move or get a new job. We love to hear updates, but it also helps us keep our records up to date and ensure you receive mailings.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CHRIS CHARLTON MP

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The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme provides young interns a look into the inner workings of Queen's Park. Some interns complete their internship and stay at Queen's Park as staffers or public servants. Others enter the private sector in fields as diverse as you can imagine. Still more alumni return to school to pursue careers in law and academia. We have a diverse group of OLIPers, but surprisingly one career path is conspicuously absent among our alumni: elected officials.

Out of approximately 300 OLIP Alumni only three have ever been elected to public office. One of these OLIP interns-turned-politicians is the Member of Parliament for Hamilton Mountain, Chris Charlton. After completing OLIP in 1990, Chris joined the Ontario civil service as a Federal-Provincial Relations Officer in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs. Chris believed that she had found her dream job.

Chris' career path was altered by a historic political event. Bob Rae's New Democrats won the 1990 provincial election. Chris could not pass up the opportunity to work for the first social democratic government in Ontario's history. She had the great privilege of working in the office of the Attorney General, the Government House Leader, and the Minister of Citizenship.

For the last two years of NDP government, she served as the Justice Policy Coordinator in the office of the Premier. When the government was defeated in 1995 Chris returned to school to continue working on her PhD, but was hired back by the NDP caucus at Queen's Park. She eventually left Queen's Park and later worked for the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. She also worked in the national office of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

Chris ultimately made the decision to seek elected office and in 2006 she won a seat in Parliament. Chris was re-elected in 2008 and 2011. She has served as Chief Opposi-

tion Whip, NDP critic for Labour, Pensions and Seniors, Human Resources Skills Development Canada, and Official Opposition Critic for Industry.

When discussing how OLIP helped her to become an MP she said "The breadth of exposure OLIP gave me to the workings of the Legislature, to its key decision-makers, to stakeholders, to the art of politics, and to learning both the hard and soft skills of being a successful politician was invaluable, and cannot possibly be matched by any other experience."

There are many things that Chris loved about OLIP. She loved her placement with NDP Labour Critic Bob MacKenzie who gave her full access to him and his office. Chris also loved the travel opportunities. She particularly treasured an evening that her OLIP cohort spent with all of the MLAs in the North West Territories, where they learned about a way of life and a way of doing politics that was as foreign as it was exciting. She admits that the dog-sledding was pretty spectacular, too. But above all, it is the friendships that she made in that year that have endured. For her, OLIP's best memories are not all in the past since many are still being made.

OLIP taught Chris many things. It taught her to differentiate between the political and the partisan. It fostered a deep and nuanced understanding of Parliament as an institution that cannot be taken for granted. "[The Parliamentary system] 'must always be nurtured and protected,'" she stated. It also taught her about the importance of parliamentary internship programs. She said, "A vibrant democracy demands an engaged citizenry. OLIP fosters that engagement for 10 lucky interns who will hopefully influence many, many others by sharing their appreciation of parliament and politics" For Chris, and many other alumni, OLIP was a truly life changing experience.

Reflecting upon her time in OLIP, she closed with some advice for the current intern group. "Take advantage of every opportunity that the program presents. Your access to fascinating people and places is unparalleled. No regrets!"

In December of last year, Chris announced that she would not seek reelection in 2015. While we do not know what the future has in store for Chris the 2014-15 OLIP interns would like to wish her the best of luck. Her dedication and service to this country will not be forgotten. We are proud to count Chris Charlton among our approximately 300 OLIP alumni, and hope that her example inspires some of our alumni to consider serving their communities by running for political office in the future!

OUR SPONSORS

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LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



OTHER SPONSORS



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT
LEAD SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

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BOMBARDIER

As the world's leading manufacturer of both planes and trains, Bombardier has built an extensive and diverse portfolio of winning mobility solutions. Everywhere people travel by land and in the air, a Bombardier product is ready to transport them. From category-defining business jets and commercial aircraft designed for the challenges of today, to sleek high speed trains and public transit that are smarter than ever. Headquartered in

Montréal, Canada, they employ over 74,000 people worldwide. From the entire OLIP team, we so excited to have Bombardier "on board" with us!

Founded in Montreal in 1911, SNC-Lavalin is an international leader in engineering and construction projects, and acts as a major player in the ownership of infrastructure. From offices in over 50 countries, their team of over 40,000 employees over services in oil and gas, mining and metallurgy, environment and water, as well as infrastructure and power. As a company, SNC-Lavalin maintains exceptionally high standards for health and safety, ethics and compliance, and environmental protection. We are so excited to "build" a lasting relationship with SNC-Lavalin as a new sponsor this year!



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OPG are increasing their sponsorship of OLIP and will become a Lead Sponsor this year! Thank you for your continued support of OLIP.



Vale is proud to
support the Ontario
Legislature Internship
Programme

Our Lead Sponsors

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

Vale, the world's second largest mining company, prides itself on transforming base elements into useful ingredients that improve our everyday lives while employing sustainable mining practices whenever possible. The minerals Vale mines, for example, are used to build and create essential items like batteries, cars, medical equipment, and computers.

Vale's history in the Canadian mining sector is rich, and its presence in Ontario spans over 100 years. We are proud to be a longtime contributor to both the country's and the province's economies and communities, and we look forward to a bright and prosperous future in Canada.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is providing first-class experiences to Ontario's best and brightest emerging civic leaders, and Vale is proud to support such a high-quality programme that aligns with our commitment to enhancing education in the countries in which we operate. Vale looks forward to watching the program grow over the next several years, and we wish each of the 2014-15 interns the best of luck.

Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

SPRING 2015

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.

The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 11,500 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.

The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario 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...

Your best insurance is an **INSURANCE BROKER**

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.

Our Lead Sponsors

To find a Broker near you, visit



Brought to you by the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario.

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The Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) has developed a unique working relationship with the OLIP interns over the past 20 years, most recently, becoming a lead sponsor in 2012.

OREA is one of Ontario's most respected professional associations. Founded in 1922 by a handful of real estate professionals, today, OREA represents over 56 000 REALTORS® and 40 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®.

The association is committed to promoting high industry standards, protecting consumers and promoting home ownership. OREA is the only authorized provider of real estate licensing courses in the province.

Committed to education and professionalism, OREA takes special pride in helping nurture young people's interest in politics and create tomorrow's leaders.

OREA is a proud sponsor of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, and boasts two former interns as part of their government relations staff.